

Portage Park Board Meeting
August 6, 2014

Present: Tim Earl, Kathleen Hoyle, Sisra Kavuri, Roger Smith, Charles Thomas,
Jan Whitcomb

Absent/Excused: Jim Bennink, Susan Williams & Doug Barrett

Staff: William Deming, John Milowe

Guests: Jack Briggs, Carol Long

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Secretary Whitcomb at Oakland Park.

The minutes of the July meeting were reviewed. Mr. Earl motioned to approved the minutes, seconded by Mr. Smith, motion approved.

A. Oakland Park: Ms. Whitcomb and Mr. Earl gave history of the development of Oakland Park. Ms. Whitcomb had done additional research on the Park, but did not locate any new information.

Mr. Deming stated the replacement of the outdated playground equipment removed in April has taken much longer than anticipated and apologized for the delay. The new play equipment is set to be delivered within a week and should be in place by the end of August. The old equipment could no longer be repaired to meet current playground safety standards and had to be removed for liability and safety concerns.

Ms. Long shared with the Board her involvement with the Oakland Park and mentioned her concern that the neighbors were not notified that the equipment was going to be removed and replaced.

B. Friends Group Report: Ms. Hoyle informed the 2014 Music Fest was a success, we raised \$1,300. Kalamazoo Folklife has contacted Ms. Hoyle and offered to do another concert in 2015.

Ms. Whitcomb shared she spoke with Mr. Max Walters, the volunteer van driver for the event. Mr. Walters shared that he put 33 miles on the van that afternoon and all riders indicated they had an excellent time. He also sent the Board a thank you card that Ms. Whitcomb shared with the Board.

Mr. Briggs stated that he has a group set to volunteer for projects at Ramona Park and presented Ms. Hoyle with registration papers. Mr. Milowe will meet with Mr. Briggs to develop a list of projects and Ms. Whitcomb will act as the group liaison.

C. Get Active Portage: Mr. Earl and Mr. Thomas reminded the Board that the event is Saturday August 9, 2014. The vendors are donating the door prizes. Mr. Smith and

Ms. Whitcomb also plan on attending to help at the event as has Mr. Barrett.

The meeting was relocated to Haverhill Park.

Haverhill Park: Ms. Hoyle gave the history of the Park and shared it is a very popular location. The buildings on the property are the property of cell phone providers.

Summary Activities: Mr. Deming updated the Board summer activities. The regular softball season is in the final stages and a late summer league will begin in mid-August. This year not only do we have yoga classes in the park, we also have paddle board yoga in Long Lake using Ramona Park for the staging area.

Next meeting will be September 3, 2014 beginning at Westfield Park and relocating to Harbors West.

Mr. Earl motioned to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mr. Thomas, motion approved. Meeting adjourned at 7:25 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Jan Whitcomb, Park Board Secretary