Chair Meka Phillips called the meeting to order at 5:20 pm in the Parks and Recreation Community Room in Mayors' Riverfront Park.

**Roll Call:**
**Members Present:** Meka Phillips, Pam Roland, Chris Patchell, Zadie Jackson, Chris Bol, Khalil Adams

**Members Absent:** John Johnson

**City Commission Liaison:** None

**Friends of Recreation Liaison:** Zadie Jackson

**Staff Present:** Sean Fletcher, Danielle Baucom, Katie Broekema

**Introduction of Guests:**
- Executive Director of Friend of Recreation, Sean McCann
- Northside Association for Community Development, Mattie Jordan Woods
- Kalamazoo Bulldogs Football Coach, Latron Whitfield
- Kalamazoo Vikings Football Coach, Johnny Berry

**Changes to the Agenda:** None

**Special Presentations:** None

**Approval of Minutes:** The minutes for the May 3, 2016 meeting were unanimously approved.

**Old Business:** None

**New Business:**

Friends of Recreation Executive Director Sean McCann introduced himself and shared that Friends of Recreation is now a (new) official 501c(3), and that their goal is to provide scholarships to the youth who reside in the City of Kalamazoo, and to help with any major parks impact. There is a Facebook page for the group, Kalamazoo Friends of Recreation.

Mattie Jordan-Woods, Northside Association for Community Development (NACD) Director, Latron Whitfield, Kalamazoo Bulldogs, and Johnny Berry, Kalamazoo Jaguars came and spoke on behalf of the Kalamazoo Youth Athletic Cooperative (KYAC). They
explained KYAC helps enrich the lives kids 5-18 through football, basketball, other sports, and additional programs for academic learning as well. The teams are City wide and spread across many neighborhoods.

They presented the Versluis Dickinson Park Plan that will reconfigure the park to also include two football/multi-use fields that the teams in the KYAC are able to use in the fall of 2016 season. They would also like to use the fields for practice in the spring and summer of 2016. Currently the team does not have a home stadium for games or practice, and they need to travel to Grand Rapids for games because that is where their league is located. This means many parents are not able to attend the games. Currently the teams practice at Hillside Middle School, Verberg Park, and Maple Street Middle School. Study groups are located inside the NACD office and go year round to help keep kids in the schools.

There will also be a night game at Mayors Riverfront Park for each team. These have been going on, and at least one game would still be at that location but other games, all camps, and other activities will be at the new fields in Versluis Dickinson.

Sean Fletcher, Director of Parks and Recreation, said the cost to the Parks and Recreation Department would be the lining of the field, his department is not able to provide any more services for this year due to budget constraints. This aligns with the Master Plan from 2015; we no longer need so many softball fields and want to use that space for multiuse fields. The KYAC will be responsible for maintaining the field, and are moving towards being more sustainable on their own. The area does not have irrigation, but the turf is resilient. Parks and Recreation plan to roll the fields, fertilize, and irrigate every other year regardless of its usage. Parks and Recreation wants more activity in the park, which will keep some of the concerns out of the park. There are minor modifications that need to be made to the current parking plan. There will be a charge for using the facility at Mayors Riverfront Park, and for the practice dates will be covered by holding work days in Versluis Dickinson for the 300 kids and their families. Parks and Recreation would work with KYAC and NACD to create a five-year agreement on field usage. The KYAC will have a Memorandum of Agreement that needs to be signed by all parties in the Cooperative that contains a code of conduct for adults and background checks.

PRAB member Zadie Jackson moved to support the KYAC program and changes in Versluis Dickinson; it was seconded by PRAB member Chris Patchell and unanimously approved.

**Event Recommendations:**

A. The Super Run (Justin Draplin) requested event- The Super Run on Saturday, October 1, 2016 from 6:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. in Spring Valley Park

B. 9/11 Ceremony (Lorence Wenke) requested event- 9/11 Ceremony on Sunday September 11, 2016 from 2:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. in Bronson Park

Zadie Jackson wanted to know more details on what charity the Super Run supports, she made a motion to table the decision on an approval for the Super Run pending more information. Sean Fletcher said it was a public park and asked if the group needed to know. PRAB member Chris Bol said it would be nice to know but that should not affect
our decision. Sean Fletcher shared that the money went to the local charity DCStrong in 2015. Zadie Jackson withdrew her motion.

PRAB member Khalil Adams moved to approve both events, it was seconded by Chris Bol and unanimously approved.

**Comments**

**Citizens:** None

**Commission Liaison:** None

**Friends of Recreation Liaison:**
Zadie Jackson shared the Friends of Recreation was working on a mission statement and preparing for the Golf Outing on September 16 at Milham Park. They are looking for golfers, sponsors, give-a-ways, and volunteers.

**Parks and Recreation Director Monthly Report:**
Sean Fletcher shared the movies in the Park, Minions is on Friday June 24 in South Westnedge Park. LunchTime Live! starts on Friday June 10 in Bronson Park. The Kik Pool opens on June 11, a new program is occurring where the lifeguards are able to let kids who are not able to pay the daily pass into the pool for free. There will be a contract in place that the parents sign where the kids do small chores like weeding, restocking bathrooms, and picking up trash to help cover their costs. This will not occur during open swim hours. Each child will also have a lifeguard mentor.
Finally, Sean Fletcher shared that the four condo owners by Crane Park have made a request to open up the road that is blocked off by Crane Park because it is a safety issue in the winter to use Betsy Ann Place and potentially sliding into Westnedge in the winter. City Manager Jeff Chamberlain and Sean Fletcher have met with the group, they will bring it forth to executive team within the City, and discuss with the assistant City Planner. Both roads are dangerous because they are hills, and Sean Fletcher will keep the PRAB board updated.

**Staff:**
Staff member Danielle Baucom shared that this will be her last meeting because staff member Katie Broekema will now be taking over PRAB duties.

**Board Members:**
Chris Bol wanted to know what the critical mass of persons is to use a park, there are groups gathered in Bronson Park often and they have no permit.
Sean Fletcher shared that if they do not reserve the park and there is something there, they can be displaced. The fees allow you certain privileges like stages, power, and other things. Chris Bol also shared that Woods Lake is not family friendly with loud music and language, illegal parking and other concerns. He wanted to know what the protocol was. Sean Fletcher
answered that someone should call Public Safety about this, either call our office or call there themselves.
Pam Roland thinks that the new park signs look good; she wanted to know if the Department was going to update the Park Rules. Sean Fletcher said that they were working on it with the City Attorney.
Pam Roland also shared that the Ultimate Family Reunion and the residents on Cobb Avenue are very concerned about the event.
Chris Patchell has been to the soccer games and thinks they have good attendance.
Zadie Jackson attended the Woods Lake Grand Re-Opening and thought it was very nice.
Board Member Pam Roland will be helping to plant at Martin Luther King Park at 9 am on Saturday June 11th, 2016.
Meka Phillips encouraged people to attend the Farmer’s Market.

**Adjournment:** 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Katie Broekema, Recording Secretary

[Signature]

Recording Secretary

Meka Phillips 7/5/16

Chair