



**PARKS COMMISSION
HEMAN PARK COMMUNITY CENTER
975 PENNSYLVANIA**

**Tuesday, October 18, 2022
6:30 p.m.**

AGENDA

- A. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER**
- B. ROLL CALL**
- C. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**
- D. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**
 - 1) September 20, 2022
- E. CITIZEN PARTICIPATION**
- F. DEPARTMENT REPORT**
- G. COUNCIL LIAISON REPORT**
- H. COMMISSION MEMBERS PARK INSPECTIONS REPORT**
- I. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**
 - 1) Recreation Priorities
 - 2) UCity Parks 100th Birthday
- J. NEW BUSINESS**
 - 1) Parks Priorities
- K. COMMISSION COMMENTS**
- L. ADJOURNMENT**

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE
PARK COMMISSION
CITY OF UNIVERSITY CITY, ST. LOUIS COUNTY, MISSOURI
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 2022**

Agenda Item A: Call Meeting to Order

Park Commission President, James Wilke called the meeting to order at 6:35 pm.

Agenda Item B: Roll Call

Those in attendance included Commission President James Wilke, Commission Members Lisa Hummel, Meg Ullman, Su Schmalz, and Amy Gascon. Also, in attendance were Council Liaison Steve McMahon and Staff Liaison Darren Dunkle, Director of Parks, Recreation and Forestry. Those not in attendance included Commission Member Carl Hoagland.

Agenda Item C: Approval of the Agenda

Commission Member Gascon motioned, and Commission Member Hummel seconded to approve the agenda. The motion was approved with a 4-0 vote.

Agenda Item D: Approval of the Minutes

Commission Member Hummel motioned, and Commission Member Schmalz seconded to accept the September 20, 2022, minutes. The motion was approved with a 4-0 vote.

Agenda Item E: Citizen Comments

None.

Agenda Item F: Department Report

Mr. Dunkle highlighted the following:

- 1) Ackert Park Renovation – Mr. Dunkle reported that the project was substantially completed, and the contractor was working on Punch List Items.
- 2) Driving Range Repairs – Mr. Dunkle reported that staff had made a recommendation and received approval from the City Council on August 8th for the first phase of the repairs/improvements to the Driving Range. He further stated that the Driving Range had been closed down beginning the week of August 15th and would remain closed until May of 2023.
- 3) Flood – Mr. Dunkle reported that the severe storms that took place on July 26th and July 28th created a severe flash flood which caused the flooding of most of Heman Park and caused damage to athletic fields, Centennial Commons, Heman Park Pool, and all maintenance facilities, etc. He further stated that it was unknown at the time when restoration efforts would begin or would be completed.
- 4) Municipal Parks Grant – Mr. Dunkle reported that staff had submitted a grant application for the Splash Spray ground to be placed with the Heman Park Pool Complex.

Agenda Item G: Council Report

Council Member McMahon highlighted the following:

- 1) Mr. McMahon reported that the city has been working with MSD, SEMA, and FEMA since the flood to assist in both the cleanup efforts and for possible funding opportunities.
- 2) Mr. McMahon reported that the City Council and Staff has been working towards corrective actions from the flood.

Agenda Item H: Commission Members Park Inspection Report

- 1) Rabe Park (Lisa Hummel) – Reported that the red drinking fountain wasn't working.
- 2) Ackert Park (Lisa Hummel) – Reported that the park looked good.
- 3) Millar Park (Lisa Hummel) – Reported a problem with the drinking fountain taking too long to produce water, and that the baseball infields were getting weeded over.
- 4) Lewis Park (Amy Gascon) – Reported that the playground had been painted and that it looked good.
- 5) Ruth Park Woods (Meg Ullman) – Reported that there was a big hole at the entrance to the trail.
- 6) Ruth Park G.C. (Su Schmalz) – Reported that the water fountain was now working.
- 7) Kaufman Park (Su Schmalz) – Reported that the park looked good and asked about the timing of the pickleball lines.
- 8) Kingsland and Eastgate Parks (Meg Ullman) – Stated that pipes had been placed in the rights-of-way for some type of project.

Discussion took place by the Commission on the assignment of parks and that maybe Commission President Wilke could take Heman, Mooney and Ackert and Commission Member Gascon could take Lewis and the Dog Park.

Agenda Item I: Unfinished Business

- 1) Heman Park Basketball Court Presentation - Mr. Majuan Bates and Ms. Asia Garrison gave an updated presentation (see attached) on the refurbishment of the Heman Park basketball Courts. Mr. Bates and Ms. Garrison stated that donors would cover the entire costs associated with the refurbishment of the courts as well as they would conduct free clinics as part of the opening of the courts when they are completed. They further stated that this is proposed to be a turnkey project in that the city would not have to be involved with the construction or funding of this project.

Commission Member Hummel stated that she didn't think that it was appropriate to have any type of religious statements or slogans painted on the courts. Mr. Bates stated that the slogan was just a mockup and that a final court painting would be determined later if the project was approved.

Commission President Wilke asked about the funding and wanted clarification on the funding. Mr. Bates stated that at this time, all funding would come from donations.

The Commission expressed their continued support of the project and did not take any other action as they already voted to support the project at the last meeting.

- 2) Recreation Priorities – Commission decided to table the item until next meeting.

