

PARK BOARD MEETING MINUTES

October 7, 2009

Celery Flats Historical Area

Board Present: Mark Anthony Martin, Elizabeth Jarzambek, Bery Pannkuk, Janet Luchies

Staff Present: Bill Deming and John Milowe

Excused: Scott Grinder, Christine Price, Susan Williams and John Pfund

Meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. at Celery Flats Interpretive Area.

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES: The September minutes were unanimously approved.

NEW BUSINESS:

- A. Celery Flats Overview – Bill Deming gave a brief history on Celery Flats. The idea was presented first in 1975 as part of the city Bicentennial Park proposal. The Interpretive Center was constructed in 1988 and the Historical Area was initiated in 1991. Celery Flats has become a recognizable destination for residents of southwest Michigan and beyond.
- B. New Board Members – Vicki Locke and Mike Zajac were appointed to the Parks Board by City Council at the October 6 meeting. They need to be sworn in by the City Clerk and should be in attendance at the November meeting.
- C. Sub-committee reports
 1. Photo Contest: No report at this time.
 2. Spray Park Update: Ongoing, no report at this time.
- D. Collaborative Event per Council - Chris Price met with the Youth Board and a short overview was provided as an agenda attachment. Mark Martin indicated he plans to discuss the issue with Environmental Board chair, Denise Clegg. Mark will report back to the Board at a later date.
- E. Election of Officers will take place at November meeting when a full Board will be in place.
- F. Park Assignments Reviews – No problems reported; all positive reports.
- G. Proposed Goals/Goals Updates – The Board will need to prepare 2010-2011 goals and objectives during the November meeting for submission to City Council.

SUMMARY ACTIVITY:

1. Recreation Program - Next Sunday will depend on the weather. Fall softball went great and had 63 teams, and is completed. Bikeway Color Tour will be held October 11 and the Haunted Forest is scheduled for October 23, 24, 25, 29 and 30.
2. Trail Upgrades – Asphalt overlays of the Bicentennial Park and Millennium trails have been completed.
3. Northwest Portage Bikeway Trail Extensions – Construction should occur in the spring as all the necessary preliminary items are completed. The trail will be extended to the east from Constitution Boulevard, behind the theaters and along Ring Road to Romence Road; and to the west from Angling Road to McGillicuddy Lane.
4. Bill Deming reported that a resident had an excellent idea to add another handicap ramp access at Lakeview Park. Parks crew members completed the project with very positive feedback.

Comments from the board members: Nice to have our meeting at the Interpretive Center and appreciation for new members stepping up with project assistance.

Meeting adjourned at 7:11 pm

Respectfully Submitted,
Elizabeth Jarzambek, Secretary