

**Portage Park Board Minutes**  
**October 1, 2014**

Present: Doug Barrett, Tim Earl, Roger Smith, Charles Thomas, Susan Williams,  
Jan Whitcomb

Excused: Kathleen Hoyle, Sisira Kavuri

Staff: William Deming

The meeting was called to order at 6:31 p.m. by Chairperson Williams.

Minutes of the September meeting were reviewed. Mr. Earl motioned for approval, Mr. Thomas seconded, motion approved.

**A. Celery Flats and Bicentennial Park:** Mr. Deming gave brief history of Portage Creek Bicentennial Park. Planning began in 1974 when the park was identified as the official Bicentennial recognition project for the city. In 1986, a formal park master plan was approved and park development became a major priority. Today the park totals over 200 acres. Bicentennial Park and the trails are very popular with residents and guests. Celery Flats is the "historical" element of the overall park master plan. The Celery Flats property was originally owned by Dr. Savage and had hunting lodge that was eventually modified into a daycare center. Buildings were relocated to the Celery Flats from 1989 through 1994 and restored for historical interpretation and for public rental opportunities.

**B. New Board Members:** Mr. Deming shared with the Board there are several applicants for the open positions with the Park Board. Ms. Whitcomb has applied for a second term.

**C. Friend Group Report:** Ms. Whitcomb shared with the Board the Friends of Ramona Park have met again at Ramona. Plans are underway to plant spring flowers. The Friends of Ramona Park are willing to seek donations of flowers from merchants and have requested a letter to confirm they are volunteers to share with the merchants. Mr. Deming will provide the letter.

**Summary Activity:** Mr. Deming informed the Board of the Jack-O-Lantern run set for October 25, 2014 as an activity sponsored by the Kalamazoo Area Runners. It is an evening run that will begin at South Westnedge Park. The run route goes through the new Eliason Nature Reserve trail, Schrier Park trails and the Bishops Bog trail. Discussion followed on the potential of having a Park Board table set up at the event. There would be a need for Board members to man the table.

Stuart Manor repairs will begin within the next 30 days. The kitchen area roof will be replaced to resolve water leaking problems.

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**Comments from the Board:** Mr. Earl shared with the Board the how nice the flower sculpture from the Recycled Art in the Park event looks along Library Lane. He also mentioned how nice the Veterans Memorial looks in front of the District Library.

Mr. Deming reminded the Board this was Ms. Williams last meeting as a Board member and thanked her for dedication and work for the city parks and the Park Board.

Ms. Williams said she will continue to volunteer to help the Board.

Mr. Earl will not be able to attend the November 5, 2014 meeting.

Motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Earl, seconded by Mr. Thomas, approved. Meeting adjourned at 7:06 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Jan Whitcomb  
Park Board Secretary