

Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Minutes
March 5th, 2024

Chair Kazmira Herberger called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. on March 5th, 2024 at Mayor's Riverfront Park.

Roll Call:

Members Present: Rachel Hughes-Nilsson, Katelyn Bekken, Jarrett Blackmon, Chris Bol, Riley Nilsson

Members Absent: Kazmira Herberger, Isabela Ballez, Joseph Buckman

Staff Present: Patrick McVerry, Shannon Keene, Deidrean Barret

Commissioner Liaison:

Introduction of Guests:

Changes to the Agenda:

Special Presentations:

Approval of Minutes:

Rachel Hughes-Nilsson motioned, seconded by Jarret Blackmon for unanimous approval of the January meeting minutes.

Old Business:

1. National Go Skateboarding Day – No update.
2. Youth Paddle 101 – No update.
3. PRAB Goals
 - a. Money – No update.
 - b. Events – No update.
 - c. Volunteers – No update.

New Business:

1. November Meeting Date – The date will be decided at next month's meeting.
2. Board Member Term Expiration
 - a. Rachel-Hughes Nilsson – Rachel chose to serve another term.
3. Board Applicant
 - b. Bjorn Nelson – Rachel Hughes-Nilsson motioned to approve Bjorn seconded by Chris Bol for unanimous approval.

Event Recommendations:

Adopt-A-Park Applications:

Comments:

Citizens: None

Commission Liaison: None

Friends of Recreation Liaison Update: None

Parks and Recreation Director Monthly Report: Patrick McVerry commented on the City Commission budget retreat that was held in February to discuss priorities for 2025. The main priorities were reducing gun violence with youth and low-income housing. The Parks Department will put in special requests for parks projects for next year that aren't already allocated in the Capital Improvement Plan. The things that are already allocated in the Capital Improvement Plan are the Milham Park stream restoration and the Farmers Market building. The Master Plan was approved by Commission and is waiting on approval from the Department of Natural Resources. The Parks Department was going to apply for two Department of Natural Resources grants to resurface the Spring Valley trail but decided to move them to next year. A Kalamazoo River cleanup is scheduled for April 20th from 11am-3pm. Volunteers can check-in at Mayor's Riverfront Park and there will be the option of cleaning up the river in your own kayak or using the provided maps to clean up the Kalamazoo River Valley Trail. The Southside Park improvements and partnership with Aunt Millie's were approved at City Commission and will start soon. Aunt Millie's approached the city about turning the upper portion of Southside Park into an employee & public parking lot and will pay for the development of the lot. They also donated \$200,000 to park improvement projects. The department will use the park improvement dollars to build a new playground as well as a storage building that will be used for Super Rec Camp. The Police Athletic League will also use a portion of the park for soccer and rocket football practices. Wi-Fi will be added to Southside Park along with LaCrone, Milham, Rockwell and Spring Valley this year. The rest of the parks will have Wi-Fi added within the next few years.

Staff: None

Board Members: Rachel Hughes-Nilsson volunteered to attend City Commission meetings to request a board liaison.

Adjournment: 6:17 p.m.

The next Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 2nd, 2024 at 5:30 p.m. at Mayor's Riverfront Park.

Respectfully submitted by Shannon Keene, Recording Secretary

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

Recording Secretary

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Kimmie Huley", written above a horizontal line.

Chair