



Regular Meeting of the Park Commission
City of University City
April 24, 2012
Centennial Commons, 7210 Olive Blvd.

President Caryn St. Clair called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm. Other members present were:
Karen Dille
William Field
Ed Mass
Karen Palmer
Linda Peoples
Andrea Riganti, Director of Community Development
Richard Wilson, Director of Public Works/Parks
Lynda Euell-Taylor, Deputy Director of Recreation

Approval of Minutes from March 27, 2012

Ms. St. Clair indicated under Citizen's Comments should be amended to read: "A formal vote on the request will be taken at the *April 24, 2012* Park Commission meeting."

Ms. Peoples moved approval as amended, Mr. Field seconded. Vote taken: all approved.

Citizen's Comments – none

Department Report:

a. Public Works and Parks Update:

Mr. Wilson reported:

Park Maintenance: Water service has been returned to all park restrooms, drinking fountains, and irrigation systems. Work has begun on the Wilson buyout property. The area is in need of clean up; crews are removing debris such as bricks, steel re-rod and other construction materials prior to mowing. Once the cleanup is completed; crews will perform finish mowing; tree pruning and removal where needed.

Olive Blvd: There are a few trees along Olive which were healthy at the time of inspection last year, that have since died. The replacement trees have been ordered, and planting will begin in April/May.

Mooney Playground: The project is completed. I am working on the closeout of the LWCF, working through the bureaucracy. Hope to have everything ready to mail off next week, and schedule final walk through with the FEDS.

Flynn Playground: The project is finally coming to an end! A walkthrough with the contractor is scheduled for Thursday, April 26th, 8am. RG Ross (school construction contractor) is moving along rather well with final grading, sidewalk and the rain garden installation. Flynn is beginning to look like a park again.

Municipal Grant Round XII – should be going out to bid very soon

b. Community Development-Recreation Division Update:

Ms. Riganti reported:

- University City will be participating in National Kids to Parks Day on Saturday, May 19 from 9:00 am – 1:00 pm in Heman Park (Midland/Shaftesbury entrance). Planned activities include: Scavenger Hunt to all 17 parks, Arts and Crafts and more. Donations from area businesses are being obtained for Refreshments, Prizes, etc. and Park Commission members are encouraged to participate.

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- An inquiry regarding acquiring the parcels of land by University Forest Nursing Facility has been made
- Advertisement at Ruth Park Golf Course will be discussed at a future meeting
- Senior/Youth Task Force presented their proposal at last night's Council Meeting; recommendations will impact the Community Development-Recreation Division.

c. Draft Budget Discussion

Ms. Riganti gave a highlighted overview of the FY 12-13 Recreation Division budget, indicating there are no substantial changes. Mr. Mass requested revenue information be provided to commission members.

Park Commission members agree to hear the Greenway South Proposed Improvements presentation at this time

Greenway South Proposed Improvements

Cheryl Adelstein and Sarah Stanton of Washington University presented an overview of this project.

Greenway South Proposed Improvements – Citizen's Comments:

E.F. Porter, 341 Westgate: read a statement which indicated opposition to the removal of park land trees for the expansion of the walkway.

Arlene Sandler, 6267 Delmar, 2E: read a letter on behalf of the Executive Director of the Missouri Coalition for the Environment expressing concern regard the removal of trees from the current walkway.

Charles McManis, 450 Melville: expressed his concern regarding the life expectancy of the currently planted trees if others are removed.

Judith Zwicker, 325 Westgate: expressed her concern regarding the tree removal; would like in writing from the arborist of the condition of the existing trees, cost of removal, etc.

Lynn Huson, 311 Westgate: raised question regarding Ameren burying power lines; expressed concerns regarding the changing of plans, care for the replacement trees (irrigation, etc.), impact on private property trees and Washington University's consideration of the impact on tree located on private properties.

David Howard, 319 Westgate: expressed his concern regarding the proposed tree removal and potential additional flooding problems.

Dan Sherburne, 6810 Pershing: expressed his concern regarding the lack of public participation in this process; request any action be deferred until additional notification has been provided to other surrounding neighborhoods besides Westgate and Melville.

Mr. Mass requested all written comments be scanned and provided to Park Commission members before Friday, April 27 and recommended Park Commissioners tour the area.

Mr. Mass moved to postpone Park Commission's recommendation regarding the proposed Greenway South Improvements until further information has been obtained. Mr. Field seconded. Vote taken: all approved.

Council Liaison Report - none

Draft Budget Discussion resumed:

Mr. Wilson gave an overview of the FY 12-13 Public Works-Parks budget and recommended \$35,000 for the purchase and installation of new poles and lighting for Ruth Park Golf Course Driving Range.

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Steve Goldstein, 712 Swarthmore: expressed his concern regarding the proposed installation of 4' fencing berm at highest point at the Ruth Park Golf Course Driving Range (near ball dispenser). He indicated due this area's isolation at night could encourage vandalism and recommended the installation of motion detection lighting in the interest of promoting less light intrusion.

Mr. Mass read a statement to Park Commissioners expressing his concerns regarding Ruth Park Golf Course and requested his statement be included in the minutes.

Mr. Mass moved to accept the FY12-13 Recreation Division and Public Works-Parks budgets with the exclusion of the \$35,000 Ruth Park Golf Course poles and lighting recommendation. Ms. Dille seconded. Vote taken: four in favor (Dille, Mass, Palmer, Peoples), two against (Field, St. Clair). Motion passed.

Individual Park Reports

Ms. St. Clair recommended reorganization of park assignments once a new member has been appointed.

Old Business

a. Delmar Loop Security Cameras-Epstein Plaza

Ms. Dille moved approval of the installation of the Delmar Loop Security Cameras at Epstein Plaza. Ms. Peoples seconded. Vote taken: all approved.

New Business

a. Removal of Fogerty Park Tennis Courts

Ms. Dille moved to remove all aspects of Fogerty Park Tennis Courts with the exception of the fencing. Ms. Palmer seconded. Vote taken: Vote taken: five in favor (Dille, Mass, Palmer, Peoples, St. Clair), one against (Field). Motion passed.

b. Formation of a subcommittee to evaluate an alternative use of Fogerty Park Tennis Courts or recommend to complete removal of asphalt and seed it

Ms. Dille, Ms. Peoples and Ms. St. Clair will comprise the subcommittee and present their recommendations to the commission at a future meeting.

Adjournment

Ms. Dille moved to adjourn. Ms. Peoples seconded. All in favor. The meeting ended at 10:14 p.m.