

Park Board Meeting Minutes

October 5, 2011

Board Present: Jim Novaria, Kathleen Hoyle, Susan Williams, Tucker Webb, Vicki Locke, Jason Koscinski

Board Members Excused: Mike Zajac, Matt Tanis

Staff Present: Bill Deming

Guest(s): Ruth Caputo

Meeting was called to order by Susan Williams at 6:30 at Celery Flats Historical Area.

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES: Vicki made the motion to approve the September minutes; Jim seconded the motion; all others unanimous.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Overview of Celery Flats:

- The Bicentennial Master Plan project in 1975 focused on recreation, transportation, historical interpretation, green space, and environment. Celery Flats was identified to highlight this historical component. A formal plan was developed in 1985. In 1988, with a grant from the Upjohn Company, the interpretive center was built as a community identity focal point for the park. In the late 1980's, the historic commission found area structures of historical significance. The Celery Flats Historical Area was created and select structures, including the grain elevator, school house, and barn were relocated to the site. In 1994, Stuart Manor was moved from its former location at Milham and Monticello to Celery Flats.

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) – No issues found, in good condition.
- Schrier Park (Tucker Webb) – Took bog samples and everything looks good along the super deck. His class would like to work with the board using the bog as an environmental project.
- West Lake Preserve/S. Westnedge Park (Matt Tanis) – No report
- Lexington-Green (Susan Williams) – No report.
- Lakeview (Jason Koscinski) – No report.
- Haverhill Park (Kathleen Hoyle) – Tennis, playground, and basketball court well used with lots of dog walkers, runner and bikers along the trail.
- Oakland Drive Park (Jim Novaria) – Very active with soccer, basketball, and tennis.
- Westfield (Susan Williams) – Busy park with full use of picnic pavilions.
- Ramona Park (Vicki for Mike Zajac) – Busy with soccer, everything looks in good shape.

Outdoor Meeting reports will resume in April 2012.

C. Election of Officers:

- Jim made a motion, Vicki seconded, to postpone the election until the next meeting when the two new members are in attendance. The motion was approved by the Board.
- Next meeting is the deadline for election of officers as agreed by the Board with no further postponement.

D. Goals & Objectives:

- An update to the City Council on the status of the Park Board Goals & Objectives is due in November.

E. Friends Group Report:

- Jason, Susan and Kathleen will arrange a meeting before the next Board Meeting to continue evolving the Friends Group and provide an update and review.

- Goals and objectives for the Friends Group include an updated Events Calendar, Volunteer form, and Event Planning template to be presented for Board review at the next meeting.
- The Board discussed finalizing event dates by the December Board meeting and was agreed that each board member will coordinate at least one event during the year.
- A separate “Friends of the Park” web site will be presented at the next meeting.
- The Environmental Board asked the Board about helping create environmental awareness for the Parks. The Park Board suggested the potential of three Environmental Awareness Days focusing on Purple Loosestrife, Garlic Mustard Challenge, and Vine Reduction Project (VRP). Tucker will work with the Environmental Board to find three dates for the Awareness Days which will include pulling these invasive species and education.
- Board members provided a list of organizations they think might volunteer and signed up to present to these groups information on “Friends of the Park” when program is ready to launch:

GROUP NAME	BOARD MEMBER
Lions	Vicki
Rotary	Vicki
Ambucs	
Portage Senior Center	Vicki
Portage Public Schools	Susan and Kathleen
Churchs	
H.S. Environmental Classes/ Clubs	
IB, National Honor, & Freshman Students at High Schools	Tucker
KVCC Organizations and Students	
WMU Sustainability Class-Dr. Glazer)	Susan
Master Gardner Association	
Garden Clubs	

SUMMARY ACTIVITY

- The Northwest Portage, East Milham, East Centre and Sprinkle bikeways are being renovated.
- Work is being conducted on overhang at Grain Elevator.

COMMENTS FROM BOARD MEMBERS

- Vicki has begun pulling together contest rules for the Landmark Sculpture event.
- Ruth suggested to the Parks Board to develop a proposal for members to work one-on-one with an Environmental Board member to maintain the quality of four parks that have the most environmental need; West Lake Nature Preserve, Bishops Bog, Schrier Park, and the new proposed park. The Board will discuss at the next meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

Jason made a motion for adjournment; Susan seconded the motion; all other unanimous. Meeting adjourned at approximately 7:40 p.m.

Next meeting: Wednesday, November 2, 2011 at 6:30 p.m. Stuart Manor.

Respectfully submitted,
Kathleen Hoyle, Secretary, Park Board