

CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES FROM FEBRUARY 12, 2013

The Regular Meeting was called to order by Mayor Pro Tem Reid at 7:30 p.m.

At the request of Mayor Pro Tem Reid, Pastor Aaron Johnson of the Kalamazoo Valley Family Church gave the invocation and the City Council and the audience recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Deputy City Clerk called the roll with the following members present: Councilmembers Elizabeth A. Campbell, Jim Pearson, Patricia M. Randall, Edward J. Sackley and Terry R. Urban, and Mayor Pro Tem Claudette S. Reid. Mayor Peter J. Strazdas was absent with notice. Also in attendance were City Manager Maurice S. Evans, City Attorney Randy Brown and Deputy City Clerk Adam Herringa.

PROCLAMATION: City Council issued a 50th Anniversary Year of the City of Portage Proclamation. Mr. Paul Troost, on behalf of U.S. Senator Carl Levin, read a statement that was entered into the Congressional Record recognizing the 50th Anniversary of the City of Portage. Mr. Troost also presented a Certificate of Recognition regarding the 50th Anniversary on behalf of U.S. Senator Debbie Stabenow. State Representative Margaret O'Brien presented a copy of the Congressional Record recognizing the 50th Anniversary of the City of Portage on behalf of U.S. Congressman Fred Upton. State Representative O'Brien and State Senator Schuitmaker presented a Special Tribute recognizing the 50th Anniversary of the City of Portage. The Special Tribute was signed by State Representative O'Brien, State Senator Schuitmaker and Governor Snyder.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Motion by Urban, seconded by Campbell, to approve the January 22, 2013 Regular Meeting Minutes as presented. Upon a roll call vote, motion carried 6 to 0.

* **CONSENT AGENDA:** Mayor Pro Tem Reid asked Councilmember Pearson to read the Consent Agenda. Councilmember Pearson asked that item F.1, Donation Box Ordinance Amendment, be removed from the Consent Agenda. Councilmember Randall asked that item F.4, Board of Review – Information Only, be removed from the Consent Agenda. Motion by Pearson, seconded by Urban, to approve the Consent Agenda motions as read. Upon a voice vote, motion carried 6 to 0.

* **APPROVAL OF ACCOUNTS PAYABLE REGISTER OF FEBRUARY 12, 2013:** Motion by Pearson, seconded by Urban, to approve the Accounts Payable Register of February 12, 2013. Upon a voice vote, motion carried 6 to 0.

PUBLIC HEARINGS:

STRYKER CORPORATION, PA 198 TAX ABATEMENT: Mayor Pro Tem Reid asked City Manager Evans to review the requested abatement. Mr. Evans recognized the representatives from Stryker and Southwest Michigan First present in the audience. He then provided an overview of the project and the requested abatement. Carole Mendez spoke on behalf of Stryker and provided a status update of the project and expressed appreciation for being able to continue to invest in the community.

Mayor Pro Tem Reid opened the public hearing. There being no comments, motion by Campbell, seconded by Urban to close the public hearing. Upon a voice vote, motion carried 6 to 0.

Motion by Sackley, seconded by Campbell, to adopt Resolution No. 4-13, approving the Industrial Facilities Exemption Certificate for Stryker Corporation, Instruments Division, at 4100 East Milham Avenue for six years on the real property and three years on the personal property in the total amount of \$5.64 million; and approve the tax abatement agreement and affidavit between the City of Portage and Stryker Corporation, Instruments Division. Councilmember Sackley and Mayor Pro Tem Reid expressed support for the project and the importance of such investment in the community. Upon a

roll call vote, motion carried 6 to 0. Resolution recorded on page 493 of City of Portage Resolution Book No. 44.

REPORTS FROM THE ADMINISTRATION:

DONATION BOX ORDINANCE AMENDMENT: Councilmember Pearson reviewed the rationale behind the ordinance amendment and highlighted specific provisions contained therein. Councilmember Sackley requested that consideration be given to modifying the proposed ordinance by changing the name “Donation Box” to “Collection Box.” He then stated that he would like to see a provision added which would prohibit advertising on the boxes. Councilmember Pearson inquired if these changes would need to return to the Planning Commission for consideration. City Attorney Brown opined that these changes would not necessitate a return to Planning Commission and recommended that these changes be made at the public hearing on March 12th. Councilmember Sackley stated that he would like to see a provision to specifically address advertising in order to avoid any interpretation that such advertising is permitted. Discussion followed. Attorney Brown said that he would go ahead with making the changes provided there was a consensus among City Council. Mayor Pro Tem Reid stated that, hearing no dissent, she believed there was consensus and asked Attorney Brown to proceed accordingly.

