

Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Minutes
October 3, 2023

Chair Kazmira Herberger called the meeting to order at 5:31 p.m. on October 3rd, 2023 at Mayor's Riverfront Park.

Roll Call:

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

Members Absent: Joseph Buckman, Riley Nilsson

Staff Present: Shannon Keene

Commissioner Liaison: Esteven Juarez (absent)

Introduction of Guests:

Changes to the Agenda:

Rachel Hughes-Nilsson motioned to approve the agenda, seconded by Katelyn Bekken for unanimous approval.

Special Presentations:

Approval of Minutes:

Rachel Hughes-Nilsson motioned, seconded by Kazmira Herberger for unanimous approval of the September meeting minutes.

Old Business:

1. National Go Skateboarding Day – No update.
2. Youth Paddle 101 – No update.
3. PRAB Involvement in Kzoo Parks Events
 - a. Halloween Forest – The board discussed the need for volunteers at this event. Katelyn Bekken will connect with Meijer for volunteers. The board also suggested looking up Registered Student Organizations on the Western Michigan University website, along with fraternities and sororities. Candy donations were also mentioned. In January, the board will discuss the 2024 department events and donation requests for the year.
 - b. Tree Lighting Ceremony – Kya Mitchell started reaching out to volunteers. A total of 30 people are needed for this event.

New Business:

Event Recommendations:**Adopt-A-Park Applications:**

1. Southside Park, Dimplex Thermal Solutions, Rebecca Eagen – The application had unanimous approval.

Comments:**Citizens:**

Commission Liaison: None

Friends of Recreation Liaison Update: None

Parks and Recreation Director Monthly Report: Kazmira Herberger read Patrick McVerry's comments to the board. The park gates and bathrooms closed on October 1st. Staff will begin winterizing bathrooms in anticipation of winter. The SRC field bathroom will stay open through the end of football season for the United/PAL league. Work continues on the Master Plan. A second community input meeting will take place this month at the Farmer's Market. The date will be published this week. The Peace Pole dedication ceremony took place at Crane Park on September 21st. Thank you to Natalie and Chris Patchell for their work on this project and planting the natives around the pole. Planning is in full swing for Halloween Forest and annual Tree Lighting Ceremony. EPA work at Verburg Park will be wrapping up and the boat launch will open on November 28th. Park improvements will go back out for community input in early 2024. Patrick, Ashton, and Chad will be attending the National Parks and Recreation Conference in Dallas, TX next week. This conference is a great opportunity to learn about new trends, suppliers, and best practices in the industry. The City budgeting process is approaching completion. There will be a meeting with Management Services in Mid-October to learn what special requests were approved and the budget for 2024. The initial presentation to City Commission will be in early December with formal adoption at the first meeting in January 2024.

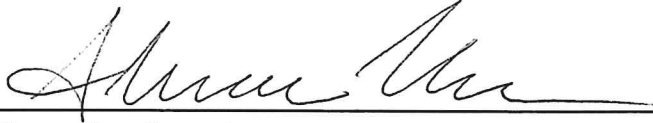
Staff: None

Board Members: Katelyn Bekken let everyone know about the apple cider contest at the Farmers Market on October 7th. Jarrett Blackmon is a judge for the competition. There is also a People's Plant-Based Party at the market on October 8th. Rachel Hughes-Nilsson will continue working to get volunteers for Halloween Forest. Ben Stanley mentioned Chris Praedel's request for restrooms in the downtown parking ramps. Rachel Hughes-Nilsson suggested getting all the City boards together once a year to talk about these kinds of issues starting in 2024.

Adjournment: 6:17 p.m.

The next Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Meeting will be held on Tuesday, November 14th, 2023 at 5:30 p.m. at Mayor's Riverfront Park.

Respectfully submitted by Shannon Keene, Recording Secretary



11/15/23

Recording Secretary



11/14/

Chair