Berkley Parks and Recreation Advisory Panel Meeting Minutes 9/11/2019

Attendance: Greg Patterson, Gary Polk, Betty Smith, John Nicolai, Joshua Pollard, Jes Alger
City Council Member: Bridget Dean
Absent: Mike Kerby
Parks and Recreation: Theresa McArleton

Call to order: 7 PM Vice Chair Polk lead the meeting in the absence of Chair Kerby

Approval of Agenda: Motioned by Betty Smith and seconded by Josh Pollard

Approval of prior minutes: Motioned by Jes Alger and Seconded by John Nicolai

Public Comments: Introductions were made.
Adrian from Friends of Parks and Rec: Friends group is looking for ways to help improve the parks and recreation. They are open to suggestions. They are working on a few different projects and will have more to share soon.

Betty Carpenter, Gardner Avenue, has concern over the noise that the new batting tunnel may potentially cause her. The tunnel will be placed near the baseball fields in Community one park. The batting tunnel is a gift from the Berkley Dad’s Club but will be open for public use. The purpose of the batting tunnel is to allow a safe spot for kids to practice pitching and hitting a baseball. There is currently not an enclosed space that allows for this. There is no permanent pitching machine in the plans for the project, but users may bring one. There is no lighting to be installed in the tunnel at this time. Ms. Carpenter anticipates the noise created from baseballs being hit will become a nuisance to her and decrease her property value. It was noted that city staff, Ms. Carpenter, members from Berkley Dad’s Club and members from city council met prior to the PR advisory board meeting. The Berkley Dad’s Club is looking into the option of a sound barrier. City staff is looking at the option of having permitted use as they do with other parks. Ms. Carpenter was thanked for voicing her concerns and attending the PR advisory board meeting it was suggested she follow up with city staff.

Program Update:
Trips and lunch outings are starting to pick back up after slowing down over the summer. Tickets are still available for the Detroit Tigers Game. September and October lunch outings to Highland House and American Harvest are sold out. The partnership with Oakland County Parks for an upcoming Fall Color Tour and Classic Christmas dinner was continued this year and both trips are already sold out.
Shows at Meadowbrook Theatre continue to be a huge success. Murder on the Orient Express will be the next show in early October. Chair Yoga and Enhance Fitness continue to thrive. The yearlong contract signed with Beaumont is coming to a close, but PR is currently weighing options on transitioning Enhance Fitness. CruiseFest and Dream Cruise went off without a hitch again this year. Over 350 cars rolled down 12 Mile for thousands of people to see. All 234 parking spaces were sold again this year with no issue.

SUMMER CAMP UPDATES
Day camp included 427 kids and averaged 180 campers a day (sold out our max of 200 on several days). Numbers up from last year’s record breaking numbers. Revenue from Day Camp exceed 300k for the third row in a year. Wonderful group of campers, counselors and directors and of course kudos to Scott for all he does throughout the year to prepare for camp.
The board and PR director thanked Scott for his hard work and dedication to the summer camp program. Counsel Member Dean mentioned she noticed first hand the organization and commitment to the kids from the summer camp staff. The school district for allowing us use of Anderson and allowing us to store some items there now has been a great partnership.
Several specialty camps also ran all summer long. These included: boys and girls basketball, baseball, volleyball, leisure unlimited sports camps, Legos, soccer, golf, young Rembrandts, little ninjas, nerf/mania, gymnastics, and oakventures. The board mentioned that many times the amount of work the PR staff is not noticed. The current staff truly is an asset the city and are committed to making Berkley a better place for all.
SUMMERFEST WRAP-UP
SummerFest 2019 was a huge success. Tot Lot was very crowded, and everyone seemed to love the inflatable slip and slide that was rented this year. The Senior Picnic was moved back inside this year due to weather but everyone who attended enjoyed the lunch and entertainment provided. Jaycee Jamboree was well attended again this year with the free ice cream, popcorn, face painting and tie dye being the favorite activities. The ice cream social was also well attended by both participants and vendors. Looking forward to Touch-A-Truck on Saturday, October 5 and runs from 10am – 12pm.

ARENA DEMO UPDATES
Demolition of the arena is going well, and progress is on schedule to be complete by the end of September. Company has been great to work with, they have kept a clean sight and communicated well with PR staff. Most neighbors have also been positive with the project. Friends of the Parks and Rec are looking to donate money to turn the space into an outdoor hockey rink. This will be delayed until the grass is mature enough to hold the rink. Several members of the board remember when how an outdoor rink was once there. The current plan will be for greenspace.

PARK IMPROVEMENTS
Several park improvement project were completed over the summer. The fencing is completed at Merchants Park. Tennis court crack repair complete at the Community Park. Jaycee Park equipment fully installed and in use since the end of July many citizens are happy with the new equipment. The engineering services for the work at Oxford/Merchants will be awarded at 9/16/19 council meeting and bid work will begin. Our Project Agreement has been fully executed and we are looking to start that work in the spring of 2020. The project will be sent to bid as an entire project to be good stewards of the funding. Bidding as one will lesson the funds needed and typically gives a better price. Additional improvements to drainage will be undergone at Lazenby in the spring.

FALL SCHEDULE
Drop in play began this Monday and new time this Friday at 11:30 – 1:30. Dance with Premier Plus, Karate, Zumba, Babysitting, Jump-a-rama and more all began this week. Adult classes with Yoga, Tai Chi, Boot Camp, Dog Obedience, Hunter Safety and more all happening now or starting soon. Touch-A-Truck on 10/5 from 10am-12pm. BooFest with Junior Women’s on 10/28. Tale on the Trail – 10/24 at Jaycee Park. A complete listing of events can be found in the Buzz and also online.

MISCELLANEOUS
Theresa McArleton: Dream Cruise – Cruisefest All of Dan’s hard work on these events makes these events successful. He is enthusiastic and makes sure these events are well put together. Summer in recreation is incredibly busy. I’m so grateful again to our staff for all their hard work during these months. The board also recognized the success of the Parks and Recreation Department is a reflection of the staff’s dedication.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:55 PM Motioned by Betty Smith and seconded by Josh Pollard