Chair John Johnson called the meeting to order at 5:33 pm on August 19th, 2020 via Zoom Conference Meeting

**Roll Call:**
**Members Present:** John Johnson, Chris Patchell, Paul Teini, Kayleen Shafer

**Members Absent:** Christopher Bol, Pam Roland

**Staff Present:** Sean Fletcher, Danielle Baucom, Shannon Keene, Joe Ulery, Amanda Cockroft

**Commissioner Liaison:** Eric Cunningham

**Changes to the Agenda:**
A. Rose Park Discussion added to New Business  
B. Extremist Group Park Reservation Discussion added to New Business  
C. Discuss progress on the Glenn Park Trail added to Old Business

**Special Presentations:** None

**Approval of Minutes:**
Paul Teini motioned, and Chris Patchell seconded for a unanimous approval of the March and August meeting minutes.

**Old Business:**

A. Vacant Board Positions - John Johnson shared he has reached out to the Executive Directors of a couple Neighborhood Associations for potential PRAB members. John has also reached out to a few people in the community, including board member Pam Roland who works with the Junior Girls in hopes to find a youth representative to join PRAB. He is waiting to hear back from both groups and encouraged everyone to ask their friends, family, and neighbors to apply to the board. John stated he would like to see a larger and more diverse board for more input from different perspectives.

B. Kayleen stated the website is outdated pertaining to PRAB. Sean will ask the marketing staff to update the information, and to put together info to publicize through social media for the public to apply to join the advisory board.

C. Progress on the Glenn Park Trail - The sub-committee drafted a letter to send to people who contacted the Parks & Recreation Department regarding the BMX trail at Glenn Park. Paul Teini would like to have the letter ready for review at the next board meeting. After the board reviews the letter, the sub-committee will attend a Winchell
Neighborhood meeting to discuss a plan, and then to a City Commission meeting to present for approval.

D. Kayleen asked if any of the PRAB members had any other concerns to address regarding the project. Chris Patchell stated he would like to address the concerns and get more input from the neighborhood. Kayleen shared she recommended Christopher Bol provide a letter of intent from the bike club stating how they will support the trail. John expressed concern regarding the neighborhoods strategic plan and questioned if the project would fit into the neighborhoods plan. Sean shared a lot of the concerns were from misinformation regarding specifics to the project. Clarifying that has helped with the neighborhood concerns.

New Business:

A. Proud Boys/Extremist groups requesting events in the City- Sean read a statement from the Assistant City Attorney regarding extremist groups in the parks. See attached statement.

B. Paul Teini stated events like the Proud Boys event would have benefited by having a planned-out location. This would have also helped with police response. Paul expressed concern regarding weapons and asked if people can carry weapons in parks. Sean stated Michigan is an open carry state. He will review the Parks Ordinance related to weapons in parks.

C. Chris Patchell shared he was on the board when KKK came to town, and the board was forced to approve the event permit for Bronson Park. He wanted to know if the City can set a specific location, such as Arcadia Creek Festival Site for these types of events.

D. Sean shared the advisory board & the Parks Department can give recommendations and tell a group they cannot have a certain type of event at a park due to various reasons, listing crowd control as an example. Sean shared he is unsure about the legalities and will invite Assistant City Attorney Rich Cherry to the next meeting so the group can continue the discussion.

E. Commissioner, Eric Cunningham stated the City Commission has no authority to not allow these types of groups to come to our community. He stated we need to follow the recommendations/legal guidance from the City Attorney.

F. Rose Park Conditions- Sean Fletcher shared he is working to minimize some of the bad things happening in the parks. Kayleen recalled the VFW attending a meeting last summer requesting a name change. The group communicated to the board they would take some responsibility in caring for the park, and the homeless at Rose Park. This information was included in their request to change the name of the park. Sean stated he will reach out to the people that came to the meeting regarding the name change and maintaining the park. Chris Patchell said the street side looks fine, it’s below where people can’t see from the road where trash, feces, and drug paraphernalia is left. He mentioned the same issue is happening in several other City parks, including Crane Park.

G. Paul Teini stated there seems to be a lack of restroom facilities for people to use and to dispose of trash and used needles. Chris Patchell stated most of these types of activities occurs at night, and porta potties would just attract more of these types of activities. Sean shared the bathrooms in the parks are locked at night to prevent those types of activities. Sean stated he will keep the PRAB informed as he works
through these issues with the other departments and City leaders. Sean shared the downtown area will be getting a Portland Loo, which will help with some of the bathroom issues.

**Event Recommendations:**

1. Brianna Hill, Black Lives Matter BBQ, August 30\(^{\text{th}}\), setup at 10am and cleanup at 9:30pm, event 2:30pm to 8pm at Spring Valley Park. Chris Patchell motioned, and Paul Teini seconded for approval with 3 votes in favor and 1 vote opposed.

