Chair John Johnson called the meeting to order at 5:30 pm on March 3, 2020 via Zoom Conference Meeting

**Roll Call:**

**Members Present:** Christopher Bol, Chris Patchell, Pam Roland, Paul Teini, and Kayleen Shafer

**Members Absent:** None

**Staff Present:** Sean Fletcher, Patrick McVerry, Ashton Anthony, Danielle Baucom, and Neal Conway

**Commissioner Liaison:** Eric Cunningham

**Changes to the Agenda:**

A. Martin Luther King Jr Park Discussion—Sean Fletcher updated the board, due to COVID-19, and the elimination of the Friends of Recreation executive Director there have been some delays to making improvements to the park. City residents and youth will both be included in the planning process. New trees with tree guards will be planted this fall, per Forestry recommendations. Pam Roland shared the Kalamazoo Junior Girls adopted the park in the late 80’s. She is hoping in 2021 to gather with youth, community leaders, and Kalamazoo In Bloom to create a scheme for the park to improve the appearance of the park. She also shared a list of concerns related to the park flower beds, lights and sidewalks. Sean shared Foundation for Excellence has provide funding to replace trees throughout the city, including MLK JR Park. Sean has made the request for the sidewalk repairs. The budget for those repairs is not included in the Parks & Recreation Department budget. We can request it to be added as a line item for the 2021 budget.

B. Glen Park BMX trail moved to Special Presentations.

**Special Presentations:**

A. Sean Fletcher shared a small meeting was held at Glenn Park to discuss the possibility of including a BMX track amenity to the Park. He also shared the park improvement process requires the department to follow specific requirements including engage residents, meet with neighborhood association, and review master plans. There would be no construction done to Glenn Park to create a BMX track, aside from removal of some low hanging/leaning trees for safety. Christopher Bol explained the track is designed more for younger kids, and most teens or adults wouldn’t be interested in using the space for mountain biking. Sean recommended no
decision be made today, and to schedule a meeting with the neighborhood association at a later date.

B. Kayleen requested information on how the letters of support/objection would be addressed. Sean shared not each letter will receive a response at this time, he stated a consistent message could be sent or posted after a meeting is held with the neighborhood. Christopher Bol recommended the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board create a document that can be sent to respond back to everyone.

C. Chris Patchell motioned, and Chris Bol seconded for a unanimous approval to hold taking any action on creating a BMX bike trail through Glen Park.

D. The board agreed to the development of a BMX-Track sub-committee to include Sean Fletcher, Christopher Bol, Paul Teini, and Kayleen Shafer to meet with the neighborhood.

Approval of Minutes:
A. Paul Teini motioned, and Kayleen Shafer seconded for a unanimous approval to table the approval of the March meeting minutes until the August meeting.

Old Business:

A. Liaisons for parks (John Johnson)
   John mentioned the PRAB board members being liaisons for each park to have more eyes on the parks to be able to address issues at the parks.
   Sean stated the footprint is already there, as many of the members already visit parks regularly. Complaints & Concerns can be made to the genera kzooparks email address or to Sean Fletcher via phone or email.

B. The committee informally agreed to visit a few parks each month and to report back any issues/concerns.

New Business:

Park Updates: Patrick McVerry reported the following:

- Bronson Park project will be starting again the week of July 13th, 2020 and will take approximately three weeks to complete.
- Florence Street Splashpad updates have been completed.
- KIK pool resurfacing has been completed, although the pool will not be opening this year due to the pandemic.
- No bids were received for the LaCrone Park splashpad due to construction company schedules because of the pandemic. He is hoping to go back out to bid in the fall.
- Milham Park Dam design process is near completion, a neighborhood meeting will be scheduled to present to the public when it’s completed.
- MLK JR statue will be repaired in 2021.
Recreation Updates: Ashton reported the following:

- Summer camps started this week, with six weeks of camp. There are four sites, each capped at 20 kids per site with kids in pods of 10 each.
- The All Things Possible program is being held at Station #5 facility this year, instead of WMU with two-week sessions being held. The ATP campers are currently working on building picnic tables, and are doing more on-site activities this year, compared to previous years.
- The new Special Events Coordinator will be starting on Monday, July 13, 2020.
- Lunch Time Live at Bronson Park has begun, with a modified set-up. There are no tables or games, only food trucks. Live music will begin again starting July 10th, 2020.
- The Youth Development Center painting project is looking good.
- The Farmer’s Market project will include a new building which will contain a location for youth/teens to replace the Family Youth Development Center site.

Event Recommendations:

A. Corianna McDowell- Let Your Voice Be Heard on Saturday, July 11th, 2020 from 2:00 p.m.- 6:00 p.m. with set- up starting at 12:30 p.m. and clean-up ending at 7:00 p.m. Christopher Bol motioned, and Pam Rolland seconded to approve the Let Your Voice Be Heard event. The motioned was approved with 5 votes in favor and 1 vote against.

Citizens:
Pre-recorded citizen comments were played, and copies of email letters are included as an attachment.

Commission Liaison:
None

Friends of Recreation Liaison Update:
Sean reported things have slowed down due to COVID. They are in the process of planning the golf outing for September 14th, 2020. Currently working on a reboot of the website, and donations for youth scholarships.

Parks and Recreation Director Monthly Report: Sean Fletcher reported construction on the Farmer’s Market will begin on September 8th. The improvements will include realignment of Bank Street, the north parking lot redo, a new segment of the KRVT, and a new restroom rebuild. The Market will shift temporary to Upjohn Park while construction is being completed. The first phase of the project is expected to be completed in April 2021.

The Parks & Recreation Department is in the process of working on the 2021 budget. Sean will keep the board informed on key dates and information.
Staff: Danielle Baucom reported she is filling in as the recording secretary temporarily until the new Special Event Coordinator begins and is trained.

Board Members:
Paul Teini stated it was nice to have Commission Cunningham in attendance. He also thanked Christopher Bol for organizing the Glen Park changes.

Adjournment: 7:26 p.m.

The next Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Meeting will be held on Tuesday, August 19, 2020 at 5:30 p.m. via Zoom Conference.

Respectfully submitted by Danielle Baucom, Recording Secretary

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Recording Secretary

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Chair