

PARK BOARD MINUTES
Letts Community Center
October 9, 2013

MEMBERS PRESENT: Rick Kibbey, Olivia Martin, Adam Hussain

MEMBERS ABSENT: Paul Holland, Dusty Fancher, Patricia Spitzley, Patricia Pisano

OTHERS PRESENT: Bob Every, Greater Lansing Hall of Fame (GLHF); Brett Kaschinske, Parks and Recreation Director; Kellie Brown, Board Secretary

CALLED TO ORDER: 7:15 p.m.

ADDITIONS/DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA

Brett Kaschinske added county millage under new business.

STATEMENTS OF CITIZENS

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

September 11, 2013 minutes tabled until next month due to lack of quorum.

NEW BUSINESS

Ranney Park

Bob Every, Greater Lansing Hall of Fame, submitted an application to place a plaque at Ranney Ballfield to honor Dr. Ranney. Dr. George Ranney is who Ranney Park is already named for. Dr. Ranney was a Civil War surgeon in 1864 and was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor in 1901 for extraordinary heroism and bravery above and beyond the call of duty. He was the first to receive a Congressional Medal of Honor.

Dr. Ranney settled in Lansing and became well known for several medical achievements. He married into the Sparrow family and is buried at Mt. Hope Cemetery. Dr. Ranney donated the land to the citizens of Lansing for a park and recreational purpose.

Bob Every stated at this time there is not a plaque at Ranney recognizing and acknowledging Dr. Ranney and since he donated so much it would be deserving. Every would like to see if the Board would support this.

GLHF would purchase the plaque for around \$3,500, with the City providing installation. The plaque would be placed on the score tower facing the Frandor parking lot.

Every stated the GLHF sponsors the Girl's Hall of Fame All Star Game at Ranney each year and he thinks it would be nice to have a plaque on site. Every would recommend dedicating the plaque on June 23, 2014 at the All Star Game. There would be a large crowd, plus media coverage for all the games.

Adam Hussain inquired if the recommended installation site is the best visibility. Every stated yes.

Brett Kaschinske stated there are different entries to the park but this site would allow us to have something to attach it to and should high enough to resist graffiti.

Rick Kibbey stated the GLHF is an outstanding example of a group stepping up and taking ownership of a park by maintaining it and running programs.

Brett Kaschinske stated when items of this nature come before the board and there is a cost attached it may not be obtainable, however, Bob Every has the money to support this dedication.

This plaque is not a renaming of the park, because it is already named Ranney Park after Dr. Ranney, but a way of providing history on the person it is already named after.

Olivia Martin inquired if a motion could be made without a quorum. Kibbey stated yes.

Olivia Martin moved to approve the dedication memorial to Dr. Ranney with an electronic vote from the absent board members. 3 yeas; 0 nays.

**An e-mail was sent on Thursday morning, October 10, 2013 to the absent board members. Dusty Fancher, Paul Holland and Patricia Pisano all responded with a yea vote. Mr. Every was notified accordingly.

Motion carried. 6 yeas; 0 nays;

County Millage

Olivia Martin inquired if the county needs more money for their parks.

Rick Kibbey stated this is collaboration with the county commissioners. This was first brought up last August without preparation. There is now language that has been prepared.

Brett Kaschinske stated he received an e-mail from Willis Bennett, Ingham County Parks Director, with some of the language which is *"Ingham County proposes to create a county system of recreational trails and adjacent parks. This system may incorporate trails or parks previously created by local units of government, including Lansing's River Trail, and may acquire rights of way to connect and extend existing trails. For the purpose of creating and operating such a county trail system, shall Ingham County be permitted to levy a tax of not more than 0.50 mills, that being ... "*

Brett Kaschinske stated he had just heard today this item may have been pulled.

Olivia Martin inquired if the commissioners are friendly to Lansing Parks. Rick Kibbey stated yes.

Olivia Martin inquired if this would pass now.

Brett Kaschinske stated this would be next November and yes it would. The battle will be what is in for the areas that do not have parks in their districts. The plan is to get it on the ballot and get support for the millage.

Brett Kaschinske stated he and Rick Kibbey met with a group yesterday to discuss a Friends of Rivertrail.

Rick Kibbey stated when this came up before; residents did not feel it was their responsibility to bail out the city. The rationale on the zoo millage is that county wide residents do use it.

Olivia Martin inquired if there is data on Rivertrail use.

Brett Kaschinske stated yes there is and it was done by MSU a while ago.

Adam Hussain inquired when the current Park Millage will expire. Kaschinske stated 2015. Hussain inquired how this new millage could impact us and the park millage.

Brett Kaschinske stated that is on his mind and he has concerns about how our millage was used for subsidies. He will rely on a list of projects that have been done during the last five years that millage money was used for such as; Crego which is a 200 acre park that will be linked to the rivertrail, baby land at the cemetery has been improved, and a fence project at Foster Center to name a few. Also, this millage is a renewal and we have put out Request for Proposals to reduce the subsidies.

Brett Kaschinske stated both the park millage and county millage would come up close together and will require work from the board.

Adam Hussain stated with the lack of CIP projects and naturalization over the last few years it will be a challenge.

Olivia Martin does not think the millage for the county will pass.

Rick Kibbey asked Brett Kaschinske for public information to prepare for the millage.

OLD BUSINESS

Foundation/Friends of Parks

Rick Kibbey stated his goal is to have Articles of Incorporation by the next meeting; then present the Bylaws.

UPDATES

Cemetery Events

Brett Kaschinske stated the Friends of Lansing Historic Cemeteries (FOLHC) had over 100 people at their Murder Mystery Scavenger Hunt event this past Saturday. They have done a great job on exposure. The fundraiser is for the FOLHC, but they put the money back into the cemeteries with projects.

Olivia Martin inquired if this group would be an example of a subset under the Parks Foundation. Kaschinske stated yes, as would the Friends of Rivertrail group he is trying to establish.

Crego

Brett Kaschinske stated construction has started and this should be done in November. A grand opening will be at a later date.

REMARKS BY BOARD MEMBERS

Adam Hussain stated he wanted to speak on the lack of quorum. He understands it is a citizen advisory board, but why is it taking so long to get members on the board.

Brett Kaschinske state he spoke with Joe McDonald and he will talk with Joe again and let him know it was brought up at the meeting.

Respectfully Submitted: Kellie Brown, Park Board Secretary
Approved December 11, 2013