

# Parks Board Meeting Minutes

April 3, 2014

**Board Present:** Doug Barrett, Jim Bennink, Tim Earl, Kathleen Hoyle, Roger Smith, Jan Whitcomb, Susan Williams

Excused Absent: Jennifer Molnar, Charles Thomas, Lauren Ammar

Guest: Marcia Smell

Staff Present: William Deming, John Milowe

The meeting was called to order by Chairwoman Susan Williams at 6:33 p.m.

Minutes of the March 5, 2014 were not received by all Board Members. The review will take place during the May meeting.

- A. Recycle Art in the Park:** This event will be May 10 through May 17, 2014 in Celery Flats. Ms. Hoyle informed the Board we have 17 artists who have registered. Confirmation letters are being processed. Kathleen confirmed sponsorships in the amount of \$6,000. We are still waiting for a response from the Kalamazoo Foundation. The budget will be reviewed and cuts will be made accordingly. Dan Powers will play DJ music and there still is a need for musicians. The Rat Rods are not able to attend due to a scheduling conflict. Discussion of the location for those artists who wish to sell their work. Welch's has again donated juice boxes. We need clean used tin cans for the children's recycle craft projects. Kathleen and Bill Deming will meet to review the supplies from last year's event.
- B. Park:** Schrier Park history was given by Mr. Deming. In her estate, Mrs. Schrier's included a donation to the city for purchase of a park. The park is 52 acres, has an old apple orchard and has two access drives from Osterhout Avenue. In 1975 the original shelter was enclosed and is heated with a fireplace. The shelter is often rented for graduation parties and family reunions. Mr. Milowe shared other recent improvements that have been made including hook up to city water and security cameras.
- C. Friend Group Report:** Ms. Hoyle shared the kick-off event for the Friends of the Parks will be July 13, 2013. Mr. Deming will check with the Kalamazoo Folklife Organization on the sound system and who will set it up and also on time confirmation. The event name Celery Flats Music Fest to Benefit Friends of the Portage Parks.
- D. Get Active Portage:** Mr. Earl informed the Board preparations will begin in May.
- E. Green-a-thon:** This is a Youth Advisory Board Event, scheduled for April 26, 2014, from 11:00 a.m. through 3:00 p.m. Mr. Smith and Ms. Molner will represent the Park Board.
- F. Board Goals & Objectives:** Mr. Deming requested the Board have goals ready to present to the City Clerk by April 15, 2014. Discussion followed on:

  - 1. Launch "Friends of the Park" volunteer and support program. As part of this effort Park Board Members will be assigned to help coordinate and/or assist with major activities provided by the Board and the City:
    - A. Membership Programs
    - B. Newsletter
    - C. Website
    - D. Kickoff to include a signature music event

2. Continue implementation of the “Get Active Portage” day at Ramona Park, to include a Youth Triathlon, Health Fair and other fun and healthy activities.
3. Continue cooperative assistance with the Youth Advisory Committee and Environmental Board for an Earth Day event, building upon the framework developed for previous years’ event.
4. Continue growing the “Recycled Art in the Park” activity for the community to promote recycling.
5. Explore a new Park Board sponsored Nature Education Series.
6. Work together with the City Administration to promote the development of the Eliason Nature Reserve.
7. Advise the city Council in areas/subjects under the purview of the Parks Board.
8. Continue to assist the City with the Traditional Holiday Tree Lighting Ceremony.
9. Forward update to goals for FY 2014/15 (Nov. 2014 and April 2015) and Recommend goals for FY 2015-16 (April 2015).
10. Present an annual verbal report to the City Council.

**G. Meeting Locations:** The locations for the meetings in the Parks were reviewed.

**H.** Reminder the Environmental Board’s Garlic Mustard Pull events.

**Summary of Activities:** Adult Softball Leagues will begin Monday April 28, 2014. The season runs into early August with 120 teams registered this year.

**Public Comments:** Ms, Smell suggested to the Board organizing more volunteers to help clean up city parks and trails and to help with maintenance.

**Comments by the Board:**

Mr. Smith confirmed he has volunteered to be at the Green-A-Thon.

The next meeting will be on May 7, 2014 at West Lake Nature Preserve.

Motion to adjourn was made by Ms. Hoyle and seconded by Mr. Earl, the motion was approved.  
Meeting adjourned at 7:46 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Jan Whitcomb, Secretary