

**PARK BOARD MEETING
Foster Community Center
September 11, 2019**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Veronica Gracia-Wing, Zoe Ahlstrom, Michael Ruddock (arrived after 6:30), Erika Poland, Rick Kibbey, Kimberly Whitfield

MEMBERS ABSENT: Mike Dombrowski

OTHERS PRESENT: Brett Kaschinske, Parks and Recreation Director; Kellie Brown, Board Secretary; Julia Miller, Emma Hranilovich, Rebecca Tremble, Thomas Winters, Punks with Lunch; Chris Pruett; Brody Stevens; Peter Wood, Friends of Ormond

CALL TO ORDER: 6:30 p.m.

ADDITIONS/DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA: Gracia-Wing added correspondence received through Park Board ListServe under correspondence.

BOARD MEETING MINTUES: Kibbey moved to approve the July 10, 2019 minutes as submitted, seconded by Poland. 5 years; 0 nays

Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

Board VP

Gracia-Wing stated Jim McClurken has taken a position with MSU that will conflict with Park Board meetings and has resigned from the Board.

The Board vastly appreciated Jim's service, his voice and candor and he will be greatly missed.

This leaves the vice chair position open. There is a board member interested in assuming the position. Ahlstrom has expressed interest in taking on the position.

Kibbey moved to accept Ahlstrom as vice chair, seconded in unison by Ruddock and Whitfield. 5 years; 0 nays

Kaschinske stated Jim's term expires in June 2020, this would be a one-year, Ward 4 position to fill his term.

Ahlstrom inquired is the Mayor using current applicants or is he looking for new applicants. Kaschinske thought someone has been chosen and is being vetted, but encouraged new applicants to apply.

Land Bank

Kaschinske described a vacant lot next to Edmore Park, which is currently owned by the Land Bank. Purchase of the lot would be contiguous with Edmore Park. There are no amenities on the lot at this time. He is asking for a vote by the board to recommend to the Mayor to purchase the property, which would most likely be for one dollar.

Kibbey moved to recommend purchase to Mayor, seconded by Ahlstrom. 6 years; 0 nays

Motion carried.

Master Plan/Public Survey

Kaschinske stated the current plan is for 2015 to 2020 and the new plan is due to the DNR in 2020.

There were six goals in the past plan with meetings held prior to each board meeting on each goal with a public hearing at Park Board and Council to accept.

The meetings did not produce a lot of input; received better input from the electronic survey.

The idea is in 2020 to have a meeting in each Ward. Use of a consultant would run at least \$25,000.00 and we have the skills and abilities to do this in house again this time. The plan has to be on file with the DNR to apply for and receive grants.

Need to work on meetings for public input, review similar plans the city has, evaluate demographics and accomplishments of the last five years and come up with goals. Kaschinske reviewed previous goals and objectives.

Ruddock inquired how community survey was sent out. Kaschinske stated through the neighborhood office, social media and community meetings. Ruddock would like to see Andi Crawford's department used to get to the community and parks that are highly utilized.

Gracia-Wing recommended over the next month for board members to consider recommendations, priorities the board would like to see in the next plan and bring those to the October board meeting to put together a plan. She feels the master plan is one of the most important duties of the board along with CIP budget.

Kibbey inquired if there was an intern available. He would like better demographics and recommends using the neighborhood department.

Whitfield recommended going to neighborhood associations, their social media and AmeriCorps staff.

Kaschinske stated the current plan is on the Parks web site.

Gracia-Wing inquired about the board's thoughts on this so far.

Ruddock inquired if this is on the October agenda, will there be a working document.

Gracia-Wing stated she is not sure what it would look like at this time.

Kaschinske stated first is the goals, which drives the survey, which drives the action plan.

Park Millage

Kaschinske stated the Parks millage is up next year and he is not sure when he wants it on the ballot, August or November. The last time this was on the ballot there was no country park/trail millage and would we want the Lansing millage on the ballot at the same time as the county, Kaschinske asked for board's thoughts.

