

Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Minutes
March 5, 2019

Chair Meka Phillips called the meeting to order at 5:30 pm on March 5, 2019 at Mayors Riverfront Park

Roll Call:

Members Present: Meka Phillips, John Johnson, Chris Patchell, Paul Teini, Chris Bol, Kayleen Shafer, Alison Nuismer, Pam Roland, Aliyah Adams

Members Absent: Erin Knott, Patrick McVerry

Staff Present: Corey Stamps, Sean Fletcher

Introduction of Guests: Jill Angell, Michelle & Isaiah (Ask Family Services), Sandra Dee & Todd (Hiemstra Optical)

Changes to the Agenda: None

Special Presentations:

Jill, Michelle, Isaiah (Erase-isms): They would like to unite to rise above the stigma and injustices in the community about mental health and other stigmas facing the youth. At the event they will have speakers, a DJ and more. The first 200 people to register will receive a t shirt. Jill mentioned they have a group called "Calling all Youth" that is all about mental health. They go around and do a lot of projects and attend events within the city. Currently they are working on a documentary about mental health and how to rise above the stigma or labels placed on them.

Kayleen Shafer asked what are some of the stigmas you want to erase? Jill mentioned they want to erase addictions, homelessness, gender identification, many things that identify with the youth.

Sandra Dee, Todd & Mary Ann (Eyes of Hope): Todd mentioned that things have changed with the event since the original submission. The event originally was to run a large mobile clinic that could help children with their vision. The children would get an eye exam and have glasses made on the spot. However, after talking with other groups they came up with new ideas to create a whole network of resources kids could use. Mary Ann mentioned after doing research they noticed there are a lot of single dads in the area and they also saw under nourishment in children. They believe this event would be a huge help.

Meka Phillips asked is this similar to Mothers of Hope? Mary Ann responded, this event is similar but a lot bigger than that event. The goal is to bring everyone under one roof and allow them to get everything they need.

Kayleen Shafer asked about the volume. Mary Ann responded, last year they had 500 families and this year they are forecasting 1000. Sandra mentioned VSP has donated many glasses and other things to give to those in need. If they run out they will have vouchers for a later date.

Mary Ann mentioned, last year they had an event just like this one held at Bible Baptist and it helped 500 families. The idea was the same to help everyone in need. They are excited to be apart of it this year.

They are advertising to KPS, Communities in Schools and other youth organizations.

Kayleen asked about under nutrition and if they can help them beyond that one day. Mary Ann responded, they are bringing everyone to the event to equip families with what they need so they can take it further.

Approval of Minutes:

The January minutes were unanimously approved

Old Business:

Members with Expired Positions

Pam Roland is interested in another term

John Johnson asked about the farmers market renovations. John was concerned about the plans in place mentioned by Sean in our last meeting. Sean Fletcher mentioned that the master plan is for coming up with a big vision but ideally it is not always financially realistic. So, they looked at how to get the vision to a number that is feasible and what they can do to make the Farmers Market better. Currently they are in the 4.5 – 5 million range for the cost of the project. They plan to add more sheds and fix the current ones, add a stage and fix the restrooms. Sean also mentioned they are looking at phasing the project and they want to bid everything as a single project.

John mentioned the new plan sounds a lot better from the previous discussion. John has been in Kalamazoo since 2012 and he would like to see significant improvements in that area. Sean mentioned he wants to see it as well, but it's a matter of the priorities of the community. During budget time is the best time to mention what you would like to see. The Parks and Recreation needs more money and It takes everyone to say something to the commission to make that happen.

Sean continued, working with someone who has experience in PR would be best to get the word out. We are going to do a community wide survey and that should help get the word out. John asked where is the City Commission Liaison? Sean answered that's when we all reach out and let them know what's going on, so they can be involved.

Sean mentioned having a video at the Farmers Market that has testimonials from vendors and citizens would be a good idea. Pam Rowland mentioned the vendors feel congested

while attending the Farmers Market. Sean answered, we are going to make a request from the foundation of excellence for more finances.

