



**Meeting of the Park Commission
City of University City
Centennial Commons, 7210 Olive Boulevard
Tuesday, November 26, 2013**

President, Ed Mass called the Park Commission meeting to order at 6:30 pm. Members present were:

William Field
Steve Goldstein
Ed Mass
Kathy Standley
Linda Peoples

Rich Wilson, Director of Public Works and Parks
Lynda Euell-Taylor, Deputy Director of Recreation
Sandy Bradford, Park Commission Liaison
Stephen Kraft, Council Liaison (*arrived 6:37 pm*)

Excused Absence: Kimberly Jones

Deposition of Minutes from November 26, 2013

Under Public Works and Parks Updates the word ceiling should be changed to sealing and the words trees needs to be changed to tees. Mr. Goldstein moved to approve the minutes of the Park Commission meeting from November 26, 2013 with these changes, Ms. Peoples seconded – vote taken, all approved.

Citizens' Comments - None

A proposed small canopy and seating area along Ackert Walkway, north of Delmar was presented by Chandler Arends, a professor at the School of Architecture at Washington University to the Park Commission seeking approval – After discussing with Quadrangle Housing and University City, they targeted Ackert Walkway because of the interesting location to design and build a small pavilion. Ackert Walkway is a pedestrian walkway that connects the campus to north of the Loop. There is an interest to enhance the connection from the Housing Projects to Ackert Walkway. Quadrangle Housing has already installed stairs that goes through the City's chain link fence. The proposal is to enhance that connection by creating a seating area between the park and the Loop. There has been an open discussion with zoning in regards to whether the fence needs to be there. There is a desire to install a useable sculpture along the walkway and have more traffic going across the path. This commission discussed the sculpture size for the small area; materials used to build it; what color to make it; will it become a graffiti bank and what threat the sculpture would pose to citizens if they misuse it for fun activities, i.e. skateboarding. Mr. Kraft raised the thought that having a sculpture or utilizing that space would be nice, but the City may not be necessarily ready for that. It was suggested that a policy needs to be established by the Park Commission and that a discussion of a minimum of two meetings is needed before a project will be approved. It was decided not to vote on the project at this time, but would be open to future discussions in the spring which would allow the opportunity to get the zoning approval and building permit in place, etc.

Noah Kirby, a facility member of the Barton School of Design, 2014 Proposed Arts and Letters/Washington University Sculpture Series submission – Mr. Kirby is seeking this Park Commission's endorsement for his students to submit a proposal for two sculptures for the University Sculpture Series in two of University City parks. One sculpture is to go into Heman Park at the shuffle board court. The student wants to refurbish the court and build an awning structure with a canopy that covers the shuffle board court. The other sculpture is a proposal for Kaufman Park which is a sculptural form that references the geodesic dome. A vote was taken and all approved for both sculptures to be placed in both parks if selected by Arts and Letters.

Department Reports:

Public Works and Parks Updates –

Mr. Wilson reported:

- All restrooms and drinking fountains have been winterized.
- Parks Department is doing some of the demolition in Millar Park for the new restroom and pavilion.
- Leaf Collection is currently going on.
- Public Works and Parks have applied for a Land/Water Conservation Grant to do the trail and some lighting at Millar Park. It has been recommended that we get the Grant; it is going to the National Park Service next.
- Obtained a quote of \$97,000 for fencing at the Golf Course.
- A recommendation for legal and safety reasons a decision needs made in the near future about the oldest Oak Tree in University City located at the Driving Range. It has less than ten (10) years of life left to it. The recommendation if we want to keep it, is to do 50% canopy trim then spend \$15,000 every couple of years to maintain it, or it can be cut down.

Community Development/Recreation Division –

Ms. Euell-Taylor reported:

- Holiday Drop and Shop is on Saturday, December 21, 2013. Where parents can pre-register and bring their children while they shop for the holidays.
- Two (2) week mini fitness session going on December 23-January 4, 2014.
- Personal Trainer and Zumba Instructor, Priscilla Westbrooks has some videos of her classes. You can view the videos on You Tube.
- 2013 Heman Pool Annual Report was discussed.
- Holiday hours and attendance for Centennial Commons was discussed. Ms. Standley motioned that we approve establishing holiday hours. Mr. Field seconded, vote taken – all approved.

Council Liaison Report –

- Discussed Capital needs for the City. There is a certain amount of money and a lot of things people want money for. It would be helpful if this Park Commission would prioritize their Capital Projects. Council will decide how many projects they can complete each year. If the City has any big projects for Heman Park that could be part of a bond project that would include streets, sidewalks and City wide things. It would require a tax increase to fund it. Overall if the City was going to do a bond issue that would include parks, Heman would be the logical choice.
- Discussed the interest for a Community Garden. Councilman Kraft would like to set an informal meeting in early January with stakeholders, U City in Bloom, Gateway Greening, two (2) Park Commission members, Ms. Standley and Mr. Mass, and other interested people.

Individual Park Report –

- Ms. Standley – She hiked the trail at Millar Park and noticed all the construction. One branch down coming over the trail, but nothing too dangerous.
- Mr. Field – Golf Course is getting in winter mode. Ackert and Metcalfe Parks have no change.
- Ms. Peoples – Greensfelder Park looks good and Fogerty Park has been quiet except for the soccer players. Hopes the City will consider alternative parking along 82nd Street around the park.
- Mr. Mass – Mooney and Lewis Park are good but still have the algae problem. Did not see any drains at Flynn Park that was previously discussed. Discussed increasing the height of the fence behind the backboard for safety issues. A resident has offered to pay for it, however, we need to get a cost estimate and approval from resident confirming that. Ms. Standley motioned that the height of the fence be increased. Mr. Field seconded, vote taken – all approved.

Subcommittee Reports –

- Ruth Park Golf Course meeting – After Jessie Gilbertson, new Executive Director from U City in Bloom inspects the Golf Course we will have a committee meeting and talk about the possibility of doing some beautification in front of driving range and around the course.
- Park Master Plan – Suggested having a discussion among the Park Commission and when we don't have any outside reports. The materials and ADA report can be reviewed then allocate discussion time.
- By Laws – Mr. Mass decided to go through the By Laws and make his suggestions then send to everyone as an email, get responses back via email and then it he will collate together.

News Business –

Recommendation for Planning Grant Round 12 for the Muni League is due December 13, 2013. Need resolution by Council which is proposed for December 9. Discussion in the past led to possibly doing a Master Plan for Heman Park. The Planning Grant has been increased to \$8,000 with \$1,600 being a local match. After evaluating what we would want to do with Heman Park we are recommending a \$40,000 budget for the planning, \$6,400 would be covered by a Munny Grant and the rest would come out of General Revenue. This would include a topographic survey, not a detailed survey. We would survey all of the City residents trying to get their input and ideas by getting it out in University City's newsletter *The Roar*, etc. An idea was suggested to have two tablets or computers located at Centennial Commons so residents can utilize and can respond to the survey. Mr. Goldstein motioned to apply for the Planning Grant Application with a study of a maximum not to exceed \$40,000. Mr. Field seconded, vote taken – all approved.

Mr. Wilson presented the attached Proposed Capital Improvement Program to Council.

Old Business – None

Adjournment –

Mr. Goldstein moved to adjourn, Ms. Peoples seconded - all in favor, the meeting ended at 9:15 pm.