Councilmember Urban inquired if the proposed fees associated with the ordinance amendment recover the actual cost of the program and opined that the entire cost to the City should be covered by the fees. Councilmember Urban then expressed concern with the “Revocation of permit, removal of donation boxes and liability” provision. He highlighted the section regarding the costs of removal of a box and that those costs would be born by the property owner. He stated that his concern is that a property owner may have difficulty getting an owner of a box to actually remove it and still be held responsible. Councilmember Urban then asked about why a differentiation cannot be made between for-profit and not-for-profit boxes. Attorney Brown provided three reasons. The first, he said, is that the boxes look the same regardless of owner and raise an issue of equal treatment. Second, he said there are some elements related to zoning, and a zoning type ordinance does not differentiate between not-for-profit and for-profit. The final reason provided was that to make such a differentiation would require additional staff resources to determine whether the organization is for profit or not.

Councilmember Sackley asked if a middle-ground could be found to address the issue of liability of the property owner and offered some suggestions. Discussion followed.

Motion by Pearson, seconded by Campbell, to accept the Donation Box Ordinance Amendment for first reading and set a public hearing for March 12, 2013 at 7:30 p.m. or as soon thereafter as may be heard; and, subsequent to the public hearing, consider approving the Donation Box Ordinance Amendment as recommended by the Planning Commission and City Administration. Upon a roll call vote, motion carried 6 to 0.

*** DEVELOPMENT PROJECT AGREEMENT FOR WESTFIELD PARK**

RENOVATIONS: Motion by Pearson, seconded by Urban, to resolve to accept the Development Project Agreement from the Michigan Department of Natural Resources for Westfield Park playground renovations and authorize the City Manager to execute all documents related to this action on behalf of the city. Upon a voice vote, motion carried 6 to 0. Resolution recorded on page 497 of City of Portage Resolution Book No. 44.

NEGOTIATING DISTRICT COURT CONSOLIDATION AGREEMENT: City Manager Evans reviewed the status of the efforts related to the court consolidation and highlighted a letter from County Administrator Battani, a meeting with Judge Santoni, Judge Bridenstine and other County officials and an additional meeting with Mr. Battani and County Legal Counsel, Thom Canny. Mr. Evans informed City Council that the court would be moving out of the facility on March 1st and would cease all operations by June 1st. Mr. Evans then highlighted the fiscal impact of the court closing

and that there is still some uncertainty in this regard. Mr. Evans then stated that he would like to continue discussions with the County Administrator and would seek guidance from City Council once positions and options are defined. Following a question from Mayor Pro Tem Reid, Mr. Evans assured City Council that he would be coming back with a report.

Councilmember Urban questioned whether the \$40,500 would no longer be paid to the City because the Agreement will not be going away. He also stated that, until recently, it was understood that the Agreement meant that the court would remain in perpetuity. Councilmember Urban stated that if the Agreement remains in force, the City would be entitled to receive the rent. City Manager Evans agreed with the assessment of Councilmember Urban but stated that negotiations need to continue with County officials.

City Attorney Brown emphasized that his office would support City Administration in negotiations and that it would be best if the City Manager could report back to City Council.

Councilmember Campbell confirmed with the City Manager that the Agreement was in perpetuity, the Court is closing February 28th and the negotiations are to address financial obligations from March onward.

Councilmember Pearson reviewed the history of the Court in Portage. He stated that the City has a lease and the Court is the tenant and continued by pointing out that while the Court may realize a savings, the City stands to take a financial hit. Mr. Pearson concluded by stating that City Council needs to see what the City Manager comes back with following additional negotiations and that, just because negotiations are authorized, does not mean City Council supports breaking the lease.

Motion by Urban, seconded by Sackley, to authorize the City Manager to proceed in negotiating modification terms to the District Court Consolidation Agreement with Kalamazoo County. Upon a roll call vote, motion carried 6 to 0.

