

## **Parks Board Meeting Minutes** **Wednesday August 7, 2013**

**Board Present:** Doug Barrett, Jim Bennink, Kathleen Hoyle, Jim Novaria, Roger Smith, Charles Thomas (term begins 09-01-13), Susan Williams, Jan Whitcomb

Absent excused: Krista Gallick & Lauren Ammar

**Staff:** John Milowe & Ray Waurio

**Guests:** Carol and Dave Long, 2215 Quincy, Portage, MI

The meeting was called to order by Chairwoman Susan Williams at 6:32 p.m. Oakland Park.

Minutes of the July 10, 2013 were reviewed. Kathleen Hoyle motioned for approval, Doug Barrett seconded the motion. The Board approved the minutes.

### **New Business:**

- A. **Discussion of Oakland Park:** Carol and Dave Long were asked to share their input of the Oakland Park. They felt it had been a great year for Oakland Park. They visit the park and mentioned their concerns about fellow park goers who use the park with their dogs and do not clean up the dog droppings. They do realize it is an issue with any park where dogs visit.

They reported to the Board there were no release of fireworks in the park during the July holiday. Brief discussion with Ray Waurio about plans to remove some of the trees and add a new sidewalk into the park.

Oral history of Oakland Park was shared by Jim Bennink. Including the property was purchased from Portage Public Schools in 1984. The Park has several basketball courts that are very popular and became a concern for the neighboring residence. The City responded to these concerns by changing the location of the basketball courts with the tennis courts. The neighbors have reported since the change they do not have the bothersome noise.

- B. **Get Active Portag:** the Triathlon scheduled for Saturday August 10, 2013 at Ramona Park has 75 children registered for the event. Krista Gallick has everything in place except volunteers. Roger Smith volunteered to help the day of the event as, Jim Bennink, Kathleen Hoyle, Jim Novaria, Susan Williams and Jan Whitcomb had prior commitments. Local businesses have donated 12 door prizes. Roger Smith will coordinate with Susan Williams on delivery of the door prizes to the event.
- C. **Friends of the Park:** was briefly discussed and the need of webpage master is needed. Kathleen Hoyle has renewed the Post Office Box.

**D. Recycle Art in the Park:** Kathleen Hoyle has been in touch with Betty Upjohn Mason. We have approximately \$2,000 in start up funds for the 2014 event. The process for grant funds will begin in the next 30 days. The Board will need to set a date at the next Board meeting.

**E. Discussion of Haverhill Park:** Kathleen Hoyle gave the presentation on Haverhill Park. It is four acres in size and is very popular with basketball, tennis, in-line hockey and playground equipment. The trail way is used by people on bicycles as well as people walking or running.

Comments from the Board:

Jim Novaria: Reminder the Get Active Portage Sat. August 10, 2013  
Kathleen Hoyle: Volunteers will be needed for the 2014 Recycled Art  
Charles Thomas: Mentioned he likes the Parks

Adjournment: Motion was made by Jim Bennink, second Kathleen Hoyle, approved. Meeting concluded at 7:15 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Jan Whitcomb