

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
PARK COMMISSION
CITY OF UNIVERSITY CITY, ST. LOUIS COUNTY, MISSOURI
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 20, 2020**

Agenda Item #1: Call Meeting to Order

Park Commission President, Carl Hoagland called the meeting to order at 6:47 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, and Meg Ullman. Also, in attendance was Director of Parks, Recreation and Forestry Darren Dunkle. Those not in attendance were Commission Member Jay Redd and City Council Liaison Steve McMahon.

Agenda Item #3: Approval of the Agenda

Discussion took place regarding item #5 under New Business and should it remain on the Agenda.

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 September 15, 2020. The motion was approved with a 5-0 vote.

Agenda Item #5: Citizen Comments

None

Agenda Item #6: Department Report

Mr. Dunkle fielded the following questions from the Commission:

- 1) What is the Dog Park Pavilion listed in Capital Improvements? Mr. Dunkle stated that when the non-profit turned the Dog Park over to the City there were \$21,000 in funds that were donated to the City with the stipulation that a pavilion/shade structure would be placed at the dog park.
- 2) Is the Enclosed Trailer listed in Capital Improvements the Band Wagon? Mr. Dunkle stated that the Enclosed Trailer was for the storage and hauling of mowers and equipment.
- 3) What would the Aquatic Contract cover? Mr. Dunkle stated that the contract would cover lifeguards, managers, chemicals, on-going operations etc. He was further asked if University Residents would get preference in hiring. Mr. Dunkle stated that there is a clause in the contract that discusses the hiring of University City Residents.
- 4) Is Christ The King using the soccer fields? Mr. Dunkle stated that they were using the fields at Millar and Fogerty.

Agenda Item #7: Council Report

None

Agenda Item #8: Commission Report

- 1) Flynn Park Tennis Courts – It was reported that a large number of non-authorized lessons or classes were being conducted. Need more signage.
- 2) Lewis Park Playground – Need to look at rust on playground structure.
- 3) Ruth Park Woods – It was reported that there was a fallen limb hanging over the trail, and that signage along the creek needed to be reset.
- 4) Rabe Park - A “Playground Open” sign had been duct taped to the structure.

Agenda Item #9: Unfinished Business

None

Agenda Item #10: New Business

- 1) Parks Capital Improvement Priorities – Mr. Dunkle reported that the green highlighted areas within the document represented items that had been identified and placed within the FY21-25 City Capital Improvement Program.

Park Commission President Hoagland suggested that everyone review the document as well as the Commission 2020 Plan and be prepared to discuss at the November meeting. Discussion took place in regards to the need of redoing the plan, when the Commission just developed the plan last year.
- 2) Centennial Commons Opening Plan – Mr. Dunkle stated that the document within the Commission packet represented a rough draft of what might take place. He stated that staff met weekly to discuss any changes within the St. Louis County Health Department guidelines as well as discussion with other municipalities on how they were proceeding to get a gauge on what was working and was wasn't. He further stated that once a date has been set to reopen, staff would be able to better define the plan.
- 3) FY21 Budget Report – Discussion by Commission Members took place regarding the need for financial documents and what purpose would they play. It was stated that the financial documents could provide insight for decisions or recommendations that could be necessary in the future. Mr. Dunkle stated that if the Commission as a whole were wanting specific information/documents they could make a request to Council to have staff provide these documents.
- 4) St. Louis County Health Department Park Opening Request – Mr. Dunkle ask for clarification of what was being asked, as the City hasn't asked for nor is there a process in which the City would have to request permission from the County to open parks in general. It was stated that the Commission would like to see the request/letter the City sent to the County to open the Playgrounds.
- 5) Ruth Park Driving Range 2016 Redevelopment – Discussion took place by Commission Members regarding the redevelopment work that took place in 2016 at the Driving Range, and particular to why what was done wasn't working. Mr. Dunkle reported that he had been in discussions with the Director of Public Works and members of staff who were around when the project was going on to get a better understanding

of the scope of the project and what the particular issues were. He stated that although it is important to understand those items, his focus was on analyzing the current issue and exploring the best methods to resolve those issues.

- 6) Other – Commission Vice President Taylor wanted to go on the record to state that Council has decided to institute what he calls the Kevin Taylor Law, which would prohibit him from serving on the Commission due to the fact that his wife works for the department. He stated that his wife doesn't provide him with any information and that he does his own work and investigation on subjects and that he uses his over thirty years of experience in parks and recreation/coaching to guide him. He further stated that he didn't know who was behind this effort, but he feels that he is being singled out because to his knowledge, he is the only individual in this situation and that it is punitive and a way to shut him up. He went on to state that he that this was wrong and that he is a resident just like everyone else and should be able to continue to serve.

Agenda Item #11: Adjournment

Commission Member Hummel made a motion at 8:36 pm, seconded by Commission Member Schmalz to adjourn. The motion was approved with a 5-0 vote.

MINUTES SUBJECT TO PARKS COMMISSION APPROVAL.