

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE  
PARK COMMISSION  
CITY OF UNIVERSITY CITY, ST. LOUIS COUNTY, MISSOURI  
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 2020**

**Agenda Item #1: Call Meeting to Order**

Park Commission President, Carl Hoagland called the meeting to order at 6:31 pm.

**Agenda Item #2: Roll Call**

Those in attendance included Commission President Carl Hoagland, Commission Vice-President Kevin Taylor, Commission Members Su Schmalz, James Wilke, Lisa Hummel, Meg Ullman and City Council Liaison Steve McMahon. Also, in attendance was Director of Parks, Recreation and Forestry Darren Dunkle. Those not in attendance were Commission Member Jay Redd.

**Agenda Item #3: Approval of the Agenda**

Discussion took place on when an item needed to be placed on the Agenda. Mr. Dunkle reported that according to the By-Laws, all request needed to be requested one week prior to the scheduled meeting.

**Commission Member Hummel motioned, and Commission Member Wilke seconded to approve the Agenda. The motion was approved with a 5-0 vote.**

**Agenda Item #4: Approval of Minutes**

**Commission Member Hummel motioned, and Commission Member Wilke seconded to approve the minutes of July 21, 2020. The motion was approved with a 5-0 vote.**

**Agenda Item #5: Citizen Comments**

None

**Agenda Item #6: Department Report**

Mr. Dunkle entertained questions in regard to the submitted Department Report.

- 1) Discussion took place in regard to what the Parks Commissions role was in reviewing plans and giving recommendations on the opening and closing of parks and facilities. And does the City/Department have any plans and if so, why hasn't the Parks Commission been involved in those plans. Mr. Darren Dunkle, Director of Parks, Recreation and Forestry stated that staff has developed internal working plans based on CDC and St. Louis County guidelines and were not meant for public distribution at this time as guidelines and dates seem to be changing from day-to-day. Furthermore, Mr. Dunkle stated that since the City was in a "State of Emergency", all decisions regarding the pandemic were being assessed by the City Manager.
- 2) Discussion took place in regard to the Park Management Plans and if they were going to be brought to the Parks Commission. Mr. Dunkle stated that staff is continuing to work on the management plans, but due to the COVID-19 pandemic, staff has had to focus their attention to other operations. He further stated, that once they had draft plans ready, he would bring them forward for review and consideration.

- 3) Discussion took place regarding the use of Athletic Fields by Christ the King since it was understood that the CYC Soccer program was canceled due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Mr. Dunkle stated that staff had previously been told that there wouldn't be any soccer this fall, however, with St. Louis County Health Department reversing their decision and allowing youth soccer this fall, Christ the King has reached out to the City in regard to using fields for their fall soccer program.
- 4) Discussion took place regarding why Greensfelder Park was not listed as a possible location for an MSD Project Clear Grant. Mr. Dunkle stated that MSD has identified zones within University City that could be eligible for the grant, and Greensfelder Park was not listed in any of the identified zones.

#### **Agenda Item #7: Council Report**

- 1) Council Liaison McMahon thanked the Commission and Mr. Dunkle for all of their hard work in handling the COVID-19 pandemic and working towards getting the parks back up and running.
- 2) Mr. McMahon reported that the Police Department had once again received their certification.
- 3) Mr. McMahon reported that the courts had approved the condemnation of businesses within the I-170 and Olive development project.

