



**Meeting of the Park Commission
City of University City
Centennial Commons, 7210 Olive Boulevard
Tuesday, October 22, 2013**

President, Ed Mass called the Park Commission meeting to order at 6:35 pm. Members present were:

William Field
Steve Goldstein
Ed Mass
Kathy Standley
Kimberly Jones (*arrived 6:55 pm*)

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: Linda Peoples

Deposition of Minutes from September 24, 2013

Mr. Field stated the "s" from Fields be dropped off his name. The sentence that talks about hole #7 and the placement of the new signs needs rephrased. Mr. Goldstein moved to approve the minutes of the Park Commission meeting from September 24, 2013 with these changes, Mr. Field seconded - vote taken, all approved.

Citizens' Comments

Cheryl Klure, part of PTO from Flynn Park School discussed a couple issues, one is to get permission to utilize the space to the right of the new playground at Flynn Park Elementary School to plant nine (9) dwarf fruit trees that were ordered when the garden at Flynn Park was removed due to the new addition that was added when the two schools merged. The trees will be planted this fall. Wants to build and maintain storage benches that lock and have them placed around the orchard area and looking into the easiest way to water the trees. Wants to put an outdoor education station pergola near the raised flowers beds or the orchard and is seeking permission to put on park grounds. After discussion among this commission, it was determined there is no problem with planting trees with a mulch bed. U City in Bloom is willing to maintain the vegetable garden and the orchard. Incorporating the pergola into the park will need more thought at a later date. Mr. Goldstein moved to approve the planting of nine (9) dwarf fruit trees in a mulch bed in Flynn Park by the Flynn Park School PTO and U City in Bloom on two (2) conditions, one (1) Mr. Wilson approve the specifics and two (2) there be a written agreement acceptable to Mr. Wilson between Flynn Park PTO and U City in Bloom stating that U City in Bloom maintain the trees and the PTO will pay any costs incurred. Mr. Field seconded – vote taken, all approved.

Soccer field in Flynn Park is in bad shape with drainage issues which makes it unsafe for teams to practice on it, inquiring about having it re-graded in the future. Would like Public Works and Parks to inspect the field and why there are so many storm drains and report back to this commission about the drains and what is involved in re-grading the field. If field is re-graded, it will not be exclusive for school use only it will be available to City residents as well.

There is a tree located by the amphitheater that has a lot of run off and you can see the roots. The fear that tree may topple is a concern. Can something be planted around the tree to help keep it in place?

Department Reports:

Public Works and Parks Updates –

Mr. Wilson reported:

- Working on budget items
- We are moving from summer to winter, starting to close off irrigation systems, drinking fountains and restrooms will be closing and being winterized.
- Hoping to improve the attendance for the bike race by having the event on the weekend.
- The Bike and Walk plan was approved.
- After Kaufmann Park's temporary repair on the sealing on the tennis courts still have some cracks. Mr. Winker will be reviewing this area every year making sure the cracks are sealed repaired. He is proposing in FY18 installing new tennis courts for about \$400,000. Will follow-up looking into new materials used on tennis courts so same problems will not arise in the future.
- U City in Bloom is interested in getting involved with the landscaping process of the tees at the golf course/driving range. Trees need to be trimmed at the golf course.
- U City in Bloom's new Executive Director, Jesse Gilbertson is very informative.
- Reminder for new application for Master Park Design is out, due December 13. Want to put on November's agenda. Need to decide what park we would like to do a Master Plan for. The Grant is \$6,400. A minimum City match would be \$1,600. Mr. Wilson will meet with some consultants in the near future and get some numbers.

Community Development/Recreation Division –

Ms. Euell-Taylor reported:

- Working on budget items.
- Getting ready for Arts and Letters sculpture series. There will be seven (7) entries this year. Two (2) of them are going to be proposed to be in parks. The students have been instructed to present to the Park Commission between 5-7 minutes each during the November meeting as they will be presenting to Arts and Letters in December. Want students to bring their models.
- Would like to establish some holiday hours for Centennial Commons. During the holiday's, would like to close at 6:00 pm.

Council Liaison Report –

- Council voted on the Bike Walk Plan, after much discussion it passed unanimously.
- Trying to achieve getting community vegetable gardens started. Council members are receiving calls from some community members about wanting to get involved with this. Suggest having a designer come out and inspect design, location and materials, etc.
- Would like to invite the new Executive Director from U City in Bloom to talk about the community gardens in the near future.

Individual Park Report –

- Mr. Goldstein – Kaufmann Park's tennis court issue was discussed earlier.
- Mr. Field - Ackert and Metcalfe Park both look good. Walking trail looks good. Golf Course – hole #7 still has issues, hole #8 is the same and fairways and the greens look very good.
- Ms. Jones – Can Park Commission members get name badges that state they are part of the commission when approaching people to ask questions about the parks. Inquired about getting a sticker for her car or something that has a City logo on it so when she is driving through the parks because she is unable to walk them because of their size. Ms. Euell-Taylor will work on designing a badge by January 2014.
- Ms. Standley - Miller Park has a lot of activities going on. Rabe Park has no one there but it is in fine shape. Ruth Park Woods had some litter and she picked it up while visiting the park. Litter is from the trail head to the recycling. Suggested putting a trash can at the trail head.

Subcommittee Reports –

- Ruth Park Golf Course meeting – The sub-committee met with the planner who had a map of the driving range and asked their opinion about it. Also talked about other needs. The planner is aware of the sub-committee's concerns. Would like the oak tree near the driving range (oldest tree is University City) removed, it looks like it is starting to die and it has become a concern – be prepared for comments from residents.
- Park Master Plan – Mr. Wilson is getting parks in order and their specific needs. We have a good start so far and looking at priorities is a positive thing. Discussed specific design elements or guidelines that might make parks stand out as a University City park.
- By Laws – Need to meet soon, possibly a winter project.

News Business –

Forming a Nomination Committee was discussed. Mr. Field's term is up in January. It is in question if Mr. Field is termed out. Ms. Standley and Ms. Jones are both fill in's, they will both be reappointed. Ms. Peoples termed out. Ms. Garth's seat still needs to be filled.

Old Business – None

Adjournment –

Mr. Standley moved to adjourn, Ms. Jones seconded - all in favor, the meeting ended at 8:45 pm.