

Approved
Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Minutes
May 2, 2017

Meka Phillips called the meeting to order at 5:20 pm in the Parks and Recreation Community Room.

Roll Call:

Members Present: John Johnson, Chris Patchell, Chris Bol, Zadie Jackson, Pam Roland, Meka Phillips

Members Absent: Khalil Adams

City Commission Liaison: None

Friends of Recreation Liaison: None

Staff Present: Katie Broekema

Introduction of Guests:

- A. Building Blocks – Carrie Drake
- B. Pedal Bicycle – Tim Krone
- C. Black Arts Council – Yolanda Lavender, Kevin Lavender Jr, and Alisa Parker
- D. Crane Park Input – Ryan Johnson

Changes to the Agenda:

Special Presentations:

1. Building Blocks – Carrie Drake

Resident Carrie Drake, Executive Director of Building Blocks, explained that a Northside neighborhood on Krom was part of the Building Blocks neighborhoods for 2017. One of the projects this group identified was a cleanup of Krom and Prouty Park. Carrie shared some of the changes that the group was looking for inside that park.

To celebrate the work that is being done in the area, Building Blocks would like to host a Summer Spruce Up volunteer event at Verberg Park on June 17. The food and alcoholic beverages are being prepared and provided by One Well Brewing.

2. Pedal Bicycle – Tim Krone

Resident Tim Krone explained that a Cyclocross event is an off road bicycle event that typically has 3 races in one day. The races use the natural terrain and are designed to be more difficult rides. Tim has been involved in planning races with Kalamazoo County Parks for the past 5 years and envisions the Milham course as a one mile-ish loop. If turf is destroyed in the race, it will be fixed by time, rain, and Tim's personal time in the park.

3. Black Arts Council – Yolanda Lavender

Resident Yolanda Lavender, Executive Director for the Black Arts Council, shared that this will be the 31st year of the Black Arts Festival, in 2015 the event made a deliberate move to La Crone Park to be located in the neighborhood that it is most connected with. The No

Parking around the park has been lifted by Captain Coakley, and food is located on Williams St with Staff/Vendor parking on Patterson. There is a cleaning protocol that is in place, with 24 hour security on both days. Over the two days, they average 1300 people. Concerns were raised about parking, cleaning of the extended area from the event, i.e. neighborhood lawns that get destroyed, and canvassing for awareness of the event. PRAB Member Pam Roland will provide some contact information for neighbors, and the Black Arts Council has the Fatherhood Network group that volunteers for cleanup.

4. Crane Park Input – Ryan Johnson

Progressive AE staff Ryan Johnson was beginning the preliminary process to gather input from community groups in preparation for the Crane Park remodel. He had a series of questions that would help him prepare for the Tuesday May 23 community engagement meeting at Crane Park. These questions are related to a previous 5 year plan.

- Assets of the Park include: it's passive nature, the natural flower dividers, tennis courts, mature trees/wildlife, wooded area with the walking path, a neighborhood that takes ownership of the park, closed pathways, and beautiful scenery for weddings, graduations, and photography.
- Concerns for the Park include: road grade access, trails need attention, woods need a clean-up, if a through road were to open negative behaviors could begin again.
- Priorities for the Park include: sculpture/statues, uniformity to the benches, and a sprinkler system for the flower beds.

Approval of Minutes: The minutes for the February 7, 2017 meeting were unanimously approved.

Old Business:

- A. CAPRA Accreditation has been moving along and the Department is looking for a November 2017 deadline.
- B. The Department has been looking to eliminate the cost for the Fairmount Dog Park. This will lead to a process to watch animals' liability insurance, including language changes, and spot checks at the park.
 - a. PRAB Member Zadie Jackson moved to support the Department's decision, and Chris Patchell seconded for a unanimous approval.
- C. PRAB Park participation-
 - a. Monday May 15 - Clean up at Lovell St from 8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
 - b. Saturday May 20 – Clean up at the West Gateway from 8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
 - c. Wednesday May 17 – Tree Identification in Crane Park at 9:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m.
 - d. Saturday June 17 – Summer Spruce Up in Verberg Park from 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m

New Business:

- A. We are actively looking for new members, especially youth.
- B. Event Sign Policy in Parks – The department will work on developing a policy and will bring it to PRAB for feedback.

Event Recommendations:

- A. Yolanda Lavender (Black Arts Council) requested event – Black Arts Festival on Thursday July 15 from 6:00 a.m. – Friday July 16, 2017 at 6:30 p.m. in LaCrone Park.

B. Jason Lechner (PEDAL bikes) requested event – Cyclocross Race on Sunday October 15, 2017 from 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. in Milham Park.

C. Carrie Drake (Building Blocks) requested event – Summer Spruce Up on Saturday June 17, 2017 from 8:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. in Verberg Park and Krom & Prouty Park.

D. Anthony Gretz (Kalamazoo Deacon’s Conference) requested event – Run KDC on Saturday September 30, 2017 from 7:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. at Mayors’ Riverfront Park.

E. Deidre Butkis (American Heart Association) requested event – Heart Walk on Saturday September 23, 2017 from 6:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. at Bronson Park.

F. Kurtis Kaechele (WOOD TV) requested event – Maranda’s Pop Up Party on Thursday July 6, 2017 from 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. in Bronson Park.

Chris Patchell, seconded by Pam Roland, moved to approve all events. Events A-E were unanimously approved, and F was approved without the approval of John Johnson and Zadie Jackson.

Comments

Citizens: None

Commission Liaison: None

Parks and Recreation Director Monthly Report:

Director Sean Fletcher shared that the department has hired a new Youth Rec Coordinator named Chad Wendt. He will oversee the YOU program, All Things Possible, after school programs, and help with supervised playgrounds and additional recreation programs as necessary.

The Department is looking to update the 10 year vision for the department, which will include a 5 year master plan.

The Friends of Recreation Youth Scholarship Breakfast is on May 17 at 7:30 a.m., please let Sean know if you would like to attend.

Staff: None

Board Members:

Member Pam Roland is hosting a planting day at Martin Luther King Jr Park on June 3 at 9:00 a.m.

Member Khalil Adams was the Male Youth Leadership Award by the Black Arts Council on May 6.

Adjournment:

Respectfully submitted by Katie Broekema, Recording Secretary

  6.6.17

Recording Secretary

 6/6/17

Chair