



Park Commission

6801 Delmar Boulevard, University City, Missouri 63130, Phone: (314) 505-8560, Fax: (314) 862-0694

MINUTES OF THE PARK COMMISSION Centennial Commons, 7210 Olive Boulevard Tuesday, October 28, 2014

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

William Field
Steve Goldstein
Kimberly Jones
Kathy Standley

Megan Fuhler II, Project Manager & Park Commission Liaison
Lynda Euell-Taylor, Deputy Director of Recreation
Andrea Riganti, Director of Community Development
Richard Wilson, Director of Public Works and Parks
Ewald Winker, Park Operations Superintendent
Stephen Kraft, Council Liaison

Excused Absence: Dawn Price

Mr. Mass indicated that Karen Culton had resigned from the Commission and Councilmember Rod Jennings would be recommending an individual to fill her position.

Deposition of Minutes from September 23, 2014

Mr. Goldstein moved to approve the minutes of the Park Commission meeting September 23, 2014 with no changes, Ms. Jones seconded – vote taken, all approved.

Citizens' Comments

None

2015 Community Visuals-Sculpture Students

Students from Washington University provided short presentations on art projects that they would like to install on Park property if approved by the Arts and Letters Commission. It was indicated that the locations would need approval from the Park Commission before they could be considered by Arts and Letters Commission. After the presentations were completed, the Commission commented that all concepts presented were great. Mr. Goldstein moved to highly recommend all art projects to Arts and Letters Commission for consideration, Ms. Standley seconded – vote taken, all approved.

Department Reports

Public Works and Parks Operations – Mr. Winker discussed projects that he and his crews have accomplished over the past month:

- Make a Difference Day occurred on October 25, 2014. Some City staff helped with the event along the River des Peres near the Community Center. The focus in this area was to clear out the invasive species, treat the area and install some new native planting.
- Mr. Winker and crew have been preparing for the Build a Better Block event rescheduled for November 1 at noon. Some of the crew will also help on the day of the event.
- As part of the department reorganization, the Parks Division took over responsibility of City owned lighting. One of the first projects completed was the replacement of the existing light fixtures in the City owned parking garage with LED fixtures.
- The leaf mulch operations are at full force and the bulk leaf pick up is scheduled to begin the week of November 3. The parks division will be assisting the streets division during leaf pick up.
- Currently in the process of renovating Jack Buck Field. The renovation will include having the ground laser leveled to help with water issues.



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Public Works and Parks Projects – Ms. Fuhler indicated that the project updates were included in the agenda packet and asked if there were any questions:

- Ms. Fuhler noted that the Heman Park Master Plan was approved by City Council on October 27, 2014.
- Mr. Mass asked if Lewis Park construction was still on schedule. Ms. Fuhler indicated that the preconstruction meeting will be scheduled for the first week in November and work will begin shortly after that.

Community Development/Recreation Division – Ms. Euell-Taylor reported:

- The City would be installing security cameras inside Centennial Commons. Mr. Mass asked if this installation was due a specific instance, or if they were being installed preventatively. Ms. Euell-Taylor indicated that they have ongoing issues with items being stolen off of benches or out of lockers.
- Staff is currently addressing the lighting in the youth/teen room, as well as finishing up the rest of the construction of the room. Ms. Standley asked if there was a specific age range determined for this room. Ms. Euell-Taylor indicated that the specific age range had not been finalized yet.

Council Liaison Report

Mr. Kraft indicated that a capital needs committee had been established to begin looking at a future bond issue. He stated that this committee would be asking for Park Commission input on possible projects and priorities. Mr. Mass asked City staff to provide a list of capital park projects for consideration at the November meeting.

Individual Park Reports

- Mr. Goldstein had nothing to report on his parks.
- Mr. Field had nothing to report on Ackert or Metcalf, and indicated that the golf course is terrific for this time of year. He stated that some golf balls may still be going over the net on the fly, but that the signage and markings on the cart path at Hole #6 looked good.
- Ms. Jones had nothing to report on her parks.
- Ms. Standley indicated that all of her parks looked good and had nothing to report.
- Mr. Mass had nothing to report on his parks.

