Chair Meka Philips called the meeting to order at 5:30 pm on January 7, 2020 at Mayors Riverfront Park

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

Members Absent: Aliyah Adams, Pam Roland, Chris Patchell, Patrick McVerry

Staff Present: Corey Stamps, Sean Fletcher

**Introduction of Guests:**
None

**Changes to the Agenda:**
None

**Special Presentations:**
None

**Approval of Minutes:**
November and December minutes have been approved

**Old Business:**
None

**New Business:**
Meka Phillips reported that her term has officially come to an end and she will not be renewing her term. Meka has been on the board for around 10 years. John Johnson will step in and become the new Chair and Chris Bol will become the Vice Chair.

Sean proposed having 11 meetings this year instead of 12. Sean mentioned there is not very many events or things going on in December so there is no need to meet. Also, the election falls on our date to meet in November. We will push that date back 1 week. Everyone agreed on these changes.

Our Summer meeting schedule:

June: Reed St.
July: Springmont Tot Lot
August: LaCrone Park
September: Verberg Park (if it's not too cold)
Event Recommendations:
None

Comments:
None

Citizens:
None

Commission Liaison:
None

Friends of Recreation Liaison Update:
Sean reported they are in the process of taking resumes for an events position for the Friends of Recreation. They are not looking to fill the Executive Director position at this time. John asked is this a department position? Sean responded this is a contractual position that we hope will pay for itself. Chris Bol asked if the position is paying for itself why have them there at all? Sean responded it's about awareness and hopefully they generate more than expected. The extra money that is earned will be for the endowment. All the events that the Friends of Recreation put on are Jersey Night, The Luncheon, Golf Outing, and a donor event in December.

Parks and Recreation Director Monthly Report:
Sean reported we are working through the budget process to get a second special event person. The job would be responsible for the front desk, volleyball, softball and certain special events. Sean met with the Deputy City Manager and it looks possible.

A lot of planning has gone into the Farmers Market. They are looking to start phase 1 September of this year. They wanted to start later so they don’t interrupt the market. Paul Teini asked are you going to advertise about the market? Sean said yes, we already have begun, and a lot of people are excited. John asked what does start phase 1 mean? Sean responded they are going to get a new shed that’s bigger and expand the number of booths. There will be all new lighting, pavement, more storage, more parking and the restrooms will be renovated. This phase also includes the realignment of Bank St. Phase 2 will be more site work to the north and on parking. This would start in 2021. Phase 3 would be in 2022. This will consist of an indoor market building with restrooms and a kitchen. The final phase would be a playground and standing tabletops. We are also planning for Verberg Park. That will start in July. LaCrone Park will be getting a spray pad and that will start in April or May with hopes of being done by July.

Meka asked do you go look at other cities and see what you like to possibly imitate it? Sean responded we do site visits and have conversations with people who run those facilities and see what works best. We did that for the skate plaza to see what would make sense.
Sean continued our budget is the same from last year. When you look at the national average we are below. A city in Georgia that is similar in size to Kalamazoo has a 4 million dollar budget and we are at 2 million. In the future we are looking at adding a true teen facility. This is years away from happening. The facility would be an Indoor gym space, tech space, recording studio, homework help and a performance area. We are doing site visits currently and we are going to include some of the teens in the design of the building.

**Staff:**
None

**Board Members:**
Chris bol asked about the homeless population at Verberg park? Sean said that’s part of the planning for the removal of brush at the park. If people can see things happening, they can make a call if needed.

Paul mentioned he went to his hometown for Christmas and they created a pathway from south to north that crisscrosses and goes all around the city. He was on it a lot while he was back home, and he thought it was amazing. They didn’t have to cross roads and he thinks it would be cool to have here in Kalamazoo.

Chris Bol asked doesn’t the city have an ice rink that can be set up? Sean responded Downtown Kalamazoo Partnership has one or used to have one. Chris asked about having an ice rink at Bronson. Sean mentioned the plans for Bronson included having an ice rink but there is no storm drain where they would like to put the ice rink. If we are going to do an ice rink, we have to make sure we do it right. Sean continued, the Portage Parks and Recreation Director doesn’t really care for the rink and wishes she didn’t have it. Chris thinks it would be cool to have a rink at Bronson around Christmas.

Meka said thank you to everyone who comes to the meetings and takes it seriously. She is going miss everyone and being here.

**Adjournment:** 6:17 pm

The next Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 3, 2020 at 5:30 p.m. at the Parks and Recreation Community Room.

Respectfully submitted by Corey Stamps, Recording Secretary
Chair