

Parks Board Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, September 7, 2016

Board Present: Marshall Cammack, Roger Smith, Jan Whitcomb, Susan Atkinson, Tim Earl, Jon Peer, Kendall Klingelsmith, Director of Parks, Recreation and Senior Center Services, Rod Russell-Director of Public Services

Excused: Charles Thomas, Emily Hirshman

Board Absent-Not Excused: Anna Heystek-Student Member

Guests: N/A

The meeting was called to order by Ms. Hoyle at 6:34 p.m. in Westfield Park.

Minutes from the August meeting were distributed and reviewed. One correction was noted: Jon Peer's absence at the July meeting was excused. Mr. Earl motioned to approve. Mr. Smith seconded. Motion carried.

Department Report:

The Parks Department has moved to city hall. An RFP evaluation of the senior center space is being undertaken. Three firms have bid on the project. An Ageing Mastery program will be offered at the senior center. This is a course designed to help people prepare for a successful retirement. Four people are being trained. A Pokemon event is being held this weekend and West Lake. A Grandparent trail walk is being held at Celery Flats. The team is considering a monster mash event this fall at Schrier Park on October 22nd in the late afternoon. Kendall is looking for help with this and business contacts to sponsor tables. Discussions are underway to join trails in Portage, Vicksburg, and Texas Township. A ribbon cutting ceremony is planned for Eliason along with a tour of Ramona. This will be held 11-1 on September 13th. An e-mail is coming. Ramona took in approximately \$130,000 in gross revenue but waiting for final numbers.

On September 29th, a capital improvements meeting will be held with the city council (4-7). A public meeting is planned regarding the dog park on south Westnedge. Playscapes are being removed at West Lake and Central parks. A new pavilion is being constructed at Schrier. A task force has been established to review city signage. New basketball courts are being installed at Lakeview this fall. Kathleen asked about the cross walk between the library and city hall.

Tim asked about the new ordinance passed in Kalamazoo which requires a distance of 3-5 feet from cyclists on all roadways.

Roger Smith gave the history of Westfield Park

Get Active Review:

The event went well. There were many prizes for attendees. Vendors requested that the punch cards come back to increase traffic at their tables. Several attendees suggested coffee. A survey will be circulated to the board and to vendors to solicit feedback and suggestions for future planning.

Art in the Park

Susan will confirm date for this event and check with Rat Rods for availability. Jon and Kathleen will assist with promotion.

Friends of the Park

Attorney Grossman of Vicksburg was selected and will begin work on establishing a 503(c). Please bring nominees for board positions to next meeting.

Comments:

Farewell and thank you to Roger Smith for his generous support of this board during his term. We wish you well and hope we will continue to see you at park events.

Adjournment: Motion was made by Tim Earl, seconded by Jon Peer. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned around 8:00pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Atkinson, Park Board member