

**Park Board Meeting Minutes**  
June 5, 2013

**Board Present:** Jim Bennink, Susan Williams, Jim Novaria, Jan Whitcomb, Kathleen Hoyle, Karista Gallick, Tucker Webb and Roger Smith

**Absent:** Doug Barrett, Sarah Perry

**Staff Present:** Bill Deming

**Guests:** Charles Thomas – new member starting September 1

Meeting was called to order by Susan Williams at 6:30 p.m. at Lexington Green Park

**Introduction of Guests:** Roger Smith and Charles Thomas, incoming Park Board members

**Approval of minutes:** Jan made motion to approve the minutes, Tucker seconded, all others unanimous.

**New Business**

A. Discussion of Lexington Green park

- 17 acres, including pickle ball court, picnic facilities, tennis and basketball courts, softball field, trails, and playground
- More isolated than other parks
- Used to have loitering and vandalism issues, but most of these have been resolved

B. Recycled Art in the Park

- Event was fun, successful; had 431 online votes for “People’s Choice” award
- Discussion of challenges and what would do differently next time:
- Need to start earlier with recycled materials collections (for artists and activities for children); could ask companies involved to start recycled centers and collect materials for event
- Could have categories for youth and adults, or amateur/professional
- Debate whether or not to make art show juried or not juried; juried is more official, carries weight with professional artists, but would take emphasis off of recycling message of event
- Make website for event communications
- Create signs describing the benefits of recycled; display at event
- Work with other nonprofits in the area and their volunteer databases
- Make more contacts with relics associations/owners to get more relics on display
- Can do demo projects (i.e., show how flowers in shoes and tire lamp posts were made)
- Could change event to evening when people like to take walks through the park; have jazz and art in the park; can hand out blankets so people can enjoy music and art
- Start looking for artists and donors earlier
- Want to do event again and need to set date

C. Friends Group Report

- Still looking for grant for website

- Want to create “board bin” – bin of materials needed for running booth at events; keep at Parks office; board members/volunteers can easily bring what they need to events

**D. Get Active Portage**

- Karista and Susan working together to contact vendors
- Overall time period for event shortened; will be done by noon
- Lee’s has already confirmed attendance
- Will have concessions at beach house
- Kathleen setting up radio interviews; Tucker will be spokesperson

**E. Taste of Portage**

- Need volunteers for beer tent and ticket sales
- 13 food vendors will be at event
- Live broadcasting
- Will have music/entertainment – last year city will do summer entertainment series

**Summary Activity**

- Softball still going on
- Last Celery Flats walk on Friday
- Teas and lunch and learn events throughout rest of month
- Outdoor movie night

**Comments**

- Jan: said Ramona Park is already active
- Jim N.: took part in community bike ride to promote joining bike trails in Portage and Kalamazoo

**Adjournment:** Kathleen made motion to adjourn at 7:31, Tucker seconded, all others unanimous.

**Next Meeting: July 10, 2013 – 6:30 p.m. at Ramona Park**

Respectfully Submitted,

Karista Gallick, Secretary, Park Board