Paul asked what's PRAB's position in making something happen? Sean responded, you make recommendations to the City Commission. John responded he will write a later to the Commission.

New Business:

N/A

Event Recommendations:

A. Shelly Francis (Cystic Fibrosis Foundation) requested event – Great Strides Walk on Saturday, May 5, 2019 from 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. at Mayors Riverfront Park.

B. Julie Kieser (Jesus Loves Kzoo) requested event – Jesus Love Kzoo on

- Sunday July 7, 2019 from 8:00 am – 7:00 pm at Bronson Park
- Monday, July 8, 2019 from 4:00 – 9:00 pm at Martin Luther King Jr Park
- Monday, July 8, 2019 from 4:00 – 9:00 pm at Reed Park
- Thursday, July 11, 2019 from 4:00 – 9:00 pm at South Westnedge Park
- Friday, July 12, 2019 from 8:00 am – 9:00 pm at LaCrone Park

C. Tina Robbins (Ask Family Services) requested event – Erace-isms on Saturday, April 13, 2019 from 9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. at Bronson Park.

D. Carl Roberts (Kids Moving & Thriving) requested event – Kids Moving & Thriving on Saturday, September 21, 2019 from 7:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. at Spring Valley Park.

E. Allen Webb (Earth Day Committee) requested event – Earth day on Saturday, April 20, 2019 from 12:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. at Bronson Park.

All Events were unanimously approved except the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation event

Comments: None

Citizens: None

Commission Liaison: None

Friends of Recreation Liaison Update:

Alison reported, the Friends of Recreation has been busy as of late. A lot of meetings have been cancelled due to weather and miscommunications, but they will resume soon. Friends of Recreation has goals of expanding the donor list and their scholarship. They are reaching out to additional partners and moving along with the plan to make everything happen. They have also joined Kydnet and they are learning how to listen to the kid voice. This weekend is the KWings game that is Harry Potter themed. If you purchase a ticket, the proceeds will go to the Kalamazoo Youth Recreation. Sean added, the arena is set up like the Harry Potter

movies. Alison mentioned, they gave 100 tickets to donors and families and they have 4 left. Let everyone know about the game.

Parks and Recreation Director Monthly Report:

Sean reported, we are awaiting the arrival of our video board. Instead of renting movie screens we will have our own. We plan to show regular movies and pop up movies in the neighborhoods. We will also do a community vote to show a 90's theme movie that will be byob.

Sean added, Rockwell Park is getting a prefabricated building. They are finishing Crane Park and giving Reed St Park a makeover. Reed St. Park will start in April and get done by the end of the summer or early fall. Verberg Park will start early June for planning. Upjohn Park will also will receive upgrades.

Staff:

None

Board Members:

Chris Patchell was at the tree committee meeting and they talked about planting a new tree at Crane Park for Arbor Day. Chris also wants to locate all the trees in Crane Park and do a GPS. He will pass all the information off to Sean. Chris mentioned there are at least 33 trees to be added to the list.

Pam mentioned, before Todd Pryor passed they were working on a plan to replace the trees at MLK. Pam does not want to miss out on an opportunity to get trees for MLK. Sean responded, he didn't know what the plans were for the trees. Sean asked Pam if they have a preference of what type of trees they would like in the park. Pam responded she would like trees like an evergreen. Pam mentioned this could be a part of arbor day and maybe they can name the trees after people.

John mentioned the houses across from the Bank St Market are down. It's a nice improvement.

Paul started at new job.

Kayleen asked about meeting at rec sites in the summer like the Fire Station. Sean mentioned maybe in April. Meka asked would anyone be opposed to meeting at Station 5 in April? Everyone is okay with it.

Alison offered a social time after the Henderson park meeting if anyone would want to attend.

Chris Bol mentioned next meeting he won't be there.

Adjournment: 6:36pm

The next Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Meeting will be held on Tuesday April 2, 2019 at 5:30 p.m. at Station 5

Respectfully submitted by Corey Stamps, Recording Secretary

Recording Secretary

Chair