

**PARK BOARD MINUTES**  
**Letts Community Center**  
**November 9, 2011**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Rick Kibbey, Dusty Fancher, Paul Carrier, Pat Murray, Patricia Spitzley

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Excused Ron Lott, Luke Canfora, Adam Hussain

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Brett Kaschinske, Parks and Recreation Director; Jenelle Jagmin and Neal Valley, South Lansing Community Development Association (SLCDA); Sue Eareckson, Friends of Bancroft Park; Kellie Brown, Board Secretary

**CALLED TO ORDER:** 7:05 p.m. by Dusty Fancher, Vice-President

**ADDITIONS/DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA**

Rick Kibbey added additional information on budget and policy issues regarding the November elections.

**STATEMENT OF CITIZENS**

Neal Valley, SLCDA and AmeriCorps, received a grant to put a community garden in a neighborhood and they are currently looking at Potter Walsh. They have started planning and designing and would like to do a garden this summer, but more outreach is needed for the project.

Patricia Spitzley inquired how big the garden would have to be. Neal Valley stated approximately 40' x 50' and including fence the area would be 75' x 75' or 90' x 90'.

Brett Kaschinske inquired if they had spoke with Willie Davis and what his opinion is on the project. Also, is this in cooperation with the Lansing Garden Project?

Neal Valley stated representatives from SLCDA are going to the neighborhood association meeting on the 16<sup>th</sup> and they will also canvas the neighborhood for opinions. The grant states the garden needs to be in the Potter Walsh neighborhood.

Brett Kaschinske asked if structures would need to be built. Neal Valley stated structures should not be necessary, but erecting a fence is a possibility. There is currently a pavilion and gutters could be placed on the pavilion or pole barn structure to catch run off into rain barrels for water.

Patricia Spitzley asked where they currently have gardens. Neal Valley stated this is the first garden he has worked on, but SLCDA has 5 gardens total.

Rick Kibbey also suggested the SLCDA talk with Dan Chapman.

Jenelle Jagmin stated this garden may be used as an inclusion garden with raised beds to allow those who may not otherwise be able to garden to use this facility. There is a paved path to the pavilion allowing ADA accessibility.

Rick Kibbey inquired if this was for informational purposes only at this time. Neal Valley stated it is.

Neal Valley stated the Cavanaugh community garden does not have access to water close to the garden and the run off from the shed is not sufficient. They had looked at the possibility of digging a shallow ditch, but have found out that is not possible. He wondered if the Board could look at ideas on how to have accessible water at the garden.

Jenelle Jagmin stated she would like to team up with the Parks summer program to provide a youth nutritional series.

**Board Meeting Minutes**

Pat Murray moved to approve the September 14, 2011 minutes as submitted; seconded by Paul Carrier. 5 years; 0 nays

**Motion Carried**

**River Trail South Land Transfer**

Brett Kaschinske stated the south extension of the River Trail is in and this would be a quit claim deed by the County to obtain the necessary parcels at the end of the trail. As far as we can research there was never been approval from the Park Board for the quit claim and we also need to have an easement. Carla Eno who originally worked on this project through the Planning Department is working on the easement.

Murray moved to approve the land transfer; Dusty Fancher seconded. 5 years; 0 nays

**Motion carried**

**Budget Priorities**

Brett Kaschinske stated a lot has changed with yesterday's election. The current budget was provided, however next years figures are not available. Kaschinske reviewed the account series and what is included in each account. Board members asked for a break out of line items without fringes included in the line item figures.

**Naturalization**

Rick Kibbey stated the expert from Michigan State University indicated "no mow" is not necessarily naturalization. At the last meeting Kibbey felt we turned a corner and everyone at the meeting understood what this is about. There was useful discussion about naturalization and are there areas appropriately naturalized as opposed to areas that are simply not being mowed. They went through a real quick process of doing one demonstration project in each ward.

Kibbey stated you would want a neighborhood sympathetic to the idea and you would want an area where the soil is appropriate to do naturalization. This could be done along a river or create a prairie; however a prairie is more work and is expensive.

Pat Murray stated he came away with the impression there is no money, so there will not be actual naturalization.

Rick Kibbey thought he heard there was grant money.

Patricia Spitzley stated whether we use "no mow" or "naturalization", we need to look at others for input such as Chief of Police for safety.

Brett Kaschinske stated the plan was sent to the Chief and they did not see any issues with the suggested areas.

Brett Kaschinske stated he heard what Pat Murray did from the public and he heard from Wild Ones there is grant money out there to apply for regarding true naturalization.

Brett Kaschinske stated overall adjustments have been made. At Cavanaugh Park the hill was mowed, at Tecumseh Park grills will be removed, Ranney Park hill was mowed, the walking path at Tecumseh was mowed and neighbors at Tecumseh will be adopting the ball park.

**Park Board Annual Report**

Rick Kibbey is willing to assist with the report. This is a great opportunity to speak out in an official way.

Paul Carrier stated the Board should go through the minutes of each meeting for action items and put together the report. He would like to meet someplace to put together the Board's comments.

Patricia Spitzley wants more thought into what exactly goes into the report to forecast priorities and what the Board wants to do for the future of Parks.

Patrick Murray suggested a committee be formed to come up with a rough draft to present at the December Park Board meeting.

Rick Kibbey asked for volunteers, Patricia Spitzley stated she would respond by e-mail. Rick Kibbey stated he would like to have Ron Lott assist with the report to ensure accuracy.

Rick Kibbey stated he wants to include statistics on park land growth, he also wants to include what the Parks Department has lost, and list the action items over the last year as well as provide a forecast to include priorities and issues.

**Addition – Moores Park School**

Rick Kibbey stated Moores Park School has been taken out of commission. This school sits next to one of the nicest parks in the city which also has one of our two outdoor pools. Before the Board has to deal with specific proposals regarding the sale of the school the Board needs to discuss and set a policy to be prepared before there is an offer on the school.

Paul Carrier inquired what the discussion would encompass as it pertains to the building. Rick Kibbey stated the Board needs to look at the sale of other schools in Lansing and what has happened to the parks adjacent to those schools.

Patrick Murray stated the neighborhood association has been contacted Gillespie and the association is under the impression he has already purchased the school. He thinks a discussion is a good idea.

**Updates**

**Crego Park** – Brett Kaschinske reviewed the status of the clean-up and the grant.

**Hunter's Ridge** – We have closed on this property and added 28 acres to park land.

**Administrative Office Re-Location** – The administrative offices will be moving from City Hall to the second floor at Foster Center in December

**Board Comments**

Dusty Fancher stated in the language sent out by the City Clerk previous to the election, the Board did not agree to use the money from the sale of Red Cedar to offset drain costs for the City.

Patricia Spitzley stated this is disrespectful to the Board and inquired who does the Board express concerns to and how.

Paul Carrier inquired if the language used in the promotional material on the ballot.

Brett Kaschinske stated we also need to look at the language Council voted on.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted: Kellie Brown, Park Board Secretary

Approved December 14, 2011