

DRAFT
Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Minutes
12/3/13

Meeting called to order at 5:20 pm, in the Parks and Recreation conference room.

Roll Call:

Members Present: Meka Phillips, Natalie Patchell, Michael Markel, John Johnson, Travis Bell

Members Absent: Garrylee McCormick

City Commission Liaison: Don Cooney, present (arrived at 5:33)

Friends of Recreation Liaison: Kathy Wiedmayer, present (arrived at 5:21)

Staff Present: Sean Fletcher, Travis Sullivan

Introduction of Guests: None

Changes to the Agenda: None

Special Presentations: None

Approval of Minutes: The minutes for the November 5, 2013 meeting were unanimously approved.

Old Business:

Lincoln Statue update—Sean updated status. Tentative approval to continue from City Commission.

New Business:

A. Proposed Rates and Fees, 2014—Most fees are up 5%. Sean emphasized the Kik Pool pass increase. Pool fees were increased to reduce subsidy from the general fund (which may not always be sustainable). Playgrounds and Summer Minicamp rates increased to bring the department more in line with the market, yet still comparably very affordable. Rates are up on the football/soccer field in an effort to recoup direct expenses.

B. Bronson Park Ice Rink – To be set up after the holidays and in use after the first of the year. The department is working with KOHA on skate rental options (possibly “family night”).

Event Recommendations for Approval: None

Comments:

Citizens: None

Commission Liaison: Don asked about the scholarship program, as well as brought up the \$90,000 in budget cuts for 2014 required by City Manager. In response, Sean discussed the overall budget, as well as the fact

that the cuts should not be detrimental. Staffing plans were discussed, as well as the fact that the department needs to spend all of the money it is given, rather than returning some at the end of the year. Don mentioned that the new City Manager is exploring options to increase revenue.

Friends of Recreation Liaison: Kathy discussed Jennifer Holder joining the Friends board, as well as briefly updated on the last Friends meeting. Natalie mentioned that she would like to see a donation made to improve the trails by Friends. Kathy agreed that Friends should donate to and be involved in this effort. Sean will ask the Kalamazoo River Valley Trail committee to request a donation from Friends.

Parks and Recreation Managing Director Monthly Report: Sean updated on the Candy Cane Hunt. He has also asked the City Manager if Parks and Recreation could be more involved in the Tree Lighting event next year, as this is a successful, low cost event that can raise awareness of the department. Low cost items could help to enhance the event. Sean also gave a brief update on the baseball team (opening event).

Woods Lake public review period is over. Project will begin in March, Woods Lake will not be available all year.

Also discussed the new park signs, which are part of an overall branding effort.

Sayonara Summer 5k will be taking place again next year.

Staff: None

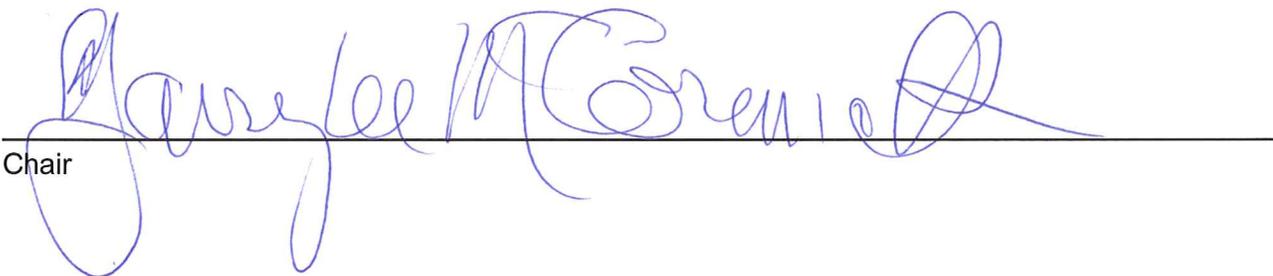
Board Members: Natalie updated on Crane Park, projects, donation of \$50.00 to be put toward native plant purchase for a Boy Scouts project. Kalamazoo Bloom will be donating a flower crane to Crane Park. Natalie also suggested the "Edible Park" idea, including fruit trees, possibly for Upjohn Park.

Adjournment: 6:09 PM

Respectfully submitted by Travis Sullivan, Recording Secretary



Recording Secretary



Chair