#### **Agenda Item #8: Commission Report**

- 1) Golf Course
  - a) It was reported that the Ruth Park Golf Course was in great shape. However, netting along the seventh hole needed to be repaired. Mr. Dunkle reported that the City was in the process of going out to bid for the repair and replacement of the current netting system.
  - b) It was asked if the Commission could receive a financial report for the next meeting.
  - c) Discussion took place in regard to the possibility of placing a premium fee on single ridership for the golf carts.
- 2) Flynn Tennis Courts
  - a) It was reported that the surfacing at the Flynn Park Tennis Courts were getting worn and probably needed repair. Mr. Dunkle reported that the problem had been identified by staff and has been identified within a future budget.
- 3) Ruth Park Woods
  - a) It was reported that there continues to be wash outs along the trail.
  - b) Trash can near McKnight was missing.
- 4) Millar & Rabe Parks
  - a) It was reported that small amounts of trash had been discarded within the park.
  - b) Park Closed sign remained at Rabe Park.
- 5) Lewis Park
  - c) It was reported that the retaining wall had been completed.
  - d) Two trees along the walkway from Delmar seem to be declining.

## Agenda Item #9: Unfinished Business

### 1) Greensfelder Park Concept Plan

- a) Mr. Dunkle stated that staff request support of the Parks Commission with the proposed Concept Plan.
- b) Discussion took place regarding the need to spend funds on the development of Greensfelder Park when other parks haven't been completed, and that Fogerty Park was just a half mile down the road. Further discussion involved the lack of public input.

**Commission Member Taylor motioned, and Commission Member Wilke seconded to table the discussion until the next fiscal year. The motion was approved with a 3-1-1 vote (Commission Member Ullman voting no and Commission Member Hummel abstaining).**

### 2) Park Priorities

- a) Planning Grant for Ruth Park Golf Course – Mr. Dunkle requested that the Commission consider applying for a planning grant to study the flooding/drainage issues at the Driving Range instead of a planning grant for the Golf Club House.

Discussion took place regarding the fact that the Driving Range had been previously been repaired back in 2016 in the amount of \$300,000. It was asked what went wrong and what was the money spent on etc.

**Commission Member Hummel motioned and Commission Member Schmalz seconded to support staff's recommendation to apply for a Planning Grant for the Driving Range. The motion was approved with a 5-0 vote.**

- b) Construction Grant for Ackert Park – Mr. Dunkle reported that the Parks, Recreation and Forestry Department submitted a Municipal Park Grant application and that 22 municipalities have applied for \$4.5 million in available grant funds. He further stated that the Grant Commission would be reviewing the submittals at the end of the month and deciding in early October.

## Agenda Item #10: New Business

- 1) Service Project Proposal – Mr. Dunkle reported that Mr. Colin Sprung had submitted an application for a Service Project for his Eagle Scout requirements. The proposed project included the erection of a community bulletin board to be placed at Mooney Park.

Discussion took place regarding the need of a community bulletin board at Mooney Park and that the scout should focus on projects that are of current need to the Parks, Recreation and Forestry Department such as repairing the trail and/or pavilion at Ruth Park Woods, or establishing new backstops at Heman Park.

**Commission Member Schmalz motioned, and Commission Member Hummel seconded to decline Mr. Sprung's proposal and to focus on alternate projects. The motion was approved with a 5-0 vote.**

- 2) **Dog Park Policy** – Mr. Dunkle reported that the City had received a request from a Mr. Freeman to consider changing the Dog Park Policy to allow dogs under the age of six months to gain membership even though they have not been spayed or neutered.

Discussion took place regarding what other municipalities allow, at what age can a dog get pregnant, and what implications could this cause.

**Commission Member Wilke motioned, and Commission Member Taylor seconded to table the request. The motion was approved with a 5-0 vote.**

- 3) **Special Event Policy** – Mr. Dunkle reported that the City would like to request the Commissions support to update the Special Event Policy. Mr. Dunkle stated in doing so, the policy would reflect the procedures used in similar permits.

**Commission Member Hummel motioned, and Commission Member Ullman seconded to support staff's recommendation. The motion was approved with a 5-0 vote.**

#### **Agenda Item #11: Adjournment**

**Commission Member Hummel made a motion at 8:25 pm, seconded by Commission Member Schmalz to adjourn. The motion was approved with a 5-0 vote.**

**MINUTES SUBJECT TO PARKS COMMISSION APPROVAL.**