

Parks Board Meeting Minutes
Wednesday July 5, 2017

Board Present: Emily Hirschman, Charles Thomas, Jon Peer, Tim Earl, Lana Escamilla
Kathleen Hoyle - Director of Parks, Recreation, and Senior Center Services

Board Absent - Excused: Marshall Cammack, Robb Krueger, Susan Atkinson, Rushik Patel -
Student Member

Rod Russell - Director of Public Services

Not Excused: N/A

Guests: Peggy Napier - Rental Coordinator

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Earl at 6:30 p.m. at Ramona Park.

Minutes from July's meeting were distributed and reviewed. Mr. Thomas motioned for approval of minutes, seconded by Mr. Peer. Motion approved.

July Minute Corrections: Delete everything in parentheses after Lana's name

New Business:

1) Department Updates: Dog park is temporarily closed due to findings of glass. New topsoil and grass being placed at this time. Unsure on when it will re-open. 550+ people attended free park day held at Ramona Park last week. Looking to hire 2-3 more rangers at this time. Softball tournaments will be starting soon. Good response from new children's sampler sports program. Concert tomorrow at the Bandshell, Army Band. Paddle board camps have been very successful. Looking into moving Farmer's Market to Brown St. to increase space and visibility.

Public Services Department Report: No updates at this time.

Park Updates: Lana will be taking over Haverhill and Ramona Park. Park schedule for 2018 will be updated by Ms. Hoyle. Motioned to move meetings to January 10th, April 11th, July 11th, and August 8th. Others will remain as is. Mr. Peer motioned for approval, seconded by Mr. Thomas. Mr. Earl brought up that staffing may need to be increased during holiday hours at Ramona.

2) Friends of the Park Report: Adopt a Park signage has been created and are working towards getting them placed at all of the parks.

3) Friends Group Update: No updates at this time.

a. Newsletter: No updates at this time.

b. Coordinator Reports: No updates at this time.

c. Facebook update: Continues to grow.

d. Calendar of Events: No updates at this time.

e. Website: No updates at this time.

f. Other: N/A

4) Celery Flats Music Festival: Mr. Peer, Mr. Krueger, Ms. Hirschman cannot attend. Ms. Escamilla, Mr. Thomas, Mr. Cammack, Mr. Earl, and Ms. Atkinson will be there. Ms. Hoyle to make signs and programs for the event and give to Ms. Napier this week. Meetings have been ongoing between park board and Kzoo Folklife to ensure event goes smoothly. Mr. Earl is asking that board members arrive by 11am on event day and please park at City Hall on the lower level. Food trucks are in place. Marketing for event is ongoing. Mr. Peer will get the board box to Mr. Earl.

5) Stuart Manor Event: The Brown Family that donated Stuart Manor wanted to do something for the building. Mr. Krueger to help with event. Plan is to offer guided tours and get library involved on history of the house. Sunday, August 27th is the tentative date for the event. Working on getting video of the house being moved.

6) Bicycle Advisory Committee Update: First meeting has been scheduled. This is a sub committee of the Park Board. Plan is to meet and talk about bicycle related issues and give ideas to city on how to improve our current Bronze status. There has been talks about a bike share program starting in the future.

7) Get Active Portage: Update given by Ms. Hirschman. Projecting 20-25 vendors in attendance this year. Continues to keep vendors updated on event. Reviewed layout and time frame with Ms. Napier. There should be enough room and time after kid's triathlon event in the morning to get everything set up. Will review with Ms. Napier as event draws nearer. Idea to introduce walking stick activity with medallions for parks visited was discussed. Ms. Hirschman to get in contact with SWMLC and/or Kalamazoo Nature Center to see what we would need to do and report back to Ms. Hoyle. Continuing to work on items for drawing. Further updates to come at the August Park Board meeting.

8) Picnic in the Parks: Oakland Park was successful. Too many hot dogs were cooked. Ms. Hoyle has supply list and will have all ready for next event. July 19th at Westfield from 6-7pm will be the next Picnic in the Park event. Mr. Peer to contact Vista group to check on their involvement with the event.

9) Volunteer Ranger Patrol: Idea in the works to start program to help deter incidents in the park. Mr. Earl will discuss with bike committee to see if they are interested in heading this program.

10) Recycled Art in the Park Update: Ms. Hoyle met with Beth McCann of the Arts Council and notes that more artists may be able to participate if we move the event to fall after their summer event season. Also need to look in to how this will be run in the future. Mr. Earl discussed need to replace May event if we move this to the fall.

Summary Report:

- Given by Ms. Hoyle.

Comments from the Board:

- N/A

Adjournment: Motion was made by Mr. Thomas, seconded by Mr. Peer. Motion approved, meeting adjourned at 7:55pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Emily Hirschman, Park Board Secretary