BOARD OF REVIEW INFORMATION: Councilmember Randall stated that the Communication on the agenda proves the City is still not meeting the needs of the taxpayer. Councilmember Randall then highlighted areas that she felt the City was doing right and areas where the City is falling short. In particular, she focused on the plan to have legal counsel attend Board of Review sessions and stated that such a presence would be intimidating for a citizen, irregular as compared with other cities, detrimental to the process, and an unnecessary expense at a cost of approximately \$18,000. She then reviewed and summarized the planned “recap and debriefing” outlined in the Communication and that she believed this to be a conflict of interest for Assessing Office staff and provided the reasons why. Councilmember Randall then emphasized the need and value of the Board of Review process.

City Manager Evans responded and stated that the independent legal counsel and recap/debriefing was a result of the direction given by City Council at the January 8th City Council Meeting. He then reviewed the rationale for the planned recap and emphasized it was not meant to intimidate anyone but as a way to identify what was done right and what was done wrong. Mr. Evans continued by stating that an attorney at the Board of Review sessions would serve as a “referee” to identify state guidelines.

Councilmember Pearson said that what has been planned is different than he envisioned, in particular the cost; and, that it will be daunting to have three Board of Review members serving as a type of jury, a representative of the Assessor’s Office serving as secretary and an attorney which has been hired by the City to be in the room. He then emphasized the perception associated with having hired legal counsel in the room and suggested that Board of Review members be given access to hired legal counsel when needed.

City Manager Evans provided the rationale for the recommendation and stated that the goal is consistency and continuity between the two boards and would appreciate the direction of City Council on this topic.

Councilmember Campbell stated that some of the problems experienced last year were a result of board composition and expressed her belief that the composition of the boards this year is more balanced and will help promote consistency and continuity. With regard to an attorney being present,

she stated her belief that this would be stifling for a resident and could cause discomfort for Board of Review members. She concluded by stating that she would like to see how the Board of Review does this year.

Councilmember Urban stated that he respectfully disagreed with his colleagues and that the reason to have an attorney present is to put Board of Review members under the microscope. He continued by stating that the attorney is needed to ensure the law is followed. Councilmember Urban then expressed concern that a Board of Review member missed the training on legal issues involved in the Board of Review and questioned whether or not the legal training should be mandatory.

Councilmember Sackley stated that he had a conversation with a member of the Board of Review and that the member expressed support for having additional resources present. Mr. Sackley expressed support for the implementation of the compliance checklist and reviewed the value of having an attorney present. He emphasized that this is a legal process and that attorneys can get involved. He stated that this may not be something done indefinitely and reviewed the steps that have been made to improve and enhance the Board of Review process over the past few years.

Councilmember Randall agreed that resources should be made available but do not have to be on site. She reviewed when decisions are reached by the Board of Review and there are ample opportunities for legal counsel to review a case. Councilmember Randall then reviewed practices of other municipalities and the multiple legal resources available. She then questioned where the support for the citizen comes into play and spoke of her personal experience in going through the Board of Review process. She concluded by stating that the Board of Review process cannot be undermined.

Mayor Pro Tem Reid shared that she is supportive of the increased training and of having legal counsel present at the Board of Review. She continued by stating that she believes attorneys do not have to be intimidating and that an attorney would be able to help give direction when needed. She stated that the discrepancies that have been experienced in past Boards of Review are problematic and need to be addressed. She emphasized that the rules surrounding the Board of Review process come from the State of Michigan and legal counsel can help everyone understand the process.

Councilmember Campbell reiterated her belief that having legal counsel available if needed can accomplish the goal.

Councilmember Urban stated that one of the reasons for the attorney present is to prevent the errors that have been occurring. He reiterated his support for the measures outlined in the Communication from the City Manager. Moved by Urban, seconded by Sackley, to receive the communication from the City Manager regarding the 2013 Board of Review as information only. Motion by Randall, seconded by Pearson to amend the motion "to accept the Communication from the City Manager adopting both the additional training for the Board of Review, the compliance checklist, but not hiring outside legal counsel to oversee the Board of Review on a day-to-day basis but on a call as-needed basis." Discussion followed on the proposed amended motion. Upon a roll call vote, motion to amend the original motion failed 3 to 3. Discussion followed on the original motion.

