



**Meeting of the Park Commission  
City of University City  
Centennial Commons, 7210 Olive Boulevard  
Tuesday, January 28, 2014**

President, Ed Mass called the Park Commission meeting to order at 6:31 pm. Members present were:

William Field  
Steve Goldstein  
Ed Mass  
Kathy Standley  
Kimberly Jones

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 6:30 pm*)

Unexcused Absence: Dawn Price

**Deposition of Minutes from November 26, 2013**

Under Public Works and Parks Updates the first paragraph under the Citizens Comments section the sentence that reads It was suggested that a policy needs to be established by the Park Commission that a discussion of a minimum of two meetings is needed before a project can be approved. Mr. Goldstein moved to approve the minutes of the Park Commission meeting from November 26, 2013 with these changes, Ms. Standley seconded – vote taken, all approved.

**Citizens' Comments**

**Recreation Center Indoor Playground** – Mr. Daniel Muntges discussed his disappointment in the removal of the indoor playground at the Recreation Center. Mr. Muntges was concerned that he had no knowledge of public feedback being solicited prior to it being removed. He wanted to know why it was removed before winter and why nothing was installed, as of yet, to replace it. Mr. Wilson stated that Public Works and Parks will be proceeding with a Master Plan of Heman Park, which will include the Recreation Center and, at that time, the public will be asked for their feedback. Mr. Muntges commented that he would like to see something for small children opposed to just teenagers in that space. Ms. Euell-Taylor added that a monitored teen fitness and gaming area is going in that space for approximately 13-16 year olds with a capacity of about (10) ten people at a time.

**Richard Dockett Community Park** – Mr. Kymo Dockett, son of Mr. Richard Dockett introduced himself and stated he sits on the committee designed to honor the legacy of Richard Dockett. He inquired about the steps he needs to take to have a section of land at 6800 block of Crest renamed to Richard Dockett Community Park. University City has already approved an event taking place at that area on June 14, 2014 as the Richard Dockett Community Day and would like to break ground on the Richard Dockett Community Park because the committee/community would like to celebrate the name change on that day if possible. Mr. Dockett talked about all his father had done for the community over a 40 year period to help provide a safe and quality way of life for its residents. If the name can be changed, there are a few changes he would like to request: (1) more beautiful flowers be planted, (2) more park benches installed, and (3) a sign be put in the park to read Richard Dockett Community Park.

It was determined that the City owns the area of land at 6800 block of Crest and that it is not an official University City park today. Mr. Mass stated there is a lot involved in this process other than just changing a name. It was decided that a procedure is not currently in place to accommodate a request as this. Mr. Fields raised the question about whether it's a current ordinance that all new parks need to be named after Mayors, it will be researched at a later time. It was suggested it could be named something other than an official park, i.e., Richard Dockett Community Garden. Mr. Goldstein suggested that Mr. Dockett and this Commission confer at a later time to present options as to what constitutes a park, what steps to take to name it a park or

something else. Details need to be researched as to who would provide and maintain the flowers, a suggestion was raised for Public Works and Parks to contact U City in Bloom. Mr. Wilson will provide answers to the questions and concerns presented, will be discussed at next month's meeting.

**Proposed Zoning Text Amendment for Lighted Fields** – Mr. Ray Lai, Deputy Director of Economic Development and Mr. Zach Greatens, Planner discussed how currently Outdoor Lighted Recreational Facilities are not adequately addressed by the Zoning Code. Example: if a school or churches want to add an outdoor lighted soccer field, there is not a process in place that would require the applicant to go for a public hearing. A text Amendment should be considered to allow for additional review and public input on a case by case basis. It is often found that the best way to address uses with unknown impact is through the conditional use permit process which would also involve a public hearing procedure. Mr. Mass moved that in the current language that is written for the proposed ordinance amending Chapter 34 where is shows the definition of "Recreation Facilities, Outdoor" means an outdoor area whether publicly or privately owned be changed to read "Recreation Facilities, Outdoor" means an outdoor area whether publicly or privately owned excluding municipal owned property or University City Owned Property, Mr. Field seconded – vote taken, all approved.

**Ackert Park** – Ms. Paulette Carr spoke on behalf of the Human Relations Commission in regards to requesting that the upper part of Ackert Park, around the dolphin statues, be made accessible for people in wheel chairs, mothers with strollers, etc. Mr. Goldstein stated it is the intent of the City, as resources allow, to comply with this request.

**Arkert Park Walkway Arch** – Mr. Wilson stated the City is in the process of designing an Archway to be similar what was previously there before Great Rivers Greenway built the bike path. Mr. Wilson presented three (3) designs and is asking this Commission to make a decision which is preferred. The height/width of the archway was discussed and whether or not two people could walk through at the same time. \$27,000 dollars is budgeted for this project. Mr. Goldstein moved that Option 3 design is preferred, with the final location of the archway still to be determined and will be revisited at a later time, Ms. Jones seconded – vote taken, all approved.

