

**KALAMAZOO COUNTY PARKS DEPARTMENT
PARK COMMISSION MEETING**

December 1, 2016

Members Present: Toni Thompson, Pat Crowley, Matt Lechel, Thomas Matteson
Deb Buchholtz(for Ken Oscarson), Mildred Taraszka, Marion Hill

Members Absent: Sandy Bliesener Kevin Wordelman Robert Moore

Discover Kalamazoo Liaison: Greg Ayers

Staff Present: David Rachowicz Lisa Conley

Citizens: Malachi Barrett – Kalamazoo Gazette
Jeffrey Savina & Graham Parsons – Gift of Music & Education Fund
Melody Daacon – Parks Foundation

1. **Call to Order** – The meeting was held at the Kalamazoo County Expo Center and was called to order at 3:10 p.m. by Chairperson, Thomas Matteson.
2. **Roll Call** – Roll was taken and a quorum was established. **Motion:** Thompson moved to excuse members not present. Seconded by Hill. Motion carried by voice vote.
3. **Approval of Minutes – November 3, 2016 Meeting** – Members reviewed the minutes. **Motion:** Taraszka moved to approve the minutes as submitted. Seconded by Thompson. Motion carried by voice vote.
4. **Citizen’s Time** – None
5. **Communications** – Rachowicz shared the most recent Street Scene magazine featuring the NSRA show that was held at the Kalamazoo Expo Center.
6. **Old Business**
 - a. **Markin House Update-** Rachowicz reported that the new lease has been sent to the Garden Council for review and expects a response back before the January meeting.
 - b. **Edible Trail Proposal-** Graham Parsons & Jeffrey Savina from the Dan Schmitt Gift of Music and Education Fund gave a presentation to members regarding their proposal of an edible forest in the vacant lot along the KRV Trail just North of W Kalamazoo Ave and West of North Westnedge. The presentation included a slide show and handout highlighting the benefits, partners, budget and potential funding sources. Discussion ensued. Parsons stated that there is still work to be done including soil testing and a final design plan. Rachowicz asked members if there was interest in moving forward with consideration for the proposed edible forest. **Motion:** Crowley made a motion to move forward with continuing discussion regarding the proposed plan. Seconded by Lechel. Motion carried by voice vote.
7. **New Business**
 - a. **Park Activity Report** – Members reviewed the report.
 - b. **Park Foundation Update-Toni Thompson-** Thompson reported that the Foundation is in the process of mailing out their annual appeal letter. The Foundation approved to move \$150,000 from the Endowment

Fund to the Trail Endowment Fund. Thompson also reported that Jerry Albertson will be stepping down as Foundation President and she will now serve as President of the Foundation.

- c. **Kalamazoo County Fair Update-** Hill reported that the last Fair Council meeting was very productive. The Council recently had 2 new “at large” members appointed. Hill also reported that she was elected to serve as the 2017 Chairperson of the Fair Council.
- d. **2017 Park Fees-** Members reviewed the proposed price increases for 2017. **Motion:** Crowley moved to approve the 2017 Kalamazoo County Park Fees as presented. Seconded by Taraszka. Motion carried by voice vote. Changes in fees for 2017 include Markin Glen Park - \$28.00 per night and Cold Brook Park - \$24.00 per night for improved camping and \$20.00 per night for rustic camping.
- e. **Kalamazoo County Park Endowment Funds Quarterly Report**—Members reviewed the reports included in their meeting packet. A corrected copy was handed out to members which corrected the date of the quarterly report from January 1, 2016 to July 1, 2016. **Motion:** Matteson made a motion to accept the report as submitted with correction to the date. Seconded by Hill. Motion carried by voice vote.
- f. **Special Event Requests-** Members reviewed the events included in their meeting packet. Discussion ensued. **Motion:** Lechel moved to accept the events as submitted. Seconded by Hill. Motion carried by voice vote. Approved events:

- **Crusader Cup** **River Oaks Park** **April 21-23, 2017**
- **Kingdom Cup** **River Oaks Park** **September 22-24, 2017**

8. Director’s Report

- a. **Budget Report** - Members reviewed the report.
- b. **November Update** – Rachowicz thanked the Commissioners for a great year and all of their work and dedication to the Parks & Expo Center.

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

10. **Members Time-** None

11. **Adjournment-** The meeting was adjourned at 4:45 p.m.