

**Parks Board Meeting Minutes  
Wednesday April 1, 2015**

**Board Present:** Susan Atkinson, Tim Earl, Emily Hirschman  
Kathleen Hoyle, Jon Peer, Roger Smith, Charles Thomas, Jan Whitcomb  
**Board Absent:** Doug Barrett, Sisira Kavuri  
**Staff:** Tricia Keala  
**Guests:** Ruth Cocoodo

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Kathleen Hoyle at 6:33 p.m. in Schrier Park/Bishop's Bog.

Minutes of the March 4, 2015 meeting were reviewed. Mr. Earl motioned for approval of minutes, seconded by Ms. Whitcomb. Motion approved.

Ms. Cocoodo spoke with the board about invasive plant species found in Portage parks. She gave information on "Evasive Plant Pulls" run by the Environmental Committee. She is working to find volunteers to help with these, was thinking the Friends of Ramona Park might be interested. Ms. Whitcomb will discuss with the group and Mr. Peer plans to put information about this on the website. Ms. Cocoodo plans to send information regarding Friends of the Park to their mailing list.

**New Business:**

- 1) **Friends Group Update:** No further updates at this time.
- 2) **Recycled Art in the Park:** Ms. Hoyle updated the board. Currently 21 entrees, sign up is now closed. This is up from 17 entrees last year. Artists are being assigned specific spots for the May 16<sup>th</sup> event. Ms. Atkinson is trying to get in contact with Kalamazoo Academy of Rock to possibly play during the event from 11:30-2:30pm. Ms. Keala to remind rangers to bring sandbags for the day of the event. Currently 3 judges lined up: Tom Fox, Dr. Marion, and Waylan from KIA. The event has received \$1000 from Eaton, \$500 from Kalamazoo Art Council. Event remains in the drawing for grant money from the Fetzer Fund with Gilmore. Ms. Hoyle to follow up with State Farm about monetary donations. Food will be provided by Off the Cuff catering. Ms. Keala requested new payments go through her first to be approved. Checks will need to be written for artists deposit fees. Individuals can be reimbursed for expenses under \$100.
- 3) **Celery Flats Music Fest:** Mr. Earl reported that things remain on track for this year's music festival. Ms. Hirschman is working on finding a golf cart donation for the day of the event. Ms. Keala would like to publish the brochure for the event in the summer brochure, needs blurb by 4.2.15, Mr. Earl planned to contact Mr. Peer for this information. Ms. Hoyle requested list of artists for the brochure. Discussed possibility of Arts Council also sponsoring the event in the future, plan to discuss with KFO leaders

and next meeting regarding the event. The Arts Council would put an ad in their brochure for the event.

- 4) **Green-A-Thon:** Scheduled for April 25, 2015. Reviewed that the volunteers will be responsible for running the Park Board booth at the event. Mr. Smith will run the booth from 11am-1pm and Mr. Thomas volunteered to run the booth from 1pm-3pm. Ms. Keala plans to bring the display board and board booth box to the event on the day of. We will look at the materials at the next meeting to become more familiar with what will be at the booth. Ms. Whitcomb noted that she can help answer any questions as she has helped at the event in the past.
- 5) **Board Goals & Objectives:** Ms. Whitcomb and Ms. Atkinson approved the updated goals and objectives. Ms. Hoyle and Ms. Whitcomb to attend and present to City Council during their April 14<sup>th</sup> meeting.
- 6) **Spring Meeting Schedule:** Ms. Keala to add park reports to next agenda.
- 7) **Park Board Website:** Mr. Peer gave update. Has fixed links on the website and fixed some slow loading images. Updated headers. Notes that the charter membership needs to be replaced on the website. Brochures will be posted on the website. Plans to update calendar of events. Reviewed which events to add. Mr. Peer presented information on using a Pay Pal box to be able to accept credit/debit card payments for Friends of the Park Membership at point of transaction. Board agreed this would be a good idea. To send bill to Ms. Keala. Mr. Peer looked further onto 501c3. Board agreed to still wait and see our membership outlook. Friends of Grand Rapids have not responded at this time.

#### **Summary Report:**

- Ms. Keala reviewed upcoming park events, including July 7<sup>th</sup> Army Field Band at Central Park Overlander Bandshell and July 25<sup>th</sup> Hike to Concert with Blake Whyte music at Eliason Nature Reserve.

#### **Comments from the Board:**

- Mr. Earl and Mr. Peer to work on online voting system for Art in the Park event. Mr. Earl's wife is planning to take pictures of the entrees and post online.
- Ms. Keala notes the Parks Director position remains open at this time.
- Ms. Keala notes that the Austin Lake Shelter has been inspected and will provide update at next meeting.
- Park Board reminded that May's meeting will be held at West Lake Nature Preserve/South Westnedge.

**Adjournment:** Motion was made by Ms. Whitcomb, seconded by Mr. Thomas. Motion approved, meeting adjourned at 7:45 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Emily Hirschman, Park Board Secretary