

# **Park Board Meeting Minutes**

## **Wednesday, May 1, 2013**

**Board Present:** Jan Whitcomb, Kathleen Hoyle, Karista Gallick, Tucker Webb, Doug Barrett, Sarah Perry, Sue Williams and Jim Novaria

**Absent:** Jim Bennink

**Staff Present:** Bill Deming and John Milowe

**Guests:** Jordan Schau, local resident

Meeting was called to order at 6:30 by Sue Williams at West Lake Nature Preserve.

**APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS'S MINUTES:** Jim made motion to approve the minutes, Tucker seconded, all other unanimous.

### **New Business**

A. Discussion of West Lake Nature Preserve – West Lake Nature Preserve is a 110 acre wetland bog which borders West Lake. The trails of the park run through lowland forest and contain a variety of ecosystems. The park contains a trail designated to Jud Bushey, a former Park Board member. West Lake Nature Preserve was formerly the Percy Madison property and bought with a grant from the Department of Natural Resources.

#### **B. Recycled Art**

- Event program distributed and reviewed
- Billboards advertising the event went up today
- Trophies made of recycled materials finished
- Artists will set up on Saturday by 11:30 a.m. so that photographs may be taken before the event starts

#### **C. Friends Group Report**

- Still looking into developing a formal website for Friends of the Parks
- Want to include a volunteer database on the website so that volunteers for events can more easily be accessed and contacted

#### **D. Get Active Portage**

- Triathlon is already set
- Still need to talk to Lee's about kayak demonstrations
- Need to contact Mike Zajac regarding last year's sponsors
- Kathleen will take care of media and press releases

### **Summary Activity**

- Softball started and will continue through August
- Many walks/runs in Celery Flats
- Family Fishing Fair and Community Bike Ride on May 18
- Ramona beach opens on May 24

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### **Comments**

- Jordan Schau, resident bordering South Westnedge Park pointed out that softball fields do not have gates, like those found in most other parks. Some after hour problems with people loitering in the parking lots have been noted. Bill Deming informed Mr. Schau that the Parks, Recreation & Public Services Department would explore options to install gates this summer. In the meantime, Bill indicated that Park Rangers and Police Dispatch would be notified for after hour patrol of the lots.
- Jim N. is looking forward to the Recycled Art event and is pleased it has turned out to be such a positive event.
- Kathleen appreciates the help with website setup, photographer coordinating, and donations of recycled materials for the Recycled Art event.
- Sarah said that the Green-a-thon on April 27 was successful and had 700-800 people.
- Bill said that 2013 will be the last Summer Entertainment Series (SES) provided by the city due to budget constraints and the amount of city staff time required to make this program possible. SES attendance participation numbers have been declining and the city is experiencing considerable competition from a variety of other event providers. The Taste of Portage on June 22 will tie into the city's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary and will have local bands and a tent for the boards and commissions.

**Adjournment:** Kathleen made a motion to adjourn at 7:31 p.m., Jim seconded, all others unanimous.

**Next Meeting:** June 5, 2013 – 6:30 p.m., Lexington Green Park

Respectfully Submitted, Karista Gallick, Secretary, Park Board