



Regular Meeting of the Park Commission
City of University City
September 27, 2012
Location Change for September
Heman Park Community Center, 975 Pennsylvania

President Caryn St. Clair called the meeting to order at 6:35 pm. Other members present were:
Karen Dille
William Field
Alberta Garth
Ed Mass
Richard Wilson, Director of Public Works/Parks
Andrea Riganti, Director of Community Development
Sandy Bradford, Executive Secretary
Megan Fuhler, Public Works Manager
Stephen Kraft, Council Liaison (arrived at 6:40 pm)

Excused Absence: Karen Palmer, Linda Peoples

Disposition of Minutes from July 24, 2012

Ms. Dille moved approval, Mr. Field seconded. Vote taken: all approved.

Citizen's comments on items not on Agenda

U City in Bloom Volunteer Mary Fahey and Executive Director Mary Ann Shaw will address the Commission during CIP presentation.

Department Report

Public Works and Parks Update:

Mr. Wilson reported:

- Park Activities – Mowing activities are continuing. Due to change of weather, the process of seeding and fertilizing the parks has begun.
- Heman Pool is closed for the season and it is schedule to be winterized in October. The pool is still leaking, we anticipate running a camera through the waterline to determine exactly where the leak is coming from. We expect this to be a major repair.
- We were able to get additional funding for Mooney Playground. With those funds, Ewald Winker has added an 8 ft. high arch swings with ADA access. Project will be out to bid early October, anticipate it will be done this year.
- Flynn Park Playground – we have been working with the problem with the sidewalk and whose responsibility is it to make the grades around the MSD manhole. Details have been worked out and work should be completed soon. Sidewalk will get re-laid and will make sure it has proper ADA slope.
- Concerns about the Gateway West Bike Race in Heman Park, Wed, Sept 26. Ewald Winker gave them a list of things to be done, it was a mess afterwards. In the future we will reconsider how we handle projects like this. We are still waiting for a response as to when and if they will take care of it. The grass on the field is quite torn up, verified with pictures.
- The Jazz Fest and Alumni party clean-up was not done very well either. We informed the alumni people that next year there will have to be a bond or cash deposit in place to cover clean-up costs. We will be talking about all major events requiring a deposit of some sort.

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- Recent grant that we received on the Irrigation System project in Heman Park is complete, however, during the project the lines were cut to the electrical lights, are still determining who is responsible.
- Linda People's sent Rich Wilson an email about Majerus Park and the people in the neighborhood are concerned about lack of lights. Do we want to consider?

Presentation of the Planning Designs Studio on Millar Park Master Plan

Andrew Franke and Scott Talbert will do presentation. Two public hearings have been held at Millar Park – we have determined the final plan, also have cost estimates. Tonight we would like to approve this plan and determine what part of project we would like to do.

Cost is higher than we would like. What phases do we want to pursue first – shelter, playground, trails and picnic?

Muny Grant due October 26, 2012, with recommendations submitted to City Council on October 22nd.

After much discussion, Ms. Dille moved to prioritize the spending of the Master Plan for Millar Park to be:

1. Restrooms
2. Shelter-Pavilions
3. Playgrounds – funds first go to smaller children's playground
4. Trails
5. Fields
6. Parking

Mr. Mass seconded. Vote taken – all approved.

Proposed Great Rivers Greenway Trail Development along Wilson Avenue

Mr. Wilson spoke in regards to Great Rivers Greenway South approaching us in regards to developing Wilson Avenue buyout area as one of the trails that would connect from Heman Park down Wilson Ave to high school. Looking for input...if Park Commission is in agreement that should be one of the projects funded. It will be funded by Great Rivers Greenway. University City is not giving them the land, but giving them permission to build a trail on our property with the understanding we will assume the maintenance/grass. No action needed, just asking for input. Great Rivers Greenway wants to budget money for their Master Plan and willing to pay 100% of it.

Fiscal Year 2014-2018 Capital Improvement Program

Mr. Wilson distributed a spreadsheet (attached) of park related capital improvements for possible consideration. At this time, the Park Commission is being asked to review the list of potential projects to prioritize. U City in Bloom Volunteer, Mary Fahey and Executive Director, Mary Ann Shaw asked the Park Commission to consider dredging the pond in Lewis Park and tuckpointing and sealing the walls as part of the 2014 Capital Improvement Program. Ms. Fahey and Ms. Shaw discussed poor condition of the pond, which is an important focal point for the park. After much discussion, the Park Commission asked Mr. Wilson to confer with Ewald Winker and ensure that the improvements are prioritized; and agreed to the following: continue with current maintenance plan for Lewis Park Pond, complete Millar Park plan prior to initiating other park projects and if additional capital becomes available – accelerate the current park project schedule.

Council Liaison Report

Mr. Kraft discussed the upcoming City Council Capital Improvement budget process, various infrastructure considerations and potential park-related projects. Council will be reviewing significant budget requests, evaluating city-wide impact and developing a priority list. Mr. Kraft also discussed Park Commission appointments, and requested Ms. St. Clair considers remaining on the Commission.

Individual Park Reports

Lewis Park – A request was received by park users for an additional picnic table at the park.

Adams Park – Some owners of homes fronting the park did not want the new table located in front of their homes. A possible problem is that Washington U. students may come over more frequently to smoke. Three cedars (evergreens) at the southeast corner of the park create a hiding place for youth. Illicit behavior has occurred in that area; including suspected drug activity (police department was contacted). A suggestion was made to remove the trees and replace with a deciduous tree that does not allow a hiding place. Also, the metal posts and chain with signs at the dead end on the southwest corner of the park is unsightly. A suggestion was made to replace it with a more pleasing apparatus. Similarly, the guardrail at the northeast corner of the park at the stone structure is visually unappealing. If this is a permanent blockage of the street then remove the street and replace with plantings.

Flynn Park – A request was made to replace two tetherball poles that were previously located at the playground and that were enjoyed by children. A proposed location was the grassy areas. Dirt is washing onto the playground from the area above the walls. Please re-grade and plant grass to stop the erosion and the dirt from washing onto the playground. Re-grade to level out the “bowl” area on the north side of the playground/building area so the kids can have a full soccer field for practice.

Old Business - none

New Business

a. Centennial Greenway Signage

The Centennial Greenway Signage package created by Great Rivers Greenway was presented to Park Commission. The package includes the installation of several new signs to be installed along the Centennial Greenway trail. Commission members asked Mr. Wilson to verify whether Ackert Walk or Ackert Walkway is correct. Ms. St. Clair and Mr. Field discussed where archway should be located. A recommendation to have Great Rivers Greenway relocate the arch closer to Delmar Boulevard was made. Commission members also pointed out that the old City logo should be on the banners. Park Commission members unanimously endorsed the sign package.

b. Great Rivers Greenway Replacement Banners

For informational purposes, Mr. Wilson informed Commission members that several banners installed by Great Rivers Greenway and located throughout the City will be replaced.

Other Business

Commission members were reminded about the October 14 – Flynn Park playground dedication (food trucks, official ribbon cutting, etc.).

Adjournment

Ms. Dille moved to adjourn. Mr. Mass seconded. All in favor -the meeting ended at 9:03 pm.