

Parks Board Meeting Minutes

March 5, 2014

Board Present: Lauren Ammar, Doug Barrett, Jim Bennink, Tim Earl, Kathleen Hoyle, Jennifer Molner, Roger Smith, Charles Thomas, Jan Whitcomb, Susan Williams
Staff Present: William Deming

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Susan Williams at 6:30 p.m.

Minutes from the February 5, 2014, meeting were reviewed. The minutes were amended, with item B Friends Group Report to begin the third paragraph. Kathleen Hoyle motioned to approve as amended, Tim Earl second, motioned passed.

- A. Recycle Art in the Park:** Ms. Hoyle informed the Board that \$3,000 in grant money has been received for this event. Additional grant processing is still pending. Portage Central High School has announced the event to the students. The Greater Kalamazoo Arts Council will assist the Board in promoting the event. Ms. Hoyle called Schupan and Sons Inc. and they are still processing our request and hope to let us know soon. There are two returning judges and we are still seeking a third judge for the event. We have received an additional donation of tire rims for flower decorations.
- B. Friend Group Report:** Ms. Hoyle is researching grant possibilities. Kick-off event is tentatively scheduled for the afternoon of Sunday, July 13, at Celery Flats. Entertainment will be provided by the Kalamazoo Folklife Organization. Tim Earl updated the Board on the Friends website. We need to set up our own PayPal account. Ms. Hoyle requested the new website not have the Weebly Logo.
- C. Get Active Portage:** Mr. Thomas shared with the Board the event will be on August 9, 2014. Following discussion, the Board determined the first part of May to be the best time to start contacting businesses.
- D. South Central Trail:** Mr. Deming informed that Board that as part of the grant process, formal Board support for the project would be beneficial. Motion for the Board in support of the proposed South Central Trail was made by Ms. Hoyle. Mr. Earl seconded and was passed by the Board. Letters of support were signed by Ms. Williams. The MDNR Grant will be announced in December 2014.
- E. Green-a-thon:** This is a Youth Advisory Board Event, scheduled for April 26, 2014, from 11:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. The Parks Board has had a table at prior Green-a-thons. Ms. Molner and Mr. Smith will let the Board know if they can “man” the Park table at this event.
- 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. Kick off of the Friends of the Park, including live music.
 - 2. Parks Newsletter
 - 3. Launch of the Friends of the Park website.

These goals will be presented to the City Council in April.

Summary of Activities: Adult Softball Leagues registration is underway.

Through an association with the National Parks, the retailer Macy’s will match a dollar for donations made at their Crossroads Mall location. The donations will benefit Celery Flats.

Comments by the Board:

- Miss Ammar suggested Yoga events and education in the park and bicycling events.
- Mr. Earl suggested a photo history of Ramona Park inside the Beach Pavilion.
- Mr. Thomas was at the Winter Half Blast and it was very well attended this year.

Motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Earl and seconded by Mr. Smith, approved.

Meeting adjourned at 8:09 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Jan Whitcomb