

**MINUTES**  
**IRVING PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD**  
**MONDAY JANUARY 12, 2009**  
**COUNCIL CONFERENCE ROOM**  
**6:00 P.M.**

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Kimberly Zahorik  
Marcy Brown-Marsden  
Matt Davis  
Chuck Kirk  
Helen Chaplin  
Karen Harmon  
Larry Stipes  
Trivella Smith  
Mike Kwiatkowski

**IPAR STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Chris Michalski  
Dwight Pinnix  
Gayle Averitt  
Gene Moulden  
Becky Dietz  
Walter Ritchie

**BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:**

**Item 1 – Swearing in of New Members**

Gayle Averitt swore in new members Trivella Smith and Mike Kwiatkowski.

**Item 2 – Election of Officers**

Chuck Kirk opened the floor for nominations for the election of officers. Marcy Brown-Marsden nominated Chuck Kirk for another term as Chair. Larry Stipes 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. Chuck was elected by acclamation. Matt Davis nominated Larry Stipes for Vice Chair. Karen Harmon 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. Larry was elected by acclamation. Karen Harmon nominated Marcy Brown-Marsden for Secretary. Matt Davis 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. Marcy was elected by acclamation.

**Item 3 – Approval of Minutes**

Larry Stipes made a motion to approve the minutes. Marcy Brown-Marsden 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**Item 4 – Council Action Report**

No report this month.

**Item 5 – Chairperson Report**

No report this month.

**Item 6 - Information Items**

**A. Presentation – Lively Pointe Youth Center Activities**

Ray Cerda, supervisor of the Lively Pointe Youth Center, made a power point presentation on the activities and events that have brought in great attendance since the center opened.

Ray Answered questions from board members.

**B. Presentation – Arbor Master Training**

Mike Griffith, supervisor of the Central District of Parks and Recreation, made a power point presentation on Arbor Master Training. The Parks and Recreation has hosted an Arbor Master Training class the past five years. Arbor Master is a world-wide tree company that focuses on safety, skills and productivity for the tree care business. The class consists of tree climbing, felling and rigging. By hosting this program, the City is allowed to have one employee attend the classes for free saving the city money. The city also gets the benefit of our trees being trimmed, and or taken down which is a huge cost savings. Mike Griffith answered questions from board members.

**C. Director's Report**

Gayle Averitt informed the board members of the Miracle League Field/ADA playground groundbreaking that will be at 2 p.m. on January 27<sup>th</sup> at Cottonwood Park.

Chris Michalski advised board members of a special request that he has received. The request was to put together an ordinance to ban fishing in the bodies of water in the Irving Park system. Chris wanted to share this request with board members in case it was discussed later as an agenda item to ban fishing.

Chris informed the board that at the last City Council Meeting, approximately \$850,000 was awarded for beautification on MacArthur from Hunter Ferrell up to Shady Grove and also on Beltline to a point just south of Rock Island. This will be a very massive landscape undertaking with a significant number of native plants being used. Chris answered questions from board members.

Chris updated the board on the Lively Skate Park vandalism. After the skate park is locked down for the night, vandals have come in and destroyed the electrical system trying to turn the lights back on so they could skate after closing. This has happened at least three times in the past six weeks with the last time being a very hazardous situation. Some of the signage at the skate park has also been vandalized. Chris has requested Parks staff to monitor the situation and after incidents of this nature, the facility will be closed down for a day or two to get everybody's attention as to this type of behavior will not be tolerated. This move is to encourage the patrons to self police themselves. The Parks department is looking into the possibility of using surveillance cameras at this location. Chris answered questions from board members.

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Chris also updated board members of the \$40,000 to \$45,000 worth of damage sustained 18 months ago at Trinity View where copper thieves were coming in and breaking out the manhole, cutting the wire and pulling it out getting over 7,000 linear feet in one night. Trinity View has been hit several times since then pushing the damages up to \$80,000 in loss. The last time the wiring was replaced, the parks department had come up with an idea to hide the wire so the copper thieves could only get 10 feet or so. The thieves struck again coming up from the south side of the park, cutting trees down to get onto our property, took the power pole to the ground and stole 800 ft. of wiring from the back side of the park off of Shady Grove. The wiring alone was estimated to be a \$15,000 loss. Chris requested that staff advise the Athletic organizations that repairs will be needed.

Chris answered questions from board members.

### **D. Athletic/Aquatic Activities Update**

Walter Ritchie updated board members of upcoming activities. Walter answered questions from board members.

### **E. Recreation Activities Update**

Dwight Pinnix updated board members of the upcoming activities including the MLK Observance, the Father/daughter dance and Family Fishing Day.

### **F. Current Projects Update**

Gene Moulden updated the board on the progress of the current projects. Gene answered questions from board members.

## **Item 7 – Committee Reports**

Kimberly Zahorik advised other board members that the Park Naming Committee is still in process of making a recommendation to be brought to the Park Board for consideration.

Marcy Brown-Marsden mentioned the Eco-tourism Committee is planning an event on February 14<sup>th</sup> at Campion Trail. The event is still in the planning stages and she will have more information at a later date.

## **Item 8 – Future Agenda Items/Open Discussion**

## **Item 9 – Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:40 p.m.