

Portage Park Board Minutes
September 3, 2014

Present: Doug Barrett, Tim Earl, Sisira Kavuri, Charles Thomas, Jan Whitcomb

Excused: Jim Bennink, Kathleen Hoyle, Roger Smith

Absent: Susan Williams

Staff: William Deming, John Milowe

Guests: Kay Yeckley, Jack Briggs

The meeting was called to order at 6:36 p.m. by Secretary Whitcomb at Westfield Park.

Ms. Yeckley shared with the Board that she lives at 4605 Westfield and uses the park frequently. Her main concern is the trees in the park. She pointed out the pine trees on north board have dead needles on the lower limbs. Ms. Yeckley also thought there are other trees that require pruning. Parks Superintendent John Milowe will inspect and take action as necessary.

Mr. Briggs updated the Board on the activities of the Friends of Ramona Park. They began clean up in the wooded area on the south side of the park on Saturday August 30, 2014. There is more work that needs to be done in that area. They have noticed the sports fields are littered with cigarette butts and would like to work in that area too. The Friends of Ramona would like to do more to improve the Park. They do not want to interfere with the jobs of the employees.

Mr. Briggs also requested to allow one disabled member to use a golf cart for transportation while volunteering in Ramona. They will bring the golf cart with them and remove it when they leave. Mr. Deming approved the use of the golf cart and will notify the Rangers.

The minutes of the September meeting were reviewed. Mr. Barrett motioned for approval, Mr. Thomas seconded, motion approved.

A. Westfield Park: Mr. Barrett gave the history of the Westfield. It is a very busy park, used a lot of families. It is popular with residents and their dogs. The park is 12 acre in size. The City has planted many trees on the property, as well as protected trees that were already growing on the site. One of those trees is an Oak that is thought to be about 200 years old.

B. Get Active Portage: Mr. Earl and Mr. Thomas shared that they thought the event was successful. There were 12 vendors with booths that morning. The hours for the 2015 event may be changed to 8:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.

The meeting was relocated to the Harbors West Park

Mr. Deming gave the history of Harbors West Park. It has a lot of open space with created berms and other land forms. It is a favorite for many people including children learning to ride their bikes.

Summary Activity Report: Mr. Deming gave the updates including that new playground equipment for Oakland Drive Park will be ready for use next week. The new playground equipment in Bicentennial Park has been installed and is open for public use.

The Swimming Beach at Ramona had a good season and closed on Sept. 1, 2014.

The winterization process for irrigation is now beginning.

Work on the trail decking is scheduled to start this month.

Mr. Thomas motioned to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mr. Earl, motion approved. Meeting adjourned at 7:20 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Jan Whitcomb
Park Board Secretary