

Parks Board Meeting Minutes October 2, 2013

Board Present: Lauren Ammar, Kathleen Hoyle, Roger Smith, Jan Whitcomb

Board Members Excused: Jim Bennink, Charles Thomas, Doug Barrett

Staff Present: William Deming

The meeting was called to order by Chairwoman Susan Williams at 6:36 p.m. at the Celery Flats Park.

Minutes of the September 4, 2013 meeting were reviewed. Kathleen Hoyle motioned for approval of the minutes, Roger Smith seconded the motion. The Board approved the minutes.

- A.** The oral review was presented by Bill Deming on the Celery Flats Historic Area. The area was originally the site of a hunting cabin. The development of the park began in 1975 evolving into a park within a park. The north side of Garden Lane has public parking, playground area, restrooms and picnic area. Development of the south side of Garden Lane began in 1989, and has the barn, grain elevator, one room schoolhouse and Stuart Manor. All were originally built in Portage. The Celery Flats Park is one of the most popular parks in Portage. It is used for many walk/runs during the year and connects to the Portage Trail.
- B.** The second annual Recycle Art in the Park will be held May 10-17, 2014 at the Celery Flats. Kathleen Hoyle is working on the call for artist entries. A list of local art teachers is needed to share the information with the teachers and their students. The City will publish the dates in December. Kathleen Hoyle will be seeking grant funding again with Greenleaf Trust, the Kalamazoo Foundation, and the Gilmore Foundation. Donations will be needed for the Recycle Art in the Park website. .
- C.** The Portage Environmental Board is seeking contact information for volunteers from the Parks Board.
- D.** Bill Deming updated the Board on late summer activities. This is the last night for softball. Parks staff is beginning the winterization of the parks. At Westfield Park, the tennis courts renovations have been completed, the new playground equipment has been installed and work continues on the walkways. Oakland Park the walkway improvement has begun. A new method of crack repair is being employed and it is the hope that this method will allow the patch to remain longer.

Board Comments:

Lauren Ammar: Great to see so many people using Celery Flats.

Kathleen Hoyle: Liked the calendar of events.

Roger Smith: Happy with the improvements that have been made at Westfield.

Motion to adjourn was made by Kathleen Hoyle, second Roger Smith, approved.

Meeting concluded at 7:16 p.m.

Respectful Submitted,
Jan Whitcomb