

Portage Park Board Meeting Minutes

March 5, 2009

Stuart Manor

Board Present: Scott Grinder, Janet Luchies, Mark Anthony Martin, Bery Pannkuk , Sam Garceau, Andrea Stork, Susan Williams and John Pfund

Staff Present: Bill Deming

Excused: Liz Jarzambek, Chris Price

Meeting called to order at 6:31 p.m.

Approval of Minutes: Motion to approve by Susan Williams and seconded by Sam Garceau to approve the February minutes with two minor revisions. Minutes were unanimously approved.

New Business

A. Subcommittee Reports

1. Photo Contest - Andy Stork: Marketing of contest is going well. The committee is working on obtaining prizes. Flyers are being distributed throughout the area.
2. Spray Park - Scott Grinder: Web site is operating and meetings are ongoing. There is also a Face Book page that already has 94 members.
3. Kayak Event - Bery Pannkuk: Bery stated that a tentative name for the event is the Portage Park Paddlefest. Discussions have been initiated with local outfitters. Chris Lee of Lee's Adventure Sports is very enthusiastic and willing to assist including provision of kayaks. Gander Mountain may provide minimal assistance as kayaks are a minor part of the operation. D&R Sports does not promote kayaking. A tentative date of Saturday, July 25, 2009 was picked to hold the event. Bery will be scheduling a meeting for a committee to work out the details as to what type of event will be held. Bill Deming will locate contact for the Long Lake Riparian group and also contact the MDNR.

B. New/Upcoming Events

1. Bicycle Rally - Scott Grinder & Janet Luchies: Scott has the file from 2008 and will work with Janet to develop a program and vendor format for the 2009 event. Saturday, May 30, 2009 is the tentative date for the event.
2. Fishing Contest: This event is tabled until further notice.
3. Earth Day Event: Bill will attempt to obtain more information for the Youth Committee regarding the details on the event for discussion during the April meeting. Date for the event is April 25th.

D. Spring/Summer Meeting Schedule: Board members reviewed meeting schedule for upcoming year.

Summary Activity

1. The ice rink is scheduled to close March 8, 2009.
2. Weather in January resulted in fewer skaters this season.
3. Valentine Day skate was well attended.
4. March 5, 2009 Mascot Madness family fun night at the skating rink.
5. Softball meeting held and sign-up to be completed in April. Last year we had about 180 teams in various leagues.

Comments from Board Members

Bill Deming - it is nice to have the longer days and sun. It makes things better.

Janet Luchies - March 14, 2009 concert by the Kalamazoo Symphony, 8:00 p.m. at Kalamazoo College Dalton Arts Center off of Academy Street. \$5:00 fee and Janet will be performing.

Susan Williams - Looking forward to spring.

Bery Pannkuk – Stated that despite economic trends, Griffin Pest Control is hiring and encouraged Board members to notify others looking for employment.

Mark Anthony Martin - Portage Task force for Alcohol and Drugs is working to develop program to address prescription drug collection and reduce abuse of prescription drugs by our youth.

Meeting adjourned - 7:11 p.m.

Next meeting is April 1, 2009 - 6:30 p.m., Schrier Park

Respectfully submitted,
Mark Anthony Martin