

**PARK BOARD NOTES**  
**Schmidt Southside Community Center**  
**August 14, 2013**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Rick Kibbey, Paul Holland, Olivia Martin,

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Dusty Fancher, Patricia Spitzley, Patricia Pisano, Adam Hussain

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Mike Schury, President Westside Neighborhood Association; Nancy Danhof, Executive Director Todd Martin Development Fund; Paul Dykema, Assistant Superintendent of Public Service; Brett Kaschinske, Parks and Recreation Director; Kellie Brown, Board Secretary

**CALLED TO ORDER:** 7:02 p.m.

**ADDITIONS/DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA**

Brett Kaschinske introduced Nila Husby, new part time Aquatics Programmer.

**STATEMENT OF CITIZENS**

None

**BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

Tabled until September meeting due to lack of quorum.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Forestry Program**

Paul Holland had a list of trees to be removed or that have already been removed which included 5 removed trees and 36 more trees to be removed. Holland stated they have heard from Public Service there is a 95% replacement of removed trees; however this is not the case on the Westside. Holland asked what the replacement rate for the Westside is and the 41 trees.

Paul Dykema stated they evaluate what can be cut down with attention given to street trees which has a higher failure rate. They started last October and plan to finish by September 1 only to start again to evaluate city wide. It varies each year between 700 and 1200 trees and in cases, such as the Emerald Ash, it was at the higher end.

Dykema stated the planting program fluctuates between 450 and 800 trees and has never been in sync with the removal of trees; there has always been a lag. In addition it has evolved over the years and new sites have been considered and what were once thought to be good sites are no longer considered.

This fall and winter they will go through the Westside to find sites with help from the neighborhood to determine sites, provide instruction on how to dig holes and what type of trees will be delivered.

Paul Holland asked for a ballpark figure of the number of trees produced in the nursery.

Paul Dykema stated the number is declining due to the lack of staff to run the nursery and shutting down the nurseries. There is a Request for Proposal (RFP) out to purchase trees.

Rick Kibby inquired if all the nurseries were being closed. Dykema stated yes.

Paul Holland clarified the City does not have an RFP at this time, so the City purchases ad-hoc.

Dykema stated yes, he purchases bare root trees

Paul Holland inquired the price range of the purchased trees. Dykema stated \$19 for common trees to \$50 for specialty trees.

Paul Holland stated if the City were to cut 1,000 trees they should replace 1,000 trees, but this is not happening. Is it due to the price of the tree or city labor? Holland inquired if we can organize a committed group and if a neighborhood organization could do a one to one match does the City have \$15 and the neighborhood could match \$15. The match would need to be approved by the neighborhood association and they would like to see every tree replaced.

Paul Dykema stated they would look at the neighborhood, check visibility, future damage to sidewalks and available sites.

Rick Kibbey would like to hear how this project is progressing and see if it could be done in other neighborhoods.

Mike Schury stated the Westside wants to partner with the city and there is money to match. Schury stated the neighborhood board is meeting tomorrow and he would need to know how much is needed to match and how to proceed with the match to the City if the association approves.

Paul Holland clarified planting would be between April and May.

Brett Kaschinske inquired about gator bags to water the trees and instructions for neighbors on how to maintain the trees. Also, want to make sure the individual who has the tree planted in front of their home is willing to water the tree.

Mike Schury inquired if there is a list of approved trees. Dykema stated the list of non-approved trees is shorter.

### **Todd Martin Tennis**

Nancy Danhof, Executive Director Todd Martin Development Fund (TMDF), stated they run a summer tennis program and after school program.

Todd Martin was a resident of Lansing and East Lansing. He became a pro tennis player in 1992 at the age of 18. In 1993 he, his father and Rich Ferman decided to make tennis available to area youth and worked in cooperation with the Capital Region Community Foundation until TMDF became a 501c3.

The program started small with 30 students. Todd's idea was to use the Code of Conduct governed by tennis worldwide, and that is tennis is a life skill.

Once TMDF obtained 501c3 status, they started their own leadership program and this summer there were over 300 youth who participated.

The program uses a national curriculum called First Serve. This is a three year minimum program with rigorous standards. The first level is known as Game; second level is Set and third level is Match. It is for grades 4 through 7. Once the three levels are completed, youth enter the leadership portion begin to give back to the community. This program also provides tutoring and mentoring. This program is broad and far reaching beyond tennis. Tennis is the hook to get youth interested and involved in a sport. The program starts with the Quick Start method utilizing smaller courts, large foam balls, and a large racquet; youth are able to play in about an hour.

The summer program meets five days a week and is for ages 8 to 12 and 13 to 18. Leadership speakers are brought in on for the older kids and activities are done with the younger kids. Fridays are field trips to take the kids outside of the community and outside of their 20 block area.

TMDF's dream is to partner with Lansing Parks and Recreation and USTA to rebuild Washington Park into an outdoor tennis facility and learning center.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

**Park Re-alignment**

Rick Kibbey stated he sat down and looked over the material and realized this is a plan. He thinks the board took care of the concerns that were the driving force of this report.

It would not be too soon to work on the upcoming master plan for 2015. There are three ways to do this: one would be to set up a board committee; second would be to set up a board and public committee with 3 or 4 neighborhood representatives; and third is to go ahead and start the planning process.

Previously the plan was to develop lists for funding from DNR grants; however this is not as big a part of the plan as it used to be.

Rick Kibbey stated when the money from the sale of Red Cedar or Waverly is available it would be a starting point for a parks foundation. Foundations are usually involved with non-profits.

Rick Kibbey inquired if it would make sense to start the 5-year plan early and start with what is already on the table with the park re-alignment.

Olivia stated before the RFP goes out, she would like the board to look at it and discuss the priorities for the new RFP.

Brett Kaschinske stated MRPA is looking at a larger scale for plans, such as county wide or tri-county wide.

Paul Holland inquired how often the plan is referred to. He is hesitant to start planning for the next 5-year plan while in a 5-year plan and base it on emergency situations.

Olivia Martin and Paul Holland agree on a board committee.

Meeting adjourned at 9:10 p.m.