

**Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Minutes**  
**August 8, 2023**

Chair Kazmira Herberger called the meeting to order at 5:34 p.m. on August 8<sup>th</sup>, 2023 at Reed St. Park.

**Roll Call:**

**Members Present:** Kazmira Herberger, Ben Stanley, Rachel Hughes-Nilsson, Katelyn Bekken, Isabela Ballez, Jarrett Blackmon, Riley Nilsson

**Members Absent:** Joseph Buckman

**Staff Present:** Patrick McVerry, Shannon Keene

**Commissioner Liaison:** Esteven Juarez (absent)

**Introduction of Guests:** Jeff Messer, Davis St. Park Adoptee

**Changes to the Agenda:**

**Special Presentations:**

**Approval of Minutes:**

Rachel Hughes-Nilsson motioned, seconded by Bela Ballez for unanimous approval of the July meeting minutes.

**Old Business:**

1. 2024 PRAB Events – Bela Ballez is planning a Youth Paddling 101 event at Woods Lake Park on July 11<sup>th</sup>, 2024, from 10am-1pm. There will be pre-registration for the event and a maximum of 45 kayaks will be available to use. The actual float will take place from 10am to 11:30am. The Kalamazoo River Watershed Council and the Kalamazoo Nature Center will have activities for kids to do after the float and will also provide dry bags and snacks. Bela is currently seeking lifeguards for the event. The cost of renting kayaks is \$30 per child. She contacted D&R Sports Center about a sponsorship and is also going to reach out to Dick's Sporting Goods, Sportsman's Warehouse and Dunham's Sports. Bela needs about \$1500 for the event to cover lunch and the kayaks. Jarret Blackmon volunteered to write a script for Bela to use when reaching out to different organizations. Registration for the event will open in April of next year. Kazmira Herberger updated the group on the National Go Skateboarding Day event scheduled for June 21<sup>st</sup>, 2024, at Davis St Park. There will be a skate trick competition for kids 12 and under, a standard contest for ages 18-29, and a legends contest for anyone over 30. There will be prizes for 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> place. There will be a photo shoot area in the park and vendors and food trucks will be invited to the event. Pre-registration will be an option for attendees. Irma Lopez-Wall is assisting in the planning of the event and has created a waiver that just needs

City approval. She will handle obtaining prizes, judges, and donations for skateboards and Kazmira will create a map of the event. They are also working on finding a DJ and Emcee.

2. PRAB Involvement in Kzoo Parks Events – Kazmira Herberger will draft a letter to send out to local businesses for candy donations. Riley Nilsson will reach out to the National Honor Society for Halloween Forest volunteers once school starts. The milk and cookies station at the Tree Lighting Ceremony was postponed to next year. Kazmira mentioned the Youth Entrepreneurship Fair and asked the board to come to the event.

#### **New Business:**

1. Park Rules - Kazmira Herberger asked Ben Stanley to state the specific laws and regulations that need to be discussed. The board could then sign a letter with the proposed changes to send to City Commission for review.

#### **Event Recommendations:**

#### **Adopt-A-Park Applications:**

#### **Comments:**

**Citizens:** Jeff Messer gave an update on Davis St. Park. There is new graffiti at the park, and he asked if a heat gun could be made available to adoptees to remove stickers. He let everyone know City Commission approved the Rank My Vote proposal and on Tuesday, August 22<sup>nd</sup> they will formally approve the ballot. He has been collecting signatures since May 13<sup>th</sup>, 2022 and was able to submit 3000 signatures.

**Commission Liaison:** None

#### **Friends of Recreation Liaison Update:**

**Parks and Recreation Director Monthly Report:** Patrick McVerry let everyone know the drinking fountain at Bronson Park is up and running. There will be a dedication on August 27<sup>th</sup> for the Abraham Lincoln statue in Bronson Park. New graphics will be installed on the fitness court at Upjohn Park at the end of this month.

**Staff:** Shannon Keene commented on the summer events coming to an end. The last Summer Cinema movie is on August 25<sup>th</sup> at Frays Park and the last Lunchtime Live is on September 1<sup>st</sup> at Bronson Park.

**Board Members:** Rachel Hughes-Nilsson provided an update on the Master Plan meeting at Upjohn Park on July 27<sup>th</sup>. There were two specific focus groups there. The skate group wants to see more skate plazas. If the soccer group signs a lease to play at Mayor's Riverfront Park for a 5-year period, then the city would partner to improve the area with

them. Ben Stanley asked when Verburg Park construction would be finished, and Patrick let him know the park will open on Labor Day.

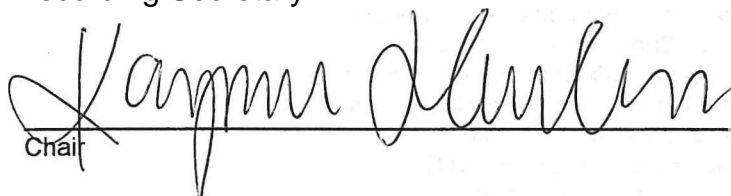
**Adjournment:** 6:58 p.m. – Rachel Hughes-Nilsson motioned to adjourn seconded by Ben Stanley for unanimous approval.

The next Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 12<sup>th</sup>, 2023 at 5:30 p.m. at Frays Park.

Respectfully submitted by Shannon Keene, Recording Secretary

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Shannon Keene", written over a horizontal line.

Recording Secretary

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Rachel Hughes-Nilsson", written over a horizontal line. The word "Chair" is printed below the signature.

Chair