



**Regular Meeting of the Parks Commission
City of University City
February 26, 2013
Centennial Commons, 7210 Olive Boulevard**

Vice President Ed Mass called the meeting to order at 6:42 pm. Other members present were:

William Fields
Alberta Garth
Steve Goldstein
Kim Jones

Rich Wilson, Director of Public Works and Parks
Sandy Bradford, Executive Secretary
Lynda Euell-Taylor, Deputy Director of Recreation
Andrea Riganti, Director of Community Development
Stephen Kraft, Council Liaison *(arrived at 6:33 pm)*

Excused Absence: Caryn St. Clair
Unexcused Absence: Linda Peoples

Deposition of Minutes from January 22, 2013

Mr. Fields moved to approve the January minutes, Mr. Goldstein seconded. Vote taken, unanimously approved by all.

Citizens' Comments not on the Agenda – None

Department Reports:

Public Works and Parks Updates

Mr. Wilson reported:

- Park business in general has been slow.
- Heman Park Pool – pool has been fixed, it has been backfilled but waiting for warmer weather to put the concrete back in place. It was retested to ensure it works properly.
- Winter prep is being done for spring clean-up on parks. Also, starting to gear up for mowing season.
- Mooney Playground – ADA swing is still on back order, everything is built and ready to go.
- Flynn Playground – tether ball system is on back order, but everything is prepped in ready to go.
- Land Water Conservation Grant Fund through the State – application is due April 22. The max is \$75,000 with a 45% Grant from the State, 55% from us, so it's almost a 50/50 Grant. It's good for recreation, land requisition, etc. Some openings for parks – proposing to continue with Millar Park
- We did not get in the budget this year for the trail at Ron Miller Park.
- \$20,000 is budgeted to start looking at the Golf Course Driving Range to do the survey and prepare a possible design.

Community Development/Recreation Division

Ms. Euell-Taylor reported:

- February 1 we celebrated Go Red for Women - Go Red Day. Not a good turnout due to inclement weather, but it was nice anyway. Gave away a variety of items and had two grand prize winners who won three month adult memberships to Centennial Commons.
- Spring/Summer Recreation Guide which will be out in homes by April 12.
- Continue to develop and promote special events and awards through-email blasts, social media postings, and the City's website.
- Working on a new website at the golf course...ruthparkgolf.com. Nice website done by Course Trends. There is also an app available for downloading to your phone.

- Ms. Riganti – gave a brief summary of Community Development’s Marketing efforts – *UCity ROARS*, the newsletter mailed to all University City residence and businesses every two months. There will always be a dedicated page for recreation and golf activities.
- Looking to implement REACH digital signage system. The system will provide “real time” visual notification of all Recreation Division and City events to Centennial Commons and Ruth Park Course patrons.

Parks Master Plan

- Mr. Wilson would like to look at the parks projects per the Parks Master Plan dated November 25, 2008 and approved by Council in 2009. Would like to look at each park and if we want to still make the improvements or are there additional improvements we want to add – see attachment.
- Discussed updating the existing Park Master Plan – everyone is interested.

Council Liaison Report

- Mr. Kraft talked about the City budget and even though the City has a flat revenue, revenues are not increasing and even with that and with a budget that has four (4) additional policemen and two (2) new firemen positions and a 2% pay raise for employees - it still projects to be well balanced with a few \$100,000 left over. Reorganization of how management is structured and how they function is paying off.
- Mr. Kraft re-appointed Ms. Garth to the commission.

Individual Park Report

Assignment of Parks

Park Commissioner	Park Assignment
Mr. William Field	Ackert Park, Metcalfe Park and Ruth Park Golf Course
Ms. Alberta Garth	Eastgate Park, Kingsland Park and Majerus Park
Mr. Steven Goldstein	Adams Park, Kaufman Park and the bike trails on a tentative basis
Ms. Kimberly Jones	Heman Park
Mr. Ed Mass	Flynn Park, Lewis Park and Mooney Park
Ms. Linda Peoples	Fogerty Park and Greensfelder Park
Ms. Caryn St. Clair	Millar Park, Rabe Park and Ruth Parks Woods

- Mr. Fields - Ackert and Metcalfe Parks both look good. Ruth Park Golf Course is in a winter state right now. The erosion under the cart path is a continuing problem. The driving range needs new mats, ball washers, scorecards, etc. – there is \$11,000 budgeted for driving range needs.
- Ms. Garth – nothing to report
- Mr. Mass – nothing to report

Old Business

- Mr. Wilson confirmed the lighting at Majerus Park was looked at and there is a need for new lighting.
- 400 Fogerty Park Surveys were mailed out. A box was placed at the park, one at City Hall and one at Centennial Commons to collect results. Received 13 results back - residents would like the tennis courts renovated, but prefer them to be removed and made into a garden or green space.

News Business

- Ms. Rignati gave an overview of the draft of the Recreation Division FY 13-14 budget.
 - A proposal has been made providing staff a 2% raise.

- A majority of the division operations budgets were reduced.
- Capital Improvements – Public Works and Parks was \$1M over – see attachment.
- Last year when the Parks Division was split into Recreational/Maintenance some items were transferred over and some did not. Transfer of all items has been completed.
- Golf Course – reduction of 11%
- Staff is proposing the following: new top dresser; new mower for Golf Course Maintenance.

- 2013-14 Parks and Golf Course Budget – see attachment

Adjournment

Mr. Mass moved to adjourn. Mr. Goldstein seconded. All in favor - the meeting ended at 7:40 pm.