

**Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Minutes**  
**June 1, 2021**

Chair John Johnson called the meeting to order at 5:33 p.m. on June 5, 2021 at Martin Luther King Jr. Park.

**Roll Call:**

**Members Present:** John Johnson, Pamela Roland, Joseph Buckman, Rachel Hughes-  
Nilsson, Ben Stanley

**Members Absent:** Chris Bol, Paul Teini, Michael Harrison, Katelyn Bekken (non-voting  
member)

**Staff Present:** Sean Fletcher, Shannon Keene

**Commissioner Liaison:** Absent

**Introduction of Guests:** Jeffrey Messer, Adopt-A-Park Applicant

**Changes to the Agenda:** None

**Approval of Minutes:**

Joseph Buckman motioned, and Rachel Hughes-Nilsson seconded for a unanimous approval of the May meeting minutes.

**Old Business:**

**New Business:**

1. MLK Commission Agenda Item / Fall Planting Event – Pamela Roland informed the board that construction will start in late July or early August. On the second Saturday of July, they will have their flowerbed partners come with shovels. She has six flower beds and doesn't want to invest in plants if they will be ripped up. They could smother the grass, have it mowed as low as possible and have mulch put on top of it. Pamela also wants to put five planters down on Harkins Court and install a chess/checkers activity table. Sean Fletcher said the concrete sidewalks, monument marker and arches will be repaired. The bricks will be repurposed to create an edge for the flowerbeds. Hawthorne trees will be planted in the fall to provide a buffer between the park and train tracks. Plaques will be placed on the trees. All the trees in the center circle of the park will be removed. The water fountain will be replaced with a bottle filler. There will be all new irrigation, a new park rules sign, and enclosed electrical outlets. If there is any extra money in the budget after the electrical enclosure, it will be used for the park benches and activity tables. Pamela plans to create a litter

slogan and will get t-shirts for people that are part of the litter control committee. She will also be holding a fundraiser to help raise money for these improvements.

**Event Recommendations:**

**Adopt-A-Park Applications:**

Pamela Roland motioned to approve, seconded by Joseph Buckman for unanimous approval of the Adopt-A-Park applications.

**Comments**

**Citizens:** A citizen came to the meeting concerned about Emerald Park being turned into a butterfly garden to which Sean Fletcher answered that's not happening. Emerald Park improvements have been bumped to next year.

**Commission Liaison:** None

**Friends of Recreation Liaison Update:** Sean Fletcher is waiting for information regarding the benefit concert coupled with the Kalamazoo Growlers baseball game.

**Parks and Recreation Director Monthly Report:** Sean Fletcher told the board that a ton of work has been done on the Farmers Market. He mentioned the Bank Street realignment, new roofing, and dead tree removal. Work on the Milham Park dam is set to begin soon.

**Staff:** Shannon Keene let the board know that Lunchtime Live begins next Friday at Bronson Park.

**Board Members:** Ben Stanley is excited to see the park improvements at Martin Luther King Jr. Park. He also stated some of the park rules aren't within city ordinances, such as requiring registered service animals into the Farmers Market. Sean let the board know that City Commission will discuss how the 40 million dollars in stimulus funding will be spent in the city.

**Adjournment:** 6:30 p.m.

The next Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Meeting will be held on Tuesday, July 6, 2021 at 5:30 p.m. at Crane Park.

Respectfully submitted by Shannon Keene, Recording Secretary

*Shannon Keene*

---

Recording Secretary

Chair

8/3/2021

