

Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Minutes
September 3, 2019

Chair Meka Phillips called the meeting to order at 5:30 pm on September 3, 2019 at Mayors Riverfront Park

Roll Call:

Members Present: Meka Phillips, Paul Teini, John Johnson, Chris Bol, Kayleen Shafer

Members Absent: Erin Knott, Aliyah Adams, Pam Roland, Chris Patchell

Staff Present: Corey Stamps, Alison Nuismer, Patrick McVerry, Sean Fletcher

Introduction of Guests:

Changes to the Agenda: None

Special Presentations:

Approval of Minutes:

The August minutes were unanimously approved

Old Business:

John Johnson mentioned the letter he wrote for the Farmers Market. Sean said it shouldn't come from him it should come from the board chair with signatures from others as well.

New Business:

None

Event Recommendations:

None

Comments:

None

Citizens:

None

Commission Liaison:

None

Friends of Recreation Liaison Update:

Alison Nuismer reported, we are about 3 weeks out from the golf outing. We are currently moving closer to finding food for the outing. Our first option backed out.

Meka asked what happened with the food? Alison responded, we had one food truck they backed out due to another engagement

Alison continued, we currently have enough space for 15 more golfers which would make our total of 75 golfers. Other than that, the school year has started, and we will start to shift to the afterschool programs and Moxie Volleyball.

Parks and Recreation Director Monthly Report:

Sean reported we have good momentum with the Farmers Market. We did get the Gilmore grant for half a million. We are receiving a chunk from the Foundation of Excellence and thinking of other ideas to generate money. The idea for the construction is to do it in phases. They are going to start with the buildings then the playground. Next year they will start working on the road. The idea is to keep the market open during the construction. Sean continued, we currently have enough money to do the buildings. He thinks it will send a strong statement to the community that we are actually doing this. Its all a huge step in the right direction as the construction plans have been going on for over 12 years.

Chris Bol mentioned when you talk to people about the market, they are really excited and get up to go early.

John Johnson asked what kind of impact the changes could have on the neighborhood. John hopes it will shift things in the right direction. Sean agrees and thinks it could really change the neighborhood. There are a lot of positive things starting to happen in the areas such as restaurants at Washington Square.

Paul Teini asked do you look at all the parks as a tier system. Sean responded yes, we do use a tier system. Paul was just wondering about the premier park in the city. Sean mentioned some years ago people would say Milham Park is the premier park in the city. Now since there hasn't been improvements people are really bashing the park. We have gotten to a point where we are updating multiple parks. The challenge is that the community has let that stuff go due to the economy. There has never been an investment because there was not a priority.

Kayleen Shafer likes Spring Valley and thinks it's a hidden gem.

Sean mentioned in another 3 years there will be a master plan for that site. He wants to do it when the money is available.

Sean continued, we are working on the budget right now. We will have a new commission so it will be tricky. Early December is when the budget hearing will be.

Paul asked how many commission seats are open. Sean said 3.

Sean continued, we will get camp numbers for everyone. He thinks we had good camps and field trip fest filled up quick again. We already are planning for next year with some of our other events.

Meka asked about the bingo hall. Sean said he is in no rush to sell. He asked the owner is there a way to purchase it and you can still operate out of it. The owner is open to that, but it is a future phase. There was talk about the YDC being used for Public Services. Sean said that can't happen until the YDC has a new home. Stay tuned, the YDC is getting a paint job just like the pool.

Alison asked are they painting inside as well. Sean was not sure.

Staff:

Corey Stamps reported, we are finishing up our last 2 Lunchtime Lives of the season. So far everything has been great, and we have had a large number of people attend. Our last movie was at Crane Park. We had our best attendance while at Crane and it was cool to see the screen in the dark.

Patrick McVerry reported, Bronson Park construction will start tomorrow. Reed St. will be getting basketball, four square, and a painted map of the US in the park.

Board Members:

Kayleen mentioned she liked the online voting system for the movies. She voted for Jumanji, but it didn't win. Also, speaking of the farmers market they went to the Portage farmers market and it was horrible.

Adjournment: 5:53pm

The next Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 1, 2019 at 5:30 p.m. at the Parks and Recreation Community Room.

Respectfully submitted by Corey Stamps, Recording Secretary

Recording Secretary

Chair