Old Business

Subcommittee Reports

- Ruth Park Golf Course meeting – none

New Business

Discussion of Pool Operations and Staffing – Ms. Andrea Riganti, Director of Community Development indicated that City Staff would be hiring a consultant to complete a study to determine if contracting the pool operations and staffing is more efficient than the City directly staffing and operating the pool. Councilmember Kraft indicated that one item of consideration could be considered is a partnership with other municipalities for the late season. The request for proposals will be issued within the next month or so. No vote was necessary, as the discussion was informational only.

Ruth Park Golf Course – Holes #6 – Synthetic Turf for Cart Path – The agenda packet included a proposal from December 2013 to add the synthetic turf to the cart path. Mr. Ewald indicated that he received an updated proposal that indicated the cost for material only would be \$6,885.00 and the cost for material and labor would be \$14,170.00. He also noted that these prices do not include the removal of the existing concrete path. Discussion took place considering the positives and negatives of



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spending this additional money. Mr. Mass indicated that at the September meeting the Commission voted to move forward with the installation of the turf, so a change to that vote would require a new motion. Mr. Field made a motion to defer the installation of the deadening material until it is determined necessary, Ms. Jones seconded – vote taken, all approved.

St. Louis County Municipal Park Grant Commission Planning Grant – Fogerty Park – Ms. Fuhler indicated that staff would like a recommendation from the Park Commission to move forward with the submittal of this planning grant for Fogerty Park. Mr. Goldstein asked why staff had determined that Fogerty Park was a better fit than Majerus Park. He indicated that Majerus Park had the oldest playground per the list provided by staff. Ms. Fuhler and Mr. Winker indicated that although Majerus Park is in need of a new playground, Fogerty Park needs to be reevaluated in full because the park is being underutilized in most circumstances. The amenities that are being utilized (pavilion, restrooms, parking) are not sufficient. Ms. Euell-Taylor indicated that the restrooms are not ADA accessible and because they are connected to the pavilion, residents have to walk through parties or events in the pavilion in order to use them. Mr. Goldstein would like City Staff to explore different options for playground funding. Ms. Fuhler indicated that she will do so. Ms. Jones moved to approve the submission of an application to the St. Louis County Municipal Park Grant Commission for the planning of Fogerty Park, Ms. Standley seconded – vote taken, all approved.

Digital Message Boards – Ms. Fuhler indicated that staff was in the process of bidding the installation of new digital message boards at Centennial Commons and the corner of Olive and Pennsylvania. She indicated that these message boards would replace the existing signs at these locations, for a total of four (4) digital message boards. Mr. Wilson clarified that these signs would be retrofitted and the only portion of the sign that has the current interchangeable message board will be replaced. Mr. Mass indicated that he felt the digital message board area proposed for Centennial Commons was too small and would like City staff to consider replacing the entire sign so that the message area could be increased. Mr. Wilson indicated that this could be included as a bid alternate. No vote was necessary, as the discussion was informational only.

Park Commission Meeting Location and Day – Ms. Fuhler indicated that previously discussed, the Park Commission meetings needed to be relocated to the Heman Park Community Center (HPCC) beginning in January 2015. Based on the current schedule at HPCC, the Park Commission would need to change the day of the month that the meeting occurs. Based on the comments received via email, the proposed day was the 3rd Tuesday of each month. Discussion was had by the commissioners about this change. Mr. Goldstein motioned to move the Park Commission meeting to the 3rd Tuesday of each month, Mr. Field seconded – vote taken, four (4) ayes and one (1) nay, motion approved.

Recording of Meetings – Mr. Mass added an agenda item to discuss the fact that a recording of meetings is no longer required. City staff indicated that they were instructed that recording of meetings are not required and Ms. Fuhler indicated that based on this, she would not be recording the minutes. She assured the Commission that the meeting minutes would be presented as they had been in the past. Councilmember Kraft indicated that the City Council would still be recording meetings and that the minutes would be detailed because City Council voted on this and has the authority to direct the City Clerk. Because Commissions do not have the authority to direct staff, a Commission could not vote to require staff to record meetings. Mr. Mass asked that it be noted in the minutes that he is not in favor of this and it makes the City seem less transparent. No vote was necessary, as the discussion was informational only.



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Adjournment

Mr. Field moved to adjourn, Mr. Goldstein seconded – vote taken, all approved. The meeting ended at 8:43 pm.