

**PARK BOARD MINUTES**  
**Southside Community Center**  
**September 14, 2011**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Dusty Fancher, Adam Hussain, Paul Carrier, Pat Murray, Luke Canfora

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Excused Rick Kibbey, Patricia Spitzley, Ron Lott

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Brett Kaschinske, Parks and Recreation Director; Greg Pratt; Steve Babcock; Julie Mannino; Loretta Stanaway, FOLHC; Kellie Brown, Board Secretary

**CALLED TO ORDER:** 7:05 p.m.

**ADDITIONS/DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA**

None

**STATEMENT OF CITIZENS**

Gregg Pratt stated he lives in Lansing Township by Waverly Park and Michigan Park. At this time neither one of the parks are being mowed which places the City of Lansing in violation of Lansing Township's ordinance. The Waverly sledding hill was created from the dirt removed for I-496 and is used by many people in the winter. In order to remain safe for sledding this winter it would need to be mowed before snowfall. There are large trucks parking overnight, along with truckers sleeping in their trucks at Michigan Park.

Waverly Park is located on a busy intersection with out sidewalks. Recently there were upgrades done by MDOT to meet ADA standards at the corner of Waverly and Saginaw, however the City will not put in sidewalks and with the over growth of grass and weeds individuals are put in danger when trying to reach the bus stop.

Again, this park is on a busy intersection which visitors travel from the airport and presents a terrible impression of Lansing. He would like to see the city work with the township on a solution for this property.

Dusty Fancher stated she appreciated his input and the Board understands Waverly is an issue and is working with the City and Parks Department on a solution.

Loretta Stanway stated her opinion is the Request for Proposal (RFP) for the cemeteries was not written by the Parks Department, but by an outside source. She believes LF Sloan is the company who wrote the RFP and they are directly linked to Stonemore Companies and that LF Sloan wrote the proposal specifically to meet Stonemore's credentials. She also stated Stonemore has an outstanding business deal with LF Sloan for a contract.

LF Sloan has a prior relationship with Stonemore and they structured the RFP so only Stonemore could meet the standards.

Dusty Fancher stated she spoke with the Director and understands information has been sent to him; however no decisions are being made on the cemeteries at this time.

Brett Kaschinske asked Loretta for information on the other companies that felt they were interested in the agreement. The RFP was sent out to 93 companies.

Loretta Stanaway stated Brett Kaschinske had asked for statements from concerned groups and for a compilations report.

**BOARD MINUTES**

Motion was made by Luke Canfora to accept the July 13, 2011 minutes as submitted, seconded by Pat Murray. 5 Yeas, 0 Nays. **Motion carried**

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Memorial Review Process**

Brett Kaschinske stated this is in committee and he expects it to pass. Anything in regard to re-naming of a park, pavilion, plaques, etc. would be the sole decision of the Park Board.

**Wentworth Park**

Steve Babcock has been with the Lansing Fire Department for 18 years and an Honor Guard member. In 2002 when a piece of the south tower was brought back to Lansing, it was a monument that stated Lansing remembers the over 3,000 individuals who lost their lives on 9/11.

The Lansing Fire and Police Departments each have small plaques located at their main stations. Babcock stated he would like to see something similar to Toronto where there is an area for city employees who have died and he would like to have a place in Lansing for all people to honor those lost in the line of work.

Steve Babcock stated he would like to honor all these individuals by requesting Wentworth Park become known as Remembrance Park. This is the largest piece of the trade center and there currently are bricks with 20 names of individuals from Michigan who perished.

Paul Carrier inquired if there are any restrictions regarding this park and possibly changing the name of it. Brett Kaschinske read an e-mail from Dick Schaefer which indicated there were no known restrictions.

Brett Kaschinske inquired if both Chief Cochran and Chief Szymanski have been asked for their opinion on this. Steve Babcock stated Chief Cochran has been and supports it. Also, Councilmember Quinney supports the idea.

