

Park Board Meeting Minutes
Wednesday June 07, 2017

Board Present: Jon Peer, Marshall Cammack, Tim Earl, Susan Atkinson, Robb Krueger, Rushik Patel (Student Member)

Kathleen Hoyle – Director of Parks, Recreation, and Senior Services

Rod Russell – Director of Department of Public Services

Board Absent – Excused: Emily Hirschman, Charles Thomas

Not Excused: N/A

Guests: Peggy Napier, Lana Escamilla (To be sworn on to the council in the coming week)

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Earl at 6:34 p.m. at Lexington Green Park.

Minutes from the April meeting were distributed and reviewed. Mr. Peer motioned for approval of minutes, seconded by Mr. Krueger. Motion approved.

Department Updates:

- 1) **Parks Department:** Alan Turner is performing tomorrow, Thursday, June 8, 2017 at Overlander Bandshell. A new trail is being built from Celery Flats overflow parking lot that will connect it with the main lot to provide easier access outside of Garden Lane and be installed prior to the replacement of the main lot this summer. Replacement of the Celery Flats Interpretative Center will start this autumn with the removal of the current building. The Portage Dog Park ribbon cutting and grand opening will be Thursday, June 30, 2017 at 11:00AM EST.
- 2) **Public Services Department:** Lakeview Park tennis courts will be updated to allow for four dedicated pickle ball courts and one tennis court that is also lined for pickle ball. Eliason Nature Reserve will be expanded to include a shelter, bathrooms, and an air filling station for bike tires. It will be modeled after the new Celery Flats Interpretive Center but of a smaller scale. Trail work was completed on Ring Road, the path around Crossroads Mall. Lexington Green will be having their park fence replaced.

New Business:

- 1) **Individual Park Reports:**
 - **Westfield** – Grass present in the sand volleyball report, continued issues with a sagging gate on the tennis court, and bricks need replacing on the retaining wall.
 - **All Other Parks** – No Updates
- 2) **K'zoo Folklife Music Fest:** Everything is proceeding as planned as K'zoo Folklife is doing the majority of the work this year. The board approved plans for bringing up to two food trucks onsite for the event, one truck to provide a main course and the other desserts. The board took a roll call vote and the motion carried 4 to 1.
 - Yeas: Mr. Peer, Mr. Cammack, Mr. Earl, Ms. Atkinson
 - No: Mr. Krueger
- 3) **Recycled Art in the Park:** Major takeaways from this year's contest were:

- Increase funding for the prizes and advance when it happens so we can be ahead of any businesses final financial planning.
 - Review the youth versus adult categories and level the prize money between both categories.
- 4) **Get Active Portage:** Ms. Hirschman and Mr. Thomas are working on contacting and lining up vendors and sponsors for the event.
 - 5) **Picnic in the Park:** The three Picnic in the Park events are being setup with the first later this month at Oakland Park. Postcards will be sent out to residents local to that park. We will be sticking to the standard fare as was decided on last year of all beef hot dogs, turkey dogs, chips, water, and fruit punch.
 - 6) **Bike Advisory Committee:** This city committee is currently being formed. It will be chaired by resident Ed Sackley with the remainder of the board and bylaws still forthcoming.
 - 7) **Friends of the Parks:** The 501(c)(3) is still in process, we need to define the role and make minor changes to the initial bylaws before it can be completely formed. We are up to three park adoptions: Ramona Park by The Friends of Ramona Park, Westfield Park by The Vista Apartments and Townhomes, and Eliason Nature Preserve by BASIC HR.
 - 8) **Portage Fishing Fair:** Everything went well though the weather prevented many people from staying throughout the event.
 - 9) **Stuart Manor Celebration:** The city will be hosting an event at Celery Flats this summer as they are planning on reopening parts of the historic buildings for public tours and a special ceremony commemorating the donation of Stuart Manor to the family that made that donation. This celebration will be headed up by Mr. Krueger and will take place in late July.
 - 10) **Environmental Board** – There will be an invasive species pull on Saturday if anyone is available to assist.
 - 11) **Bike Share Program** – In an effort to expand bike use within Portage, the city is looking into creating a bike share program at designated locations allowing residents to rent a bike for use on local roads and trails.

Summary Report:

- The board reviewed the summary report of events by the city over the past month.

Comments from the Board:

- The board welcomed Ms. Escamilla on her pending swearing in to the park board.

Adjournment: Motion was made by Mr. Krueger, seconded by Ms. Atkinson. Motion carried 7-0, meeting adjourned at 8:20pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Jon Peer, Park Board Vice Chair