

Parks and Recreation Board Meeting Minutes  
City of Mount Vernon  
July 15, 2014 - City Hall

The Mount Vernon Parks and Recreation Board met on July 15, 2014 at 7:00 p.m. with the following members present: Scott Rose, Lori Boren and Mike Cranston. Absent: Jason Weaver and Kelli Chapman. Also in attendance: Parks and Recreation Director, Matt Siders.

1. Approval of the Agenda. Motion made by Boren, seconded by Cranston to approve agenda. Carried all.
2. Approval of the Minutes from May 20, 2014 meeting. Motion made by Boren, seconded by Cranston to approve agenda. Carried all.
3. Open Forum: Each citizen is limited to 5 minutes. None.
4. Directors Report – May 2014 and June 2014. All ball events went well. Have had weather issues during pool season causing closures. Discussion on the possibility of a heater for pool at a cost of \$25, 000-\$30, 000 to aid in revenue. Swim team finished the season 3<sup>rd</sup> place in the conference out of nine teams. Online registration at 75% after second year. Need to work on online facilities scheduling. Summer camp at Cornell, maxed out at 16, Pullback Car Frenzy was a success, the other camp not enough registration. Family golf day, had 16 people there. Had a good time. MVL Community Day at the ballpark July 20<sup>th</sup>. 40 kids in archery camp, double from last year. The Board likes the bullet point inclusion on the maintenance items needing addressed.
5. Discussion regarding Communication Plan. Items discussed were a guest column in The Sun, putting together a playbook, template for a newsletter, downloadable list of events, possibly a brochure, adding use of social media, getting more community involvement at board meetings. Some items could be added to the master plan. The ultimate goal is a master calendar highlighting events and registration due dates for in house use. Elements of the calendar could be used in the brochure. Cranston will discuss the guest column with Jake at The Sun. Boren will work on template with Rose. Siders reviewed information from Mail Chimp. Brochure is still in process. Rose will be in charge of social media, and will review changing Facebook to aid in following with comments. Community involvement in meetings will be a long term issue, possibly using the guest column to spur interest, and having an open house once the parks plan is finalized. Facebook could also be used to spread the word. Rose suggested a working spreadsheet of events and registration to be used internally as an operations calendar to aid in

monthly meetings. Rose and Siders will work on this. Deadline for completion of the plan is August 2014. Rose will contact Chapman to work on the social media.

6. Discussion regarding Nature Park Quarry and Pond Remediation. Siders tried to contact Paul Sleeper and his office, which is part of IDNR, and they don't have an answering machine to get recommendations. The quarry is covered with duck meal. Due to the fish kill it doesn't have any fresh water runoff. There is also a lot of foliage which keeps out the sunlight. The water needs to be treated with Sonar, at a cost of \$630 per half acre. Siders would like a written plan in place with the IDNR for the quarry. At this point restocking will not take place until next spring. If the city goes with a pond management company the IDNR will pull out as a resource. Siders will take this issue before council in August as the quarry is an asset to the community and needs to be developed and taken care of it. Boren asked that Siders contact IDNR and see if there is an issue in the lack of response. Rose requested an estimated ongoing annual cost for treatment to the quarry should the IDNR step out and Siders will bring an action plan back in August to the Board.
7. Discussion regarding Parks Projects and Public Works Maintenance. Siders reviewed the list and e-mails that had been sent to Dean Smyth listing the routine items and ongoing maintenance. In May Siders and Smyth discussed having one person designated to do all of the items on the list, and half were done. June 19<sup>th</sup> new list created with storm damage, etc. The Elliott concession had a pipe burst and has black mold. Public Works needs to remove the drywall and replace with cement block, scheduled for June 23, and then moved to June 30<sup>th</sup>. Siders reviewed the list of items that have not been completed over the last three months. Pipe burst at all locations due to winter maintenance not being completed. Trees are down at the disc golf course. The delegation falls on the Lead Operator with the absence of a Public Works Director. Siders asked for Board support as the department will be over budget due to hiring out some of the tasks. Smyth is not responding to communication from Siders. Rose will contact Beimer with concerns.
8. Discussion regarding Master Parks Plan. Siders has asked that the Master Parks Plan not going into as much detail and will revamp his approach. Estimated to have it done by the end of the year, including public hearing, and is looking for feedback from the Board, Siders would like to include a fitness trail by Stoner Park. The Board goal is to have all feedback to Siders by the end of the next week.
9. Subcommittee reports (Parks, Capital, Pool, Programming, and Volunteer). None.
10. Old Business. Siders gave an update on the transportation maps. Siders and Winder met with Cornell on lit pedestrian signs by the Fitness Center. The signs

needs to be consistent throughout the community. The other area is next to Nature Park by the Petrick Trail. Siders will provide mapping to the Board. The signage is part of the Transportation Grant. Siders would like the Board to consider trails, paths and color coding to put on the kiosk. Boren updated the Board that she has GPS the disc golf course. Council approved \$1,000 for the project. Tristen Rud is working on this as an eagle scout project. Boren also met with Katie Sanders on the pool items and will discuss it with Siders.

11. New Business. Siders presented the existing Adopt a Park form. REM would like to adopt the Elliott Athletic Complex.

12. Motion made by Cranston, seconded by Boren to adjourn the meeting at 8:09 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Marsha Dewell, Administrative Assistant.