City Manager Evans interjected and emphasized that this is the City Council's Board of Review and that City Council came up with ideas to address problems with the Board of Review. He continued by stating that he believes with the training, and perhaps legal counsel, the Board of Review will get back on track. He recommended that City Council get together and review this topic at a meeting and that he would prefer not to have City Council split 3 to 3 on this matter. Councilmember Urban withdrew his motion, Councilmember Sackley consented to the withdrawal and asked City Administration to consult Board of Review members to obtain their thoughts. Motion by Sackley, seconded by Pearson, to table any action on the Communication from the City Manager regarding the 2013 Board of Review. Upon a roll call vote, motion carried 6 to 0.

PORTAGE PUBLIC SCHOOLS BILLBOARD PROPOSAL: Mayor Pro Tem Reid asked City Manager Evans to provide an overview. Mr. Evans highlighted various aspects of the Portage Public Schools (PPS) billboard proposal. He also indicated that there are legal arguments that can be made both in support and against the zoning code as it pertains to the proposal but that he would not be

making any legal arguments at the meeting tonight. He emphasized that the City does have an ordinance governing non-accessory signs in one-family residential areas and that such signs as those proposed would be prohibited. Mr. Evans emphasized that the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) has jurisdiction over freeway signs and the signs are subject to the Highway Advertising Act. He continued by saying that he believes these proposed signs would be in violation of this Act.

Mayor Pro Tem Reid read a written statement from Mayor Strazdas in which the Mayor thanked citizens for their interest in the issue, stated that he believes in public dialogue before action by a governing body, that the proposed signs do not meet City zoning requirements and that his opinion is that all properties should be treated fairly and equitably and, as such, the sign ordinance should be followed by all.

State Senator Tonya Schuitmaker and State Representative O'Brien rose to speak on the issue. State Senator Schuitmaker informed the audience that she has been in contact with MDOT about the issue and that a written response to her inquiries had been received. She then read the response. Based on the information provided in the MDOT response, Senator Schuitmaker stated that it is her understanding that MDOT would not grant approval of the billboards.

Mr. Mike Spray, 3517 Wedgewood Drive, spoke in opposition to any of the proposed billboards and highlighted his concern with the light that would be emitted from such billboards.

Mr. Mike Kenny, 3765 Fleetwood Drive, thanked the City Manager for his report. He then stated that he believed the State Superintendent of Schools should focus on educating children and not on commercial enterprise. He inquired how the Agreement between PPS and the City regarding billboards came to be. City Manager Evans responded that the proposed agreement is no longer on the table and that discussions had ceased.

Ms. Teri Novaria, 3489 Whistling Lane, inquired specifically how the proposed Agreement between PPS and the City came about. City Manager Evans stated that, at the time of discussions, the City was trying to protect local streets from having billboards erected while understanding that MDOT would come into play and had authority with the Highway Advertising Act.

Councilmember Pearson corrected some information shared at a recent meeting of the Portage School Board regarding a discussion that occurred on September 21st between City Administration and PPS. He stated that the Portage City Council was not involved in those discussions and had, in fact, only recently been in position to provide the City Manager with feedback.

Councilmember Sackley spoke at length on the topic and stated that he appreciates that the number of proposed billboards has been dwindling but that the correct number is zero. He then expressed his disappointment that the matter has escalated to its current status and that he is hopeful that this matter can be put behind the community. He stated that he hopes the matter won't involve the legal system but that the City has a Code of Ordinances much of which is designed to deal with quality of life issues. He stated that this Code of Ordinances has served the City and its residents well for many years. He then expressed sympathy for the schools and their financial circumstances and asked the community to support the School Board members. He concluded by stating that the Zoning Code of Ordinances must stand for something and that it should apply to everyone fairly and equitably.

Councilmember Urban supported the comments of Councilmember Sackley and expressed a wish that this had happened differently and that the schools would have approached the City much earlier. Had this happened, he stated, perhaps a compromise could have been reached that would not have violated so many facets of the Code of Ordinances. He next pointed out that he learned, based on the information shared by State Senator Schuitmaker, that any part of the National Highway System is subject to the Highway Advertising Act and subsequently reviewed a multitude of streets in Portage that are part of the National Highway System.

Councilmember Pearson stated that when he first read about the matter, he did not think it was a good idea and thanked the community for raising their voices to the School Board and City Council. He concluded that he was pleased with the discussion and with where the matter seems to be headed.

