

Parks Board Meeting Minutes

February 5, 2014

Board Present: Doug Barrett, Jim Bennink, Tim Earl, Kathleen Hoyle, Jennifer Molner, Roger Smith, Jan Whitcomb

Excused Absent: Susan Williams and Charles Thomas

Guest: John Speeter & Paul Eklund

Staff Present: Bill Deming

MDNR Grant public hearing held from 6:30-7:05. The regular meeting was called to order by Vice Chairman Jim Bennink at 7:06 p.m. in Stuart Manor.

Minutes of the January 8, 2014 meeting were reviewed. Kathleen Hoyle motioned for approval of the minutes, Doug Barrett, seconded the motion. The Board approved the minutes.

A. Recycled Art in the Park: Kathleen Hoyle updated the Board on her progress with the Recycled Art in the Park event. The press release is near completion. The results of the application to the Gilmore Foundation are expected in March. An application to the National Arts Foundation will be made in April 2014 for the 2015 Recycle Art in the Park. Kathleen is seeking one new judge for the 2014 event, two have confirmed. The Arts Council has sponsored the Third Place award. The Board is still seeking additional business donations for event support.

B. Friends Group Report: Jim Bennink has begun sending the email notices to the local school contacts. The list contains 100 contacts. There have been four bad email addresses on the list. He will also attempt to contact the editor of the new Portage magazine and request submission on an article.

John Speeter from Kalamazoo Folklife Organization (KFO) explained to the Board that they were interested to partner in a benefit for the Portage Friends of the Parks. The KFO was established in 1986 and have performed benefits for several non-profit groups. KFO members support traditional music such as Blues, Country and Folk. This event is tentatively planned for Sunday July 13, 2014 at the Celery Flats. Their musicians will play for several hours in sets of 20 minutes. There is also the possibility of activities for children such as a Musical Zoo. The Board would need to coordinate the publicity. The Park Board is excited about this potential collaboration and will wait for more details from Mr. Speeter.

Tim Earl updated the Board on the Friends of the Parks website and recommended using Weebly.com as most economical. Motion to try Weebly.com was made by Jim Bennick and seconded by Roger Smith. The motion passed.

C. Get Active Portage: Mr. Earl and Mr. Barrett updated the Board on Get Active Portage.

Summary of Activities was presented by Bill Deming including the Valentine Skate late evening skating scheduled for the Ice Rink. Softball registration is starting. With the record snows, the Timber Ridge down hill ski lesson program has been well attended.

Comments by the Board: Roger Smith stated his approval for the Eliason project.

Mr. Earl motioned to adjourn the meeting, second by Mr. Barrett, so moved.

Meeting adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Jan Whitcomb, Board Secretary

