Chair John Johnson called the meeting to order at 5:36 pm on February 4, 2020 at Mayors Riverfront Park

Roll Call:  
Members Present: Paul Teini, John Johnson, Chris Bol, Pam Roland

Members Absent: Aliyah Adams, Chris Patchell, Patrick McVerry, Kayleen Shafer, Sean Fletcher

Staff Present: Corey Stamps

Introduction of Guests: None

Changes to the Agenda: None

Special Presentations: None

Approval of Minutes: January minutes have been approved

Old Business: None

New Business: None

Event Recommendations: 
A. Julie Kieser (Jesus Loves Kzoo) requested event – Jesus Love Kzoo on  
   - Sunday July 12, 2020 from 3:00 pm – 6:00 pm at Bronson Park  
   - Monday, July 13, 2020 from 5:00 – 8:00 pm at Martin Luther King Jr Park  
   - Thursday, July 16, 2020 from 5:00pm – 8:00 pm at South Westnedge Park  
   - Friday, July 17, 2020 from 5:00pm – 8:00 pm at LaCrone Park

B. Sydney Davis (Black Arts & Cultural Center) requested event – Black Arts Festival on Saturday July 11, 2020 from 11:00am – 7:00pm at Bronson Park

C. Lauren Ross (Michigan Nature Center) requested event – Monarch March on Saturday June 13, 2020 from 10:30am – 1:00pm at Mayors Riverfront Parks
D. Jill Lansky (Kalamazoo Public Library) requested event – Party in the Park on Wednesday May 27, 2020 from 10:00am – 11:00am at Bronson Park

E. Meg Shad-Saegar (Foundation for Mental Health) requested event – Five Fifty Fifty Run/Walk on Friday June 12, 2020 from 6:30pm – 8:00pm at Spring Valley Park

All events have been unanimously approved

Comments:
None

Citizens:
None

Commission Liaison:
None

Friends of Recreation Liaison Update:
None

Parks and Recreation Director Monthly Report:
Planning for Phase 1 of the Farmers’ Market continues with construction set to begin this fall (September most likely). Miller-Davis was chosen as the Construction Manager for the project.

Verburg park improvements may be delayed until spring 2021 in order to apply for a Michigan DNR Trust Fund grant. If approved (very likely), an additional $300,000 could be added to the project. The total project budget would be over $800,000 and would allow us to make all the planned improvements.

The Parks staff removed a homeless encampment from behind Mayors’ Riverfront Park on 2/4…Seven staff worked the entire day removing a lot of garbage and debris, including human waste. Public Safety’s team that works to assist homeless people and their needs were involved in the process.

The Deputy Director, Business Specialist, Recreation Manager, and Director attended the Michigan Recreation and Parks Association annual conference in Novi, MI last week. The team attended a number of educational sessions and visited a variety of parks and recreation vendors.
The department continues to update CAPRA files (see link) as move toward becoming an accredited Parks and Recreation Agency. Our files will be complete in about a year, then I will have a fellow site visitor review our files before a site visit team comes to Kalamazoo sometime in the spring/summer of 2021. If all goes well, we would obtain CAPRA Accreditation in Nashville, TN at the National Recreation and Parks Association annual conference.

https://www.nrpa.org/certification/accreditation/CAPRA/

**Staff:**
None

**Board Members:**
Chris Bol reported they fixed the KRVT that goes by the river so that’s awesome. The downside is that its covered in slick mud.

Chris also mentioned he would like to know the process to acquire new land and a list of possible parks that are unutilized. He would like this to be an item for next meeting.

Pam is waiting on the weather to do their annual planting. They are planning for the first part of June. Pam has noticed a lot of new things are going on in the parks and she likes what she sees.

Paul mentioned we are short staff on board members and wants to recruit more members if possible. Paul wants to check with Sean about the commission liaisons as well.

John agreed and responded try talking to friend’s family about joining the board.

John mentioned that next meeting he would like to talk about being liaisons for our neighborhood parks. This would be good so we can keep track of the parks and relay information to Sean and Patrick. John thinks this would be a great idea and it will keep the appearance of the park up to par.

Chris agrees with John statement.

**Adjournment:** 5:56 pm

The next Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 3, 2020 at 5:30 p.m. at the Parks and Recreation Community Room.
Respectfully submitted by Corey Stamps, Recording Secretary

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Recording Secretary

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Chair