OLD BUSINESS

Gracia-Wing stated discussion took place at the July meeting regarding the Park Board e-mail policy. There were a few changes and the new language was provided in the packet. Ruddock moved to approve the changes to the policy, seconded by Whitfield. 6 yeas; 0 nays

Motion carried.

UPDATES

Park Projects

Kaschinske review the park project update list.

Art Policy

Kaschinske stated this was emailed to board members. They Mayor did an Executive Order with a few changes to the old policy. The Park Board will still vote on art projects, then it will be referred to the Art Commission.

CORRESPONDENCE

The Board ListServe received an email regarding posting agendas and minutes in a timely matter and this has been addressed with staff. If meetings are canceled, such as the April meeting, there will not be a posting, the board does not normally meet in August and board minutes will not be posted until approved, which may be delayed if a meeting is canceled or a quorum is not available to vote. All items are posted to the web site.

STATEMENT OF CITIZENS

Julia Miller, Punks with Lunch Lansing, stated they help provide necessities to homeless and low-income individuals. They have concerns with Reutter Park because most of their outreach for the past two years has been in that park.

When they started their outreach there were city picnic tables in the park that were removed in 2018 and were not returned. They gifted the community by replacing the tables. The Lansing Police Community Police Officer told them the tables would not be returned due to the increase of loitering and crime in the park.

Miller stated the statistics she has since they put the tables in the park show crime has decreased and the use of the park increased.

They would like to continue the growth and use of Reutter Park with playground equipment and community events. They are asking for assistance, help with funding and wants to work with the Parks Department.

Kibbey clarified the tables were a give to the city; Miller stated a gift to the community and if they have to remove the tables they placed in the park they would want the city to put tables back in the park.

Kibbey confirmed they were asking for playground equipment. This park does not look like a playground park, but more of a ceremonial park.

Kibbey stated his understanding from Miller's statement is the tables are secured. Miller stated yes. Kibbey asked if they understand what chains to do a tree; the result is girdling, which kills a tree.

Whitfield inquired if Punks with Lunch is part of the group that gives out passes; Miller stated they are one of three.

Ruddock inquired why the tables were not returned to the park.

Kaschinske stated LPD requested the tables be removed.

Whitfield inquired if the issues at the park are only in the evening. Kaschinske stated reports show from 12 p.m. was the highest issues.

Poland stated she eats lunch in the park every day and does not see any issues.

Ahlstrom asked if LPD saw a difference between tables being removed and returned.

Kaschinske stated yes. There have been complaints from citizens in the area, either residents or people who work downtown, city staff, Board of Water staff working on the fountain, and library staff.

Ruddock inquired if LPD has requested the new tables be removed. Kaschinske stated yes.

Rebecca Tremble clarified the tables are attached with plastic coated bike chains. In regard to the needles found in the park, they work with an organization that picks the needles up. She stated the park seems cleaner and they address issues and ask people to leave. They also have teenagers who volunteer and outreach to the younger people in the park.

Miller commented on Rotary Park just opening and Volunteers of America is across the street, what will happen to this park.

Chris Pruettt stated he was homeless until a couple years ago and the homeless need to have a place to go and be allowed some dignity.

Gracia-Wing stated there is a meeting scheduled with Mayor and she hopes there can be some resolutions and amical solutions.

Miller stated the social media feedback she has received is to keep the tables and bring in more.

Peter Wood stated the basketball court is now complete. He has concerns with the master plan on file that does not mention the road through Ormond Park. Accomplishment, road and rebuilding of the park are not mentioned.

Kibbey stated the board did not have anything to do with the road.

Gracia-Wing inquired what web page he was referring to.

Wood stated he wants to address why the road was not in the master plan. He also has concerns about safety and the history of the road.

Meeting adjourned at 8 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted: Kellie Brown, Park Board Secretary
Approved October 9, 2019