

## **Parks Board Meeting Minutes September 4, 2013**

**Board Present:** Lauren Ammar, Doug Barrett, Jim Novaria, Roger Smith, Charles Thomas, Susan Williams, Jan Whitcomb

Absent excused: Jim Bennink, Kathleen Hoyle

Staff Present: William Deming, John Milowe

The meeting was called to order by Chairwoman Susan Williams at 6:35 p.m. at West Field Park.

Minutes of the August 7, 2013 were reviewed. Jim Novaira motioned approval, Doug Barrett seconded the motion. The Board approved the minutes.

### **New Business:**

- A. Acting secretary duties will be continued by Jan Whitcomb until the election of officers during the November 2013 meeting.
- B. Roger Smith presented the oral history of Westfield Park. The Park is very popular with residents and visitors. The facility includes basketball courts, and sand volleyball courts. Tennis courts are currently being refurbished, the new asphalt will take another two weeks to cure. This summer the playground equipment was updated. The park also has a shelter, picnic tables, including one that is handicap accessible. Geocaching is one of the newer activities for which Westfield is being used.
- C. Get Active Portage: the Triathlon had 95 registered participants. Discussion followed for the 2014 Get Active Portage, including the need for more help by the Board. Earlier invitations to vendors, better organization, where vendors set up and time the prize winners will be announced. Jan Whitcomb inquired as to the notes that Krista Gallick had made, they were forwarded to Susan Williams.
- F. The Friends of the Park report was tabled until the return of Kathleen Hoyle.
- G. Recycled Art in the Park: Kathleen Hoyle had requested the Board set the new date for the 2014 event. After review of the calendar, May 10 – 17, 2014 was selected. Jim Novaria suggested having the Jazz band play one evening during the week. The Board also discussed the possibility of a winery as a sponsor.
- H. William Deming presented the summary of activities. Currently there is late summer softball. Annual walks taking place in September: Peacock Strut, U of M Cancer

Research Walk and the Alzheimer's Walk/Run. Ramona Park had good attendance during the summer. The beach is now closed. City staff is now shifting into fall/winter preparations of the parks.

- I. Doug Barrett gave the presentation on Harbors West Park. The donation of the property to the City by a developer allowed for this park. The Angling Road walking trail is another entrance into the park. Charles Thomas shared the park is used by many walkers and runners.
- J. Ruth Caputo from the Portage Environmental Board joined the meeting. Ms. Caputo shared the Environmental Board members continue to walk all of the Portage parks and report their concerns to the city, including invasive plants now appearing in our parks. They continue to seek grants to help pay for the cost of removal of these plants and the help of volunteers.

Comments from the Board:

Charles Thomas: Enjoys the paths for running in Harbors West Park.

Lauren Ammar: This was her first visit to Harbors West Park.

Susan Williams: Summer is slipping away. Our next meeting will be at the Celery Flats.

Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Charles Thomas, second by Jim Novaria, approved.  
Meeting concluded at 7:17 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Jan Whitcomb