

**KALAMAZOO COUNTY PARKS DEPARTMENT  
PARK COMMISSION MEETING**

**September 1, 2016**

**Members Present:** Toni Thompson, Pat Crowley, Sandy Bliesener, Robert Moore,  
Ken Oscarson, Mildred Taraszka, Matthew Lechel, Kevin Wordelman

**Members Absent:** Thomas Matteson, Marion Hill

**Discover Kalamazoo Liaison:** Greg Ayers

**Staff Present:** David Rachowicz Lisa Conley

**Citizens:** None

1. **Call to Order** – The meeting was held at Cold Brook County Park and was called to order at 3:15 p.m. by Vice Chairperson, Robert Moore.
2. **Roll Call** – Roll was taken and a quorum was established. **Motion:** Oscarson moved to excuse members not present. Seconded by Bliesener. Motion carried by voice vote.
3. **Approval of Minutes – August 4, 2016 Meeting** – Members reviewed the minutes. **Motion:** Bliesener moved to approve the minutes as submitted. Seconded by Thompson. Motion carried by voice vote.
4. **Citizen’s Time** – None
5. **Communications** – None
6. **Old Business**
  - a. **Markin House Update-** Rachowicz reported that the Asbestos report is complete. Asbestos is mainly confined to the basement. Asbestos was only found in the tiles on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor and none on the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> floors. Discussions continue with the Garden Council regarding plans to move forward.
7. **New Business**
  - a. **Park Activity Report** – Members reviewed the report. Rachowicz reported than the National Trappers Convention recently wrapped up at the Expo Center. It was a great convention drawing people from all over the United States and Canada.
  - b. **Park Foundation Update-Toni Thompson-** Thompson reported that a contract was recently signed with the City of Kalamazoo to pay for the downtown section of Trail. The total project will be \$950,000 with the Foundation paying \$748,000. The Foundation will also be participating in the crowd funding Patronicity campaign to help fund the downtown section with a possible \$50,000 maximum match.
  - c. **Kalamazoo County Fair Update-** Members reviewed reports included in their meeting packet highlighting the 2016 County Fair final numbers. Discussion ensued. Rachowicz reported that planning for the 2017 Fair will begin immediately.
  - d. **Kalamazoo County Fair Strategic Planning-** Rachowicz reported that at the last Fair Council meeting they approved to move forward with Strategic Planning for the 2017 Kalamazoo County Fair. Julie Pioch of MSU Extension will lead the group.

- e. **National Street Rod Association 30 Years in Kalamazoo Resolution-** Members reviewed the resolution included in their meeting packet. **Motion:** Oscarson moved to approve the resolution as submitted. Seconded by Taraszka. Motion carried by voice vote.
- f. **Special Event Requests–** Members reviewed the special event request included in their packet. **Motion:** Lechel moved to approve event as submitted. Seconded by Crowley. Motion carried by voice vote.
  - **Southwest Michigan Mountain Bike Association – Markin Glen County Park – September 13, 2016**
- g. **AYSO 212 Soccer Practice Fees-** Members reviewed the request for special pricing for AYSO practices at River Oaks County Parks. **Motion:** Crowley moved to approve special practice rate of \$20 for AYSO practices only. Seconded by Taraszka. Motion carried by voice vote.

## 8. Director's Report

- a. **Budget Report** - Members reviewed the report.
- b. **August Update** –Rachowicz reported that Kyle Lewis, Trail Program Coordinator will take a job with Jackson County Parks. Also reported that Gourdneck Lake Association is creating a Lake Advisory Board. Nickelodeon & Turn 2 Foundation held Derek Jeter's Day of Play at the Expo Center on Wednesday night.

9. **Sales Report** - Members received a handout.

10. **Members Time-** None

11. **Adjournment-** The meeting was adjourned at 3:45 p.m.