2. Allen Webb, Kalamazoo Earth Day, April 17\(^{\text{th}}\), 2021, setup at 9am and cleanup at 6pm, event 12pm to 5pm at Bronson Park – Chris Patchell motioned, and Paul Teini seconded for approval with 3 votes in favor and 1 vote opposed.

3. Sabrina Pritchett-Evans, M.O.B.B. (Mothers of Black Boys) United, September 13\(^{\text{th}}\), setup at 8:30am and cleanup at 4pm, event 10am to 4pm at Bronson Park. Chris Patchell motioned, and Paul Teini seconded for approval of the event. The motioned passed with unanimous approval.

4. Daisy Perry, Believe in Melanin, October 3\(^{\text{rd}}\), setup at 10am and cleanup at 6pm, event 1pm to 5pm at Bronson Park Paul Teini motioned, and Chris Patchell seconded for approval. The motioned passed with unanimous approval.

5. Reverend Nathan Dannison, Homecoming Sunday Celebration, September 20\(^{\text{th}}\), setup at 8am and cleanup at 12pm, event 10am to 11am at Bronson Park. Paul Teini motioned, and Chris Patchell seconded for approval. The motioned passed with unanimous approval.

**Comments:** All approved events will receive a letter from the Parks & Recreation Department notifying them of approval, and requesting the organizer follow the Governors Executive Orders in effect on the day of the event.

**Citizens:** None

**Commission Liaison:** Commissioner Eric Cunningham asked Sean for an updated on the killing of weeds in parks. Sean reported MLK has been recently sprayed. Commissioner Cunningham mentioned this also needs to be done at Milham Park because the weeds have grown up through the sand near the play area. Sean responded he will have the Milham Park Coordinator take care of the weed issue at Milham Park Playground.

**Friends of Recreation Liaison Update:**
Sean reported the golf outing is scheduled for Monday, September 14th, 2020. Kayleen would like to be sent information to share with others. Sean will send all PRAB members information regarding the outing. He shared information is also posted on the Friends of Recreation website.

**Parks and Recreation Director Monthly Report:** Sean Fletcher shared the department is working with Neil Sivik on structural plans for replacing a monument at MLK Park. Milham Park Dam design drawings are complete, currently working on bid documents. He’s asked the designers at Stantec to create renderings to share with the public. The Milwood Neighborhood Association will be updated on timeline for the work. Crane Park Tree
plaques have been received, and installation will take place soon. Sean thanked Natalie Patchell for her work on the plaques and for helping raise funds for the purchase of the plaques. He is working on an adopt a park program. The program will be a formalized program with recommendations on task, and recommendations for work that needs to be done. Three parks have been adopted, and he is hoping more will be with the more formalized process. Marketing and Communication Specialist, Amanda Cockroft is working on a flyer for the program, in the hopes we will get some different groups to adopt parks. Sean shared he is excited to announce he is working with Kalamazoo Whiffle ball league, and field work will be done, reviving Upjohn park diamond for their team to play at. The field improvements will be made mid-September.

Staff: None

A. **Board Members**: Board Members Chris Patchell stated they’ve raised over $3,000.00 for Crane Park Tree plaques. The group will be collecting funds through the end of August. Lawn mowing is much better this year. Some issues with weed whips around trees at Upjohn Park. Sean has reported these issues to the mowing company.

B. Paul Teini thanked Commissioner Cunningham for attending the last two meetings. Sometime subjects come up that they would like commissioner input on. He asked if the Commissioner could discuss the budget process at the City and share how PRAB can have input on budget needs for the department. Commissioner Eric Cunningham stated he is willing to continue to attend the meetings and to support the youth of Kalamazoo.

C. Kayleen Shafer asked how the summer programs were going. Sean reported we changed some of our operations to do a modified camp. We had a maximum of 20 kids per site, in pods of 10. Kids and staff wore masks, temperature checks were done. The department served around 120 kids, normally we would serve around 600 unique participants. A modified All Things Possible program ran with 20-30 kids served; normal operations would be around 70 participants. Kayleen stated the City website time for PRAB meetings also needs to be updated. She would like the website to include information for people to attend because meetings are being conducted via Zoom. She recently attended an outdoor play event at LaCrone Park. She stated it was nice and clean, and there were lots of people in attendance, all doing a good job of social distancing. One quick small altercation happened, that was handled well.

D. John Johnson shared a volunteer asked about the rededication of Crane Park. Sean said the department was planning on several celebrations, but plans had to change due to COVID. He asked the board their opinion regarding scheduling park celebrations. Kayleen Shafer recommended holding off on these type of celebrations until spring of 2021. John said quite a bit of the lawn area was damaged during the recent repairs at Upjohn Park. Sean commented he has mentioned this issue and will bring it up again.
Adjournment: 6:57 p.m.

The next Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 8, 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