

Park Board Meeting Minutes

August 3, 2011

Board Present: Mike Zajac, Matt Tanis, Kathleen Hoyle, Susan Williams, Tucker Webb, Janet Luchies, Jim Novaria, Vicki Locke

Board Members Excused: Jason Kosciński

Staff Present: Bill Deming & John Milowe

Meeting was called to order by Mike Zajac at 6:30 at Oakland Drive Park.

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES: Susan made the motion to approve the July minutes; Jim seconded the motion; Vicki and Janet abstained; all others unanimous.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Overview of Oakland Drive Park and Haverhill Park:

- Oakland Drive Park (Jim Novaria):
 - Owned initially by Portage Schools and was sold in the early 1980's for park development and storm water retention on a land contract. The City of Portage received grants to develop the Park in two phases which now encompasses 19.5 acres with a storm water retention area.
 - Park facilities include basketball, tennis, sand volleyball, soccer field, playground, restrooms, picnic shelters, sledding hill and nature trail through the surrounding woods.
 - Very busy destination park versus neighborhood only usage. Suggestions from residents include opening the bathroom earlier in the season and a sidewalk developed leading into the park from the street walk.
- Haverhill Park (Kathleen Hoyle):
 - Four acres with facilities including; in-line hockey basketball, tennis, playground, restrooms and oak woodlot area for picnics.
 - Very busy trail with cyclers, dog walkers and walker which runs through the Park using Consumers Power right-of-way adding more space and also features a water retention pond, and water tower.
 - Suggestions include more prominent "No Smoking" signs, more benches around playground and shade trees over play equipment.

B. Park Reports: Should include visible activities going on at the park; conversations (comments/suggestions) from residents using the park; conditions of the trails and other amenities.

- Millennium Park (Vicki Locke) – Well maintained, flowers planted, passive park with bike riders and benches. Suggestions include more shade along the bench areas and small rain shelter or canopy.
- Schrier Park (Tucker Webb) – Looks good with cleanup from the storm.
- West Lake Preserve/S. Westnedge Park (Matt Tanis) – Good use; lots of walkers; no trash issues.
- Lexington-Green (Susan Williams) – Still a little storm damage cleanup; lots of deer flies; basketball area is in good shape; bathrooms are clean; and dog bag dispenser is full.
- Lakeview (Janet Luchies) – Shelters are full; fishing; well used park and in good condition.
- Westfield/Harbors West (Janet Luchies) – Well maintained and no issues.
- Celery Flats/Bicentennial Park (Mike Zajac) – Trees removed from storm damage.
- Ramona Park (Mike Zajac) – Clean up went well from the tree damage from the storm.

Outdoor Meeting Schedule: Reminder that each Park Board member has selected a Park to present the history on this year as part of the agenda at the summer meeting rotations. This will be in addition to the Park Reports above.

Park Assignment	Board Member	Meeting Date
Millennium/Central/Liberty	Vicki	
Schrier/Bishop's Bog	Tucker	April 6 (6:30)
West Lake/South Westnedge	Matt	May 4 (6:30)
Lexington-Green	Susan	June 1 (6:30)
Ramona	Mike	July 6 (6:30)
Lakeview	Jason	July 6 (7:15)
Oakland Drive	Jim	August 3 (6:30)
Haverhill	Kathleen	August 3 (7:15)
Westfield/Harbors West	Janet	September 7 (6:30)
Celery Flats/PCBP	Bery	October 5 (6:30)

C. "Get Active Portage"/ Paddle Fest / Children's Triathlon (Ramona Park):

- Triathlon was nicely attended for a first event, with potential for developing further for next year. Steady flow of people during the event.
- Paddle Fest was well attended, adult race was almost full. Would like to pull kids from triathlon to participate in kayak races. Can possibly overlap triathlon and Paddle Fest. Tighten up times between Paddle Fest races. Run event from 9-1:00 next year at the end of the last Paddle Fest race. Highlight in vendor information to bring sun cover for tables.
- Triathlon transition from water to bike should run through the grass and not the sidewalk. Set-up winner award area and locate near Paddle Fest sign-up.
- If possible announce winners of Paddle Fest in the Portager. Photographer photos are available.

D. Friends Group Report:

- Provided volunteer forms at Park Board booth and Paddle Fest sign up table.
- Volunteer recruitment suggestions: present to Senior Center, Lions Club, Ambucs, Rotary and high school counselors.
- Marketing suggestions: Add form to Facebook; list of events on website; and announcement in Portager.
- Get meeting with Bill, Jason, Susan and Kathleen to discuss website.
- Add other volunteer opportunities including garlic pulling Environmental Board project (meeting on August 9); trash pick-up.

SUMMARY ACTIVITY

- Full range of Summer Entertainment Series (SES) activities held between Celery Flats and Portage Library including dancing, musicians, and Senior Center Ice Cream Social.
- Park crew is very busy with storm clean-up and doing a great job.

ADJOURNMENT

Janet made a motion for adjournment; Susan seconded the motion; all other unanimous. Meeting adjourned at approximately 7:35 p.m.

Next meeting: Wednesday, September 7, 2011 at 6:30 p.m. Westfield and Harbors West Park. Janet will present history and information on the Park at the meeting.

Respectfully submitted

Kathleen Hoyle, Secretary, Park Board