

**KALAMAZOO COUNTY PARKS DEPARTMENT  
PARK COMMISSION MEETING**

**February 4, 2016**

**Members Present:** Toni Thompson, Thomas Matteson, Pat Crowley, Matthew Lechel  
Marion Hill, Robert Moore, Kevin Wordelman, Ken Oscarson,

**Members Absent:** Virgie Ammerman Mildred Taraszka

**Discover Kalamazoo Liaison:** Greg Ayers

**Staff Present:** David Rachowicz Lisa Conley

**Citizens:** Meg Zapalowski - SWMMBA

1. **Call to Order** – The meeting was held at the Kalamazoo County Expo Center and was called to order at 3:08 p.m. by Chairperson, Thomas Matteson.
2. **Roll Call** – Roll was taken and a quorum was established. **Motion:** Oscarson moved to excuse members not present. Seconded by Hill. Motion carried by voice vote.
3. **Approval of Minutes – January 7, 2016 Meeting** – Members reviewed the minutes. **Motion:** Oscarson moved to approve the minutes as submitted. Seconded by Hill. Motion carried by voice vote.
4. **Citizen’s Time** – Meg Zapalowski from SWMMBA will speak on item 7.k.
5. **Communications** – None
6. **Old Business** -
  - a. **Kalamazoo County Park Master Plan** – Members received a draft copy of the 2016-2020 Master Plan. Rachowicz reported the results of the public meeting that was held on January 25, 2016. Members reviewed the plan as Rachowicz presented the timeline of the final steps of the process. The Park Commission will hold a public hearing on February 25, 2016 to adopt with a resolution. The final plan will be submitted to the Board of Commissioners on March 1, 2016 for approval.

**Moore entered meeting at 3:13 p.m.**

- b. **Markin Glen House & Garden Council** – Rachowicz reported that he will be meeting with the Markin House committee and the Garden Council members on February 10, 2016.
7. **New Business**
  - a. **Park Activity Report** – Members reviewed the report.
  - b. **Park Foundation Update-Pat Crowley-** Crowley reported that the Foundation held an election of officers and the current Board was re-elected.
  - c. **Kalamazoo County Fair Update- Marion Hill-** Hill reported that the 2016 Fair sponsor packets were mailed out this week. The Fair council is making progress with events focusing on kids, family and agriculture. Also reported that Valerie Dietrich replaced Zaide Jackson as Fair Council Secretary.

- d. **Quarterly Parks Endowment Report-** Members reviewed the report included in their meeting packet.
- e. **Markin Glen & KRV Trail Endowment Fund Requests-** Members reviewed the 3 requests that were included in their meeting packet. **Motion:** Moore moved to approve the requests as submitted. Seconded by Thompson. Motion carried by voice vote.
- f. **Revised River Oaks Soccer Policies & Rules-** Members reviewed the 2016 proposed soccer changes that were included in their meeting packet. Changes include raising soccer practice field rentals to \$23 starting in Fall 2016 and clarifying the start and end dates of spring & fall soccer seasons. **Motion:** Moore moved to approve changes as submitted. Seconded by Oscarson. Motion carried by voice vote.
- g. **Special Event Requests-** Members reviewed the special event requests included in their packet. In addition, members received an additional handout regarding the parking requirements for the Kingdom Soccer Tournaments that are included in the events submitted for approval. Members discussed each of the four requested events. **Motion:** Hill moved to approve both Kingdom Soccer events with parking requirements and Networking it out Kalamazoo and deny Kalamazoo JR Academy Color Run request. Seconded by Moore. Motion carried by voice vote.
- **Crusader Cup – River Oaks County Park –April 22-25, 2016 - Approved with parking requirements**
  - **Kingdom Cup - River Oaks County Park –September 23-25, 2016 Approved with parking requirements**
  - **Networkingitout:Kalamazoo – KRV Trail – Tuesdays, April through September – Approved**
  - **Kalamazoo Jr Academy –Color Run- KRV Trail – April 17, 2016 - Denied**
- h. **Kalamazoo County Expo Center Alcohol Policy-**Members reviewed the proposed revised alcohol policy for the Expo Center. Rachowicz hi-lighted the changes to the current policy and the steps that are required to submit an alcohol application. Discussion ensued. **Motion:** Moore moved to approve policy as submitted. Seconded by Wordelman. Motion carried by voice vote.
- i. **Women’s Lifestyle Expo-Expo Center Alcohol Application-** Members reviewed the application for the Women’s Lifestyle Expo. **Motion:** Wordelman moved to approve the application as submitted. Seconded by Toni. Motion carried by voice vote.
- j. **Schedule Public Hearing-Natural Resource Trust Fund Grant Applications-** Rachowicz explained to members the requirement to hold a public hearing for Natural Trust Fund Grant applications. **Motion:** Lechel moved to schedule a public hearing to review the Markin Glen Natural Resource Trust Fund Grant Application at 3:30p.m. on March 3, 2016. Seconded by Moore. Motion carried by voice vote.
- k. **Markin Glen Mountain Bike Trail Sponsorship Agreement-** Meg Zapalowski Vice President for SWMMBA presented a new sponsorship agreement changing the Title Sponsorship amount from \$180,000 to \$75,000. Ms. Zapalowski reported that the group found a Title Sponsor for \$75,000. Maple Hill Auto Group sponsored by Subaru has agreed to be the Title Sponsor for the mountain bike trail at Markin Glen County Park. The new dollar amount of Title Sponsorship will include the same benefits as the previously approved Title Sponsorship. Ms. Zapalowski also informed members that they are very close in securing 3 potential sponsors bringing their total raised to \$115,000 which includes the \$75,000 Title Sponsor. The group is planning a groundbreaking in the Spring of 2016. The bi-directional Trail will be 6 miles with a majority of the Trail being built by a professional builder. Discussion ensued. **Motion:** Lechel moved to approve the \$75,000 Title Sponsorship and the naming of the Trail to be, Maple Hill Trail at Markin Glen County Park. Seconded by Moore. Motion carried by voice vote.

**8. Director's Report**

**a. Budget Report** - Members reviewed the reports.

**b. January Update** – Rachowicz informed members that the City of Kalamazoo is shifting gears on the proposed route & timeline of the downtown connection. Discussion ensued.

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

**Crowley departed meeting at 5:10 p.m.**

**10. Member's Time** – None

**11. Adjournment-** The meeting was adjourned at 5:20 p.m.