

**Parks Board Meeting Minutes
Wednesday September 6, 2017**

Board Present: Emily Hirschman, Charles Thomas, Jon Peer, Tim Earl, Lana Escamilla, Staci Salisbury, Robb Krueger, Rushik Patel - Student Member

Kathleen Hoyle - Director of Parks, Recreation, and Senior Center Services

Board Absent - Excused: Susan Atkinson, Rod Russell - Director of Public Services

Not Excused: N/A

Guests: Kazmira Ruhland - Adopted Westfield Park (Vista Apartments)

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Earl at 6:35 p.m. at Westfield Park.

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

New Business:

1) Department Updates: Reviewed current Park Board bank account - current funds are \$5,556.90 at beginning of this fiscal year. Will continue to keep this updated. Working on new program booklets at this time. Lots of new programs are being rolled out. Good turn out at grain elevator tours. Invasive Species Land Management will be starting to evaluate wildlife in the parks and looking to eradicate invasive species in the parks. Capital Improvement Budget is coming up at the end of this month. Working on some route improvements on Portage Road. Concert series was well attended this summer. Program Booklet will go out in the November *Portager*.

Public Services Department Report: Given by Ms. Hoyle. Ice rink arena will be refurbished to be better maintained. Pickle ball continues to be very popular and working to figure out how to expand event in the parks. Continuing to work on clean up of dog park, opening date remains unknown at this time.

Park Updates: Mr. Earl notes that basketball courts are in need of resurfacing at Westfield. Vista Apartments have recently painted bathroom doors. Their sign has been placed at the park now.

2) Friends of the Park Report: Will update at next meeting.

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. Adopt-A-Park: Private citizen is adopting Oakland Park.

g: Other: N/A

4) Stuart Manor Event: No updates at this time.

5) Bicycle Advisory Committee Update: Minutes from July meeting were reviewed. Motion to approve minutes by Mr. Earl, seconded by Mr. Thomas. Minutes approved. Plan is to meet once monthly during biking season and once every other month during off season. Working on list to make Portage more bike friendly.

6) Get Active Portage: Summary given by Ms. Hirschman. Attendance by public was very low. Unsure of reason. Event was publicized well. Overall attendance at beach was low that day per the rangers even though weather was great. Survey was sent to all participants, results indicate likely need to revamp event in the future to gain more attendance. Will continue to discuss new event ideas for the future.

7) Picnic in the Parks: Lexington Green had over 150 participants. Neighborhood association remains very involved and active.

8) Volunteer Ranger Patrol: Continuing to look for volunteers to start this program. More updates to come.

9) Recycled Art in the Park Update: Looking for representative from board to take on this event. This will be tabled to November.

10) Hiking Stick Fundraiser: Mr. Peer waiting to hear back from KNC at this time. Talked to SWMLC, they make theirs out of glossy buckthorn invasive species. Notes we have this at Bishop's Bog. Mr. Kruegger brought up the idea of having a workshop to make own walking stick to kickstart event. Ms. Hoyle plans to talk with environmental board about pulling of glossy buckthorn.

Summary Report:

- Given by Ms. Hoyle.

Comments from the Board:

- N/A

Adjournment: Motion was made by Ms. Salisbury, seconded by Ms. Escamilla. Motion approved, meeting adjourned at 8:00pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Emily Hirschman, Park Board Secretary