Greg Pratt inquired if there is a Purple Heart memorial and what all military personnel are honored.

Loretta Stanaway stated Little Arlington has a Military Memorial and Mt. Hope Cemetery has a Firefighter memorial.

Dusty Fancher stated the Board will look into the request to ensure it would be done correctly.

**Red Cedar Project**

Brett Kaschinske stated the sale of a portion of the property will be placed on the ballot and the 12 acres has been appraised at \$5,000,000 dollars. He would like the Board's input on ways to use some of these funds and do we want to spend it all at Red Cedar. With the proceeds from the sale of this property, it may be the time to look at starting a Parks Foundation and the Park Board could entertain ideas to upgrade other parks using the foundation funds.

Dusty Fancher wants to be sure foundation money cannot be raided for other things and only used for parks.

**Friends of Greater Lansing Dog Park**

Brett Kaschinske stated The Friends of Greater Lansing Dog Park are dissolving and they will turn account balances over to Ingham County to assist with maintenance and upgrading the park.

At this time the park is not circular, but we are looking at the bridge to make it a full circle. The Key FOB system is working well with identification. There have been two dogs that have been removed from the system. There is an appeal process in place which owners may go through.

Adam Hussain inquired about usage of the park since the FOB system has been put into place.

Brett Kaschinske stated the park is used well. Due to the volume of traffic there is no grass and the flooding caused erosion.

**Park Board & Committee of the Whole Joint Meeting**

Pat Murray inquired about the report regarding what parks have been mowed over the years and what are we mowing now. He is questioning the reason for “naturalization” when we are mowing 50% fewer parks.

Brett Kaschinske stated there are 114 parks, out of which 40 parks are in the agreement with the County and 11 parks are school sites.

Pat Murray inquired how many parks are we mowing and how much of each park. He stated when we had the park employees, all the parks were mowed. Now Public Service has the employees and the parks are not all being mowed.

Paul Carrier stated the Board members find out about this information when they read the papers or watch the news, but are not included or informed by the City.

Dusty Fancher provided Brett Kaschinske with an article about naturalization and it is not abandonment.

Brett Kaschinske stated in other communities it is referred to as “no mow zones” which better describes the situation. We are also working on plans for wild flower plantings for butterflies and tree plantings.

Greg Pratt inquired if the Parks Department had looked into the Wild Ones Organization for grants. Also Detroit is getting sponsorships for parks; however that may require the re-naming of parks such as General Motors Park.

Steve Babcock stated they have noticed an increase in wildlife habitat at Fire Station 6 with the naturalization.

Adam Hussain stated he can not understand why the Park Board and neighborhood organizations were not brought in on the discussion and decision and it also appears that certain areas may be targeted.

Brett Kaschinske stated we need to look at where to go from here. Some changes have been made at Ranney Park, Grand River Park, Beck and Ingham Parks.

**UPDATES**

**Ingham County Mowing Agreement**

Brett Kaschinske stated the mowing agreement with Ingham County is ready for signatures. Any park less than five acres and along the RiverTrail will be mowed by the county. The agreement includes mowing, weed whip, graffiti removal which takes less than one hour, trash, snow removal of side walks and lots. They will comply with the city ordinance on snow removal.

**Hunter’s Ridge Acquisition**

Paperwork is being completed and this should be closing in October.

**River Trail**

There is significant damage at I-496 and 127 due to heavy rains. The RiverTrail will be closing (narrowing) down during repairs.

**Washington Park**

Washington Park has some options on the table with a curling club and Todd Martin Development Fund/USTA.

**Personnel**

The Manager's position should be posted soon. The Southside Community Center programmer is leaving on September 30 and there are clerk openings at Southside and Foster Community Centers.

Next Park Board meeting will be Wednesday, October 12 at 7 p.m. at Letts Community Center, 1220 W. Kalamazoo.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted: Kellie Brown, Park Board Secretary  
Approved November 9, 2011