

PARK BOARD MEETING MINUTES

January 6, 2010

Board Present: Mark Anthony Martin, Bery Pannkuk, Janet Luchies, Scott Grinder, Vicki Locke, Mike Zajac, Susan Williams and John Pfund.

Excused: Elizabeth Jarzambek.

Staff Present: Barry Bacon

Guests: Mayor Strazdas, Mayor Pro-Tem Ed Sackley and Andrea Stork

Meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. at Stuart Manor.

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES: The December minutes were approved.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Sub-committee reports:

- A. Photo Contest: Former Board member Andrea Stork stated the contest closes the end of December, but the committee was extending the deadline until the middle of January in hopes of getting more entries. A decision will be made on January 17, 2010.
- B. Spraypark (attachment provided): Per City Council directive, the Park Board reviewed and discussed options for a spraypark in Portage. Mayor Pete Strazdas and Mayor Pro-Tem Ed Sackley were also involved in the discussions. A majority of the Park Board members felt Ramona Park to be the best location for a spraypark. After much discussion it was determined to send a letter to City Council including the following eight points:
 1. Table the project for a few years due to economic uncertainty and limited funding support.
 2. Conduct a community survey to determine citizen interest and willingness to assist with development costs.
 3. City Council members need to promote spraypark as a possible public/private venture as they meet with various community and business leaders.
 4. Determine if the spraypark is a want or need of the community.
 5. Build a smaller, neighborhood spraypark.
 6. Is this a case where “build it and they will come”?
 7. The spraypark should benefit a low income area due to changing city demographics.
 8. Determine the feasibility of transporting children from the community to a new spray park.

2. Community Survey (attachment in agenda): Was received, with discussion regarding the favorable community response about the parks and public grounds in Portage.

3. Green-a-thon update – Susan Williams and Vicki Locke have met twice with the Portage Youth Advisory group in regards to the Green-a-thon scheduled for April 24, 2010. Discussion regarding “getting the word out” brought ideas such as the use of the Portager, City Council remarks after each meeting, radio stations, Tom Haroldson of the *Kalamazoo Gazette* and word of mouth.

SUMMARY ACTIVITY:

Recreation Programs – Barry Bacon reviewed the 2009 Recreation Division Annual Report Summary and indicated the 2009 was an outstanding year for recreation program participation and revenue. In response to budgetary constraints, the city Administration has been cognizant of the need to favorably position the Recreation Division. Recreation programs have required minimal general fund subsidy during the past five years.

Additional discussion was brought by Mayor Strazdas regarding request by Dr. Douglas Brown for a plaque in Stuart Manor recognizing the donation of the structure to the city by Dr. Brown and his family. The Park Board approved.

Meeting adjourned at 8:31 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Vicki Locke, Secretary