Motion by Sackley, seconded by Randall, to receive the communication from the City Manager regarding the Portage Public Schools billboard proposal as information only. Upon a voice vote, motion carried 6 to 0.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

* **ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS APPOINTMENTS:** Motion by Pearson, seconded by Urban, to appoint D. Glenn Smith (current Alternate) and Michael Robbe (current Alternate) to terms ending February 28, 2016, and appoint Robert Soltis as Alternate with unfulfilled term ending February 28, 2014 and James White as Alternate with unfulfilled term ending February 28, 2015, to the Zoning Board of Appeals. Upon a voice vote, motion carried 6 to 0.

BOARD OF REVIEW APPOINTMENTS: Mayor Pro Tem Reid stated that six members have been appointed to the Board of Review but that City Council must appoint three members to one board and three to another. She also stated that the goal of the appointments is to have two boards that are as balanced as possible.

Councilmember Pearson suggested appointments that he believes would help to balance the experience of each of the boards.

Councilmember Urban inquired if it was still appropriate to appoint Bill Fries as he missed the legal training. Councilmember Urban continued by stating that this training is very important and expressed his concern that a member of the Board of Review missed it.

Mayor Pro Tem Reid inquired if this training can yet be obtained and City Manager Evans stated that an inquiry would be made of the State Tax Commission.

Councilmember Sackley shared the concerns of Councilmember Urban but stated that Mr. Fries would be placed on the Board with the most experienced Board of Review member and that, depending on future discussions, legal counsel might be available. Councilmember Sackley expressed support for seeking additional training depending on training availability and the availability of Mr. Fries.

Councilmember Pearson stated his support for those who volunteer their time to serve on the Board of Review. He continued by stating that requiring training for Board of Review members would be a new requirement which was added after the appointments were made. Councilmember Pearson concluded by stating that Mr. Fries is a well-meaning citizen who is willing to serve and thanked him accordingly.

Motion by Pearson, seconded by Randall, to appoint Michael Simon, Bill Fries and Richard Ford to Board of Review No. 1 and Wesley Mazurek, Michael Quinn and William Brandt to Board of Review No. 2 with terms ending January 31, 2014. Upon a roll call vote, motion carried 6 to 0.

* **MINUTES OF BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS:** City Council received the minutes for the following boards and commissions:

Portage Public Schools Board of Education Special of December 14, Regular of December 17, Organizational of January 7 and Special of January 14, 2013.

Portage Park Board of January 9, 2013.

Portage Youth Advisory Committee of January 14, 2013.

Portage Human Services Board of January 16, 2013.

AD HOC COMMITTEE REPORTS:

COMMUNICATION FROM COUNCILMEMBER CAMPBELL REGARDING ACTIVITIES AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE AD HOC PROPERTY COMMITTEE: Councilmember Campbell, Chair of the Property Committee, reviewed the Property Committee report.

Councilmember Campbell reviewed the status of the property 117 East Centre Avenue and that no final action is recommended at this time.

Councilmember Campbell next reviewed the property located at 10244 Portage Road, Outlot A of Norton's Subdivision. She reviewed the status of the property and stated that no action is necessary.

The third property, 732 East Centre Avenue, was reviewed and Councilmember Campbell stated that the property was offered for sale to the City, a review was conducted by various City departments and that the determination that there was no public use for the property was made. Motion by Campbell, seconded by Randall to respectfully decline the offer to purchase the property located at 732 East Centre. Mayor Pro Tem Reid inquired how the determination was made that there was no public use. Councilmember Campbell replied that a thorough review by various City departments was conducted. Discussion followed. Upon a voice vote, motion carried 6 to 0.

Councilmember Campbell stated that the Committee asked for a review of City-owned residential properties and focused on potentially buildable lots: 7200 Balfour Drive, 7138 Capri Street, and 1600 Friendly Avenue were identified. Councilmember Campbell stated that there is no proof of ownership of the property located at 1600 Friendly and that a title search is necessary prior to commencing an appraisal on that lot. Discussion followed. Motion by Campbell, seconded by Sackley, to order a title search to provide proof of ownership for 1600 Friendly Avenue and, after title search paperwork is received, obtain appraisals on 7200 Balfour Drive, 7138 Capri Street and 1600 Friendly Avenue and that, should the City not own the property, 1600 Friendly Avenue be excluded from the appraisals. Upon a roll call vote, motion carried 6 to 0.