**Centennial Greenway Trail** – Mr. Wilson discussed Great Rivers Greenway's meeting with the City to continue the Centennial Trail through University City. They liked the idea of the trail going where the houses can be bought and demolished along Wilson Avenue, however, it is not official and nothing has been bought as of now. Great Rivers Greenway is pursuing this but not asking the City to do anything at this time.

**Millar Park vs. Lewis Park Best Practices** – Resident, Kevin Taylor discussed Millar Park vs. Lewis Park using Best Practices for both parks regardless of the concept of it being a neighborhood park vs and non-neighborhood park, i.e., environment, safety, construction, landscaping, etc. needs to be consistent in every park.

Rich stated Millar Park will be getting new trash cans. In regards to increasing the height of the fence behind the backboard on the tennis court at Flynn Park it was determined by Mr. Winker that there would not be much cost involved in completing that, will be done weather permitting. A part-time helper was afforded to Mr. Humphrey for the golf course for the purpose to fill in holes and eroded areas, etc...that did not happen last year. It was determined that we will have another part-time helper this year. Mr. Mass would like that project to be specifically added to part-time helper's task list.

## **Department Reports:**

**Public Works and Parks Updates** –  
Mr. Wilson reported:

- Received Heman Park Grant.
- Negotiating a contract with SWT and it's going to Council February 10 the scope is all of Heman Park. Heman Park Community Center can be added in the Grant. Mr. Mass asked for a time-line from start to finish Mr. Wilson.
- Was awarded Lewis Park Grant, will proceed to Council for approval that contract with design February 10 will start designing improvements to the pond, trails and other issues. Mr. Wilson will provide a time-line from start to finish for that too.
- Is proceeding with construction on Millar Park project, City has done some of the demo work. The shop drawings have been approved for the buildings.
- Still waiting to hear on the Grant for Millar Park Trail and Lights. Local level has been approved but still needs to go through Federal Grant paperwork.
- In process of doing a contract for fencing for the golf course and painting the pool.
- Mr. Wilson spoke to Stan Gentry, he will be glad to come look at hole #6 when the weather breaks.
- Mr. Wilson went to the Municipal League dinner and they were talking about the Park Grants. Prop B passed and therefore there is additional tax money for Parks, it's going from \$3M to \$6M.

### **Community Development/Recreation Division –**

Ms. Euell-Taylor reported:

- Summer job fair was held December 21, 2013 and there were about 30 participants in attendance. A second job fair is scheduled for the end of March 2014.
- A blood drive sponsored by the American Red Cross was held on December 27, 2013
- At the end of 2013, Centennial Commons had enrolled 250 participants in its Silver Sneakers membership program and 12 participants in it's the Silver & Fit membership program. Both programs provide free memberships to senior citizens.
- Centennial Commons kicked off January with a membership class incentive and a Super Bowl fitness challenge.
- Our January Fitness and Fun Buffet was rescheduled to start on Tuesday, January 7th, due to the inclement weather.
- On Tuesday, January 7<sup>th</sup>, the Heman Park Community Center served as a temporary shelter for Parkview Gardens Apartment residents due to mechanical problems with their heating system.
- Thursday, February 6<sup>th</sup>, the Municipal Commission of Arts & Letters will hold a Public Reception in celebration of their 20<sup>th</sup> Annual of their Returning Artists program at 7:00 pm in the UCHS library. The artist for 2014 is musician Sandy Weltman, class of 1974.
- On Friday, February 7<sup>th</sup>, Centennial Commons will celebrate the 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Go Red for Women day.
- The proposed sculpture Park Commission approved for Kaufman Park at their November meeting was selected by Arts & Letters.
- During the months of February/March, Centennial Commons will be going through the Charter switchover Commons.
- All Millar Park reservations are on hold until completion of construction.

### **Council Liaison Report –**

- In regards to the big tree at the driving range, the Urban Forestry wants to wait until it looks more dead before cutting it down. They prefer to do work in early spring - there is some discussion of having a memorable service for the tree when removing it. Urban Forestry had some discussion about how to find the second oldest tree in University City.
- Mr. Mass and Mr. Kraft did not have any luck finding a date to have a meeting on the community gardening issue - will try again at a later time.

### **Individual Park Report –**

- Mr. Goldstein – After resurfacing the cracks are reappearing with eruptions along the cracks at Kaufman Park, nothing to report at Adams Park and Mona Trail looks fine.
- Ms. Standley – Everything looks good in Millar, Rabe and Ruth Park Woods Parks.

- Mr. Mass – The erosion problem near tree that washes down into the playground in Flynn Park needs to be addressed in the spring.

### **Old Business**

- **Subcommittee Reports**
  - a. Ruth Park Golf Course meeting –
  - b. Park Master Plan –
  - c. By Laws –

### **News Business** –

Election of Officers – Nominations are Ed Mass for President and Mr. Goldstein for Vice President – vote taken, all approved.

### **Adjournment** –

Mr. Mass moved to adjourn – vote taken, all approved, the meeting ended at 8:45 pm.