

**Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Minutes
September 10, 2024**

Chair Kazmira Herberger called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. on September 10, 2024 at Mayor's Riverfront Park.

Roll Call:

Members Present: Kazmira Herberger, Isabela Ballez, Rachel Hughes-Nilsson, Jarrett Blackmon, Chris Bol, Riley Nilsson

Members Absent: Joseph Buckman, Bjorn Nelson

Staff Present: Patrick McVerry, Deidrean Barrett

Commissioner Liaison: None

Introduction of Guests: None

Changes to the Agenda: None

Special Presentations: None

Approval of Minutes:

Rachel Hughes-Nilsson motioned; seconded by Chris Bol for unanimous approval of the July meeting minutes.

Old Business:

1. Youth Paddle 101- Positive feedback from parents and participants. It was a fun, educational event with a good turnout. Discussions on rebranding the event for next year to focus on family participation, potentially calling it "Family Paddle." Plan for next year to possibly include canoes and tandem kayaks.
2. Audubon Event- The theme is still pending as the Audubon Society is focused on fall migration right now. A tentative date set for May 10, 2025, possibly at Spring Valley Park or Upjohn Park. Materials and games will be coordinated with the Audubon Society theme. Potential city collaboration with the sustainability coordinator for funding.
3. Develop Adopt-A-Park Requirements – Pamphlet and guidelines for the Adopt-A-Park program discussed, including cleaning expectations, reporting requirements, and recognition signage. Survey questions and requirements were agreed upon, including two cleanups per year, reporting on maintenance issues, and annual renewal for participants. Further refinements to be discussed in future meetings.

New Business:

1. Fall/Winter Park Events – Halloween Forest needs 60-70 volunteers. Donations would be needed to secure additional inflatables. Tree Lighting Ceremony needs around 20-30 volunteers. December to Remember event details will be coordinated at the next meeting.

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: Farmer's market building will be going to commission for approval on Monday September 16th. Construction will start in a week and a half. Parks and Recreation receiving an award from bike friendly Kalamazoo.

Staff: None

Board Members: Katelyn Bekken has resigned from the board. Nominations for the new vice-chair will be discussed in the next meeting.

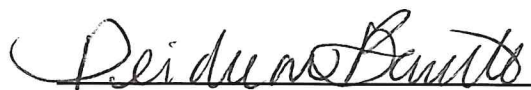
Karen Wellman has submitted her application as a new board member with extensive experience in Parks and Recreation. Chris Bol motioned; seconded by Rachel Hughes-Nilsson for unanimous approval of Karen Wellman as a new board member.

Kazmira proposed setting board member requirements, including volunteering for two events and attending 10 out of 12 meetings. This proposal will be added to the next meeting's agenda for discussion.

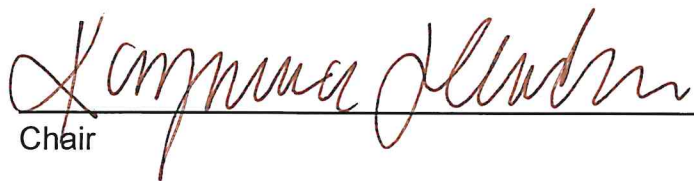
Adjournment: 6:57 p.m.

The next Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 8th, 2024 at 5:30 p.m. at Mayor's Riverfront Park.

Respectfully submitted by Deidrean Barrett, Recording Secretary



Recording Secretary



Chair