Councilmember Campbell next stated the Property Committee is recommending that, subsequent to the appraisals, the above residential three properties be first offered to the adjacent property owners and that, after a reasonable period of time, if the adjacent property owners do not purchase, the properties will be listed on the open market. Councilmember Campbell informed City Council that the matter will be brought back to City Council following the appraisal with the recommended sale price. Councilmember Campbell emphasized that the Property Committee is looking to get these properties back on the tax rolls. Discussion followed on what might be the best use of the properties.

Councilmember Campbell then reviewed the property located at 10323 Archwood Drive and the rationale for the recommendation of the Property Committee. Discussion followed and Councilmember Campbell clarified that the purchase of the property would require the buyer to, at a minimum, have a building permit within 12 months of purchase. Motion by Campbell, seconded by Urban that City Council accept the recommendations of the Property Committee with regard to the property located at 10323 Archwood Drive. Upon a roll call vote, motion carried 5 to 0 with Councilmember Sackley abstaining.

Motion by Sackley, seconded by Urban to receive the report of the Property Committee for 117 East Centre and 10244 Portage Road, Outlot A of Norton's Subdivision. Upon a roll call vote, motion carried 6 to 0.

PRESENTATION BY COUNCILMEMBER SACKLEY REGARDING ACTIVITIES OF THE SIGN ORDINANCE COMMITTEE: Councilmember Sackley shared that the topic of signs is one that has been discussed at length over the past few years by Portage City Council and complimented Community Development Director Vicki Georgeau, City Manager Evans, the Zoning Board of Appeals and the Planning Commission for supporting the process. Councilmember Sackley then provided a detailed report on the activities of the Sign Ordinance Committee and highlighted a planned public forum which would include a comprehensive discussion on signs in the City of Portage. Councilmember Sackley then reviewed details surrounding the proposed forum such as publicity, who would be invited, how to facilitate the discussion, topics to be discussed, etc. Councilmember Pearson invited the public to come to the event and bring their ideas.

Motion by Pearson, seconded by Campbell, to receive the report by Councilmember Sackley, Chair of the Sign Ordinance Committee, regarding the committee's recent activity. Upon a voice vote, motion carried 6 to 0.

NEW BUSINESS:

PUNCH CARDS AT MILLENIUM PARK ICE RINK: Councilmember Randall introduced the topic of expired punch passes at the City ice rink. Councilmember Randall stated that the issue was raised by former State Senator Tom George and expressed a desire to have the issue of the punch passes addressed immediately and not at a later date by another committee. Councilmember Randall expressed the belief that honoring expired passes is the right thing to do and will garner goodwill from the community. Motion by Randall, seconded by Campbell, to honor all past ice rink passes to the Portage ice rink. Mayor Pro Tem Reid asked if there should be a sunset provision that would cause the card to expire. Discussion followed and City Manager Evans stated that he is supportive of asking the Park Board to review the matter.

Councilmember Sackley stated that he agrees that the expiration date is printed in extremely small font and asked if Councilmember Randall would accept a friendly amendment to her motion. Councilmember Sackley suggested the motion be amended so that expired cards are accepted through the end of this season. The Park Board would then address the matter further. Councilmember Randall and Councilmember Campbell accepted the amendment with the revised motion being "to honor all past ice rink passes to the Portage ice rink through the end of this season." Councilmember Pearson expressed support for the revised motion and asked that the Park Board look into whether expirations at the end of the year are necessary and that a recommendation from the Park Board be obtained. Discussion followed. Upon a roll call vote, motion carried 6 to 0.

OTHER CITY MATTERS:

STATEMENTS OF CITY COUNCIL AND CITY MANAGER: Councilmember Campbell updated the score of the Michigan State v. Michigan basketball game. Spartans were ahead by 14 at halftime.

Councilmember Sackley discussed his appointment on the Kalamazoo County Public Art Commission and an item that was recently discussed by that body. Councilmember Sackley went on to share that the Park Board, under the previous guidance of Mike Zajac, put together a plan for a "Recycled Art in the Park" competition and that the project is coming to fruition. The Park Board, Councilmember Sackley stated, is moving along on the project and the Kalamazoo County Public Art Commission will be working to support the competition.

Mayor Pro Tem Reid shared that February is Healthy Heart Month and the American Heart Association is focused on increasing knowledge of heart disease, especially for women. She encouraged residents to think about their own health and to take steps to be heart healthy.

ADJOURNMENT: Mayor Pro Tem Reid adjourned the meeting at 10:12 p.m.

Adam Herringa, Deputy City Clerk

*Indicates items included on the Consent Agenda.

