

**Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Minutes**  
**January 9<sup>th</sup>, 2024**

Chair Kazmira Herberger called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. on January 9<sup>th</sup>, 2024 at Mayor's Riverfront Park.

**Roll Call:**

**Members Present:** Kazmira Herberger, Isabela Ballez, Rachel Hughes-Nilsson, Riley Nilsson, Joseph Buckman, Katelyn Bekken, Chris Bol

**Members Absent:** Jarrett Blackmon

**Staff Present:** Patrick McVerry

**Commissioner Liaison:**

**Introduction of Guests:** None

**Changes to the Agenda:** None

**Special Presentations:** None

**Approval of Minutes:**

Joseph Buckman motioned, seconded by Isabela Ballez for unanimous approval of the December meeting minutes.

**Old Business:**

1. National Go Skateboarding Day – No update.
2. Youth Paddle 101 – Bela Ballez let everyone know she secured \$1,100 for the event from the Kalamazoo River Community Recreational Foundation. The Kalamazoo River Watershed Council and Kalamazoo Nature Center will be at the event to lead activities for kids after the paddle. Patrick McVerry said the Parks vans could potentially be used as shuttles to get attendees to the event, but he will have to check the summer camp schedule before confirming. Kazmira Herberger will complete the People's Food Co-op Change for Change application for additional funding.
3. PRAB Goals
  - a. Money – Kazmira Herberger asked if the board had any ideas on how to raise more money for the department and what events could've used additional funding. Patrick McVerry said Halloween Forest was the only event that needed it for two extra inflatables. Kazmira reached out to the Mayor about getting a Commission Liaison to attend board meetings and was told assignments are given in January. Chris Bol asked if the Friends of Recreation Liaison could also start attending the meetings. Kazmira said her goal is to get

donations of \$10,000 to \$20,000 to help with various things each year. Katelyn Bekken mentioned reaching out to businesses that donate a portion of their daily sales to organizations. The board also brought up a millage for city parks. Rachel Hughes-Nilsson will reach out to the Grand Rapids Parks & Recreation Department to find out how they went about getting the millage on their ballot. Patrick also said if the board finds any grants to send the information to him and he can send it to the city grant writers.

- b. Events – The Blanche Hull cross country trail is still being mapped out.
- c. Volunteers – Chris Bol suggested using sign-up genius.

**New Business:**

1. Elect Vice-Chair – Joseph Buckman motioned to elect Katelyn Bekken as Vice Chair of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board, seconded by Chris Bol for unanimous approval.

**Event Recommendations:** None

**Adopt-A-Park Applications:** None

**Comments:**

**Citizens:** None

**Commission Liaison:** None

**Friends of Recreation Liaison Update:** None

**Parks and Recreation Director Monthly Report:** The Master Plan will be approved on January 22<sup>nd</sup> and then must be submitted to the Department of Natural Resources by February 1<sup>st</sup> to be eligible for grants.

**Staff:** None

**Board Members:** None

**Adjournment:** 6:20 p.m.

The next Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 6<sup>th</sup>, 2024 at 5:30 p.m. at Mayor's Riverfront Park.

Respectfully submitted by Shannon Keene, Recording Secretary



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Recording Secretary

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Chair