



**PARKS & RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD
MEETING MINUTES**

**August 7, 2024
Richmond Park**

Call to Order

Meeting was called to order at 6:07 p.m.

Roll Call

Present: Max Gibbs, Hannah Mico, Stacy Bare, Kelli Jo Peltier, Megan Catcho, Sam Moore

Others: David Marquardt, Michelle Slykhouse (Grand Rapids Parks Department)

Approval of Agenda

Motion made by Megan Catcho, supported by Max Gibbs, to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried.

Approval of Minutes

Motion made by Max Gibbs, supported by Hannah Mico, to approve the June 5, 2024 minutes as presented. Motion carried.

Comments from Public

None.

Agenda Item(s)

Plaza Roosevelt Park naming

David stated the park naming committee needs more time to review suggestions. There are 164 suggested names, 95 align with the park naming policy. The top few will be presented at the October meeting for consideration.

Martin Luther King Park naming

David stated that due to park construction the name of the park has been discussed. Max stated that Jr should be on the park name. Motion made by Stacy Bare, supported by Megan Catcho, to re-name the park Martin Luther King, Jr. Park. Motion carried.

Parks and Recreation Advisory Board representative to Urban Forestry Committee 2025

Hannah Mico will be the representative in 2025. Michelle will contact the Clerk's office to get the appointment ready at year end.

Parks Master Plan progress update

David provided a parks millage update and accomplishments thus far with work outlined in the Parks and Recreation Master Plan.

Megan asked whether the number of family paddle nights could increase. David stated it is a possibility and planning will happen this winter.

Megan asked whether the Parks Department sends any newsletters about the park improvements and schedules. Megan stated there are questions being asked about events and whether they can be held at certain parks due to construction schedules.

Kelli Jo stated there is a website specific for the river project where some updates are being made.

Sam asked whether the cemetery budget is self-sufficient. David stated there are General Operating Funds used to support.

Hannah asked for more detail about the Silver and Plaster Creek projects. David stated it is mostly trail connections, daylighting, and some development.

Max asked whether the Sullivan Field project will need more funding due to the wood rot found during construction. David stated there is an architect who evaluated the project and there is a way to move forward by building more support.

Max asked whether there is a plan for the 32nd Street site. David stated there is a plan and it will be a phased approach for development.

Stacy stated Ball Perkins exterior loops are being constructed. A forest assessment and recommendation/land management plan will be developed later this year. A grant from International Mountain Biking Association was received to create a bike trail master plan. An Environmental Educator will be hired to help with invasive species work.

Future agenda items

- Plaza Roosevelt Park naming
- Trail construction and naming
- Urban Forestry update

Comments from the board

Stacy stated Friends of Grand Rapids Parks is creating a strategic plan that will be tied to the Parks and Recreation Master Plan.

Megan stated there is a return to the river event at Riverside Park.

Sam stated engineering work is happening for the Grand River Greenway. The tunnel under Northland Drive will start June 2025 and will be done before the following LPGA tour. Design of the park-to-park bridge in Ada is happening and it will be a suspension bridge.

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 7:03 p.m.