

Martha Baldwin Park Board Meeting Minutes September 28, 2016

The meeting was called to order at 11:30 AM at the Department of Public Services Conference room.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Ronald Buchanan, Linda Forrester, Jane McKee and Robert Kenning

ADMINISTRATION: Carrie Laird, Parks and Recreation Manager
Michael Jurek, Parks Assistant Foreman

It was moved by Bob Kenning, seconded by Linda Forrester that the minutes of the May 12, 2016 on site meeting be approved as submitted.

Yeas- 4 Jane McKee, Robert Kenning, Linda Forrester, Ronald Buchanan

Nays- 0

STAFF AND BOARD MEMBERS REVEIWED PARK FEATURES

Communication/Discussion Item #1- Parjana Drainage Project.

Carrie and Mike gave an update on the Parjana project. Carrie stated that the project has been canceled due to the "wetland" nature of the wet area at Martha Baldwin Park. The hired contractor, Parjana, has the responsibility to contact the MDEQ for a permit for any project that falls within 500 feet of a water body and because of its proximity to the Rouge River, Parjana contacted the MDEQ to begin the process. Parjana was told by the DEQ that this area is designated a wetland and will not qualify for this project of relocating water in the water table. Because this area is not the typical wetland, Parjana paid for soil testing to determine whether or not it may need reclassification and if there may be a chance of pursuing this project. The results of the soil test showed that the soil composition is identical to a wetland composition. Parjana confirmed that they are unable to perform the work as requested; relocating this water is not permitted through the MDEQ.

Mike stated that the area is becoming too difficult to work with; the wet area around the perimeter is growing. Carrie stated that a contractor has been hired to treat the Canadian thistle and also the invasive cattails that have taken over the planting bed.

Bob Kenning suggested that the City contact the DEQ to determine other options. The question of health and safety was discussed with the issue of standing water. Jane suggested a willow tree be planted. Linda had some ideas on plantings, and boulders, possibly a pond. Mike suggested leaving it natural. To start, it was determined that city staff would contact the DEQ.

Communication/Discussion Item #2- Ideas for Improvements

Ron Buchanan stated that the park needs more color, more annuals or flowering shrubs. There was discussion on the use of native plants. Mike suggested adding roses. The board liked the idea.

Ron also stated that the board should consider an improvement such as a gazebo. Discussion on budget and location occurred. Carrie stated that there is nothing budgeted at this time. Ron stated the best place for a gazebo has an art piece located in the way. Ron asked that staff research the cost of a gazebo. In addition, staff was asked to report back on the procedure for relocating a sculpture. Bob stated that the existing art work location was approved by the Martha Baldwin Park Board, but that the art piece was temporary, that it was to be on a rotational, non-permanent schedule.

DISCUSSION OF ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA

Ron suggested that the board meet on a more regular schedule, more often than what has been occurring. He suggested 3-4 times per year. The board agreed.

Carrie stated that next meeting will be determined at a later date and at the next meeting, staff will propose suggested meeting dates for 2017.

The meeting adjourned at 12:35 am
Carrie Laird, Parks and Recreation Manager