Agenda Item J: New Business

- 1) UCity Parks 100th Birthday - Commission President Wilke stated that he and Council Liaison McMahon met with Judy Prange regarding the celebration and asked that this subject be placed on the October agenda.
- 2) Pickleball – Mr. Dunkle reported that pickleball wasn't part of the FY22 Park Priorities, however, it could be part of the Commission discussions for FY23 Park Priorities. Discussion took place regarding the heights of the net, pickleball only courts, funding, and grants.
- 3) Soccer Program – Mr. Sascha Bauer Director of Education for the St. Louis SC gave a presentation (see attached) on their Futures Program. Mr. Bauer stated that the St. Louis SC Futures Program wanted to partner with the City in providing a free soccer program to kids. Mr. Bauer further stated that the program if approved by the city would utilize outdoor and indoor facilities once per week to provide recreation and instructional opportunities to about 100 kids.

Mr. Bauer stated that the program would not compete with any other program within the community but would work to enhance the existing programs.

Commission Member Hummel motioned, and Commission Member Schmalz seconded to support the efforts of St. Louis SC and to partner with them on the use of fields for the Futures Program. The motion was approved with a 4-0 vote.

Agenda Item K: Commission Comments

- 1) Sue Schmalz - Stated that the Jackson Park School soccer field was in bad shape and was not conducive to soccer.
- 2) Lisa Hummel – Stated she was happy that the top two items on the top of the Recreation Priorities list was moving forward.

Agenda Item L: Adjournment

Commission Member Hummel made a motion at 8:19 pm, seconded by Commission Member Schmalz to adjourn. The motion was approved with a 4-0 vote.

MINUTES SUBJECT TO PARKS COMMISSION APPROVAL.



AGENDA ITEM COVER

MEETING DATE: October 18, 2022

AGENDA ITEM TITLE: Parks Capital Improvement Priorities

AGENDA SECTION: New Business

BACKGROUND REVIEW:

Each year the City goes through the exercise of identifying projects, items, vehicles and equipment to be considered by the City Council for the adoption of a Capital Improvement Program (CIP) for the next five years. As part of the CIP, projects, items, vehicles and equipment must meet the criteria of either having a life span of at least seven years or must have an individual value of \$25,000 or more.

Over the past several years the Parks Commission has conducted an exercise in which they review, discuss and vote on the projects and the priorities of projects.

ACTION:

No action is necessary, however, there must be a motion and a second by a Commission member to make recommendations, and the motion must be approved by the majority of the Commission.

ATTACHEMENTS:

- 1) FY22 Park Capital Improvement Priorities

City of University City Parks Commission Priorities Report 2022

James Wilke, President

Carl Hoagland, Member

Lisa Hummel, Member

Su Schmalz, Member

Margaret Ullman, Member

Darren Dunkle, Director of Parks, Recreation and Forestry

Steve McMahon, City Council Member

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Introduction

“The Park Commission is an advisory body consisting of seven members appointed by the City Council. All members must be residents of University City for at least two years immediately prior to their appointment. The duties of the Commission are to survey, advise and review plans for maintenance and improvement of University City parks, recreational facilities and activities; along with recommending rules and regulations for the administration of the activities of the Parks, Forestry, and Recreation department on related policy matters.

(<https://www.ucitymo.org/276/Park-Commission>).

To accomplish the mission, the Commission regularly visits parks and reports issues at the Commission’s monthly meetings. Once a year the Commission prioritizes park and recreation projects. Commission members have been assigned parks as shown below..

Centennial Commons-----	Open
Heman Pool-----	Open
Community Center-----	Open
Ackert/Greenway South-----	James Wilke
Adams-----	Su Schmalz
Eastgate-----	Margaret Ullman
Flynn-----	Carl Hoagland
Fogerty-----	Open
Greensfelder-----	Open
Heman-----	Open
Kaufman-----	Su Schmalz
Kingsland-----	Margaret Ullman
Lewis-----	James Wilke
Majerus-----	Open
Metcalf-----	Carl Hoagland
Millar-----	Lisa Hummel
Mona Trail-----	Margaret Ullman
Mooney-----	James Wilke
Rabe-----	Lisa Hummel
Ruth Park Woods-----	Lisa Hummel
Ruth Park Golf Course-----	Su Schmalz

Project Descriptions from the Department

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS

The City's Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) is generally based on projects and/or items that either have a life span of ten (10) years, or their individual costs are \$25,000 or greater.

A description of the projects identified by the Department are set forth below with the descriptions provided by the Department. The Commission's votes and discussion regarding the reasons for the Commission's priorities is not reflected in these descriptions. The order of the project descriptions reflects the Department's priority order.

Greensfelder Park Phase 1

In July of 2019 the Parks Commission voted to recommend moving forward with an application of a Municipal Parks Planning Grant for Greensfelder Park. The city received the Planning Grant from the St. Louis County Municipal Parks Grant Commission for the development of a Concept Plan. Since that time staff has hired and worked with a consultant to develop said Concept Plan. During our evaluation and analysis of the site, we have determined that the biggest concern deals with the storm water runoff coming from adjoining neighbors, which has led to constant flooding of areas of the park which makes it unusable and affects maintenance and delivery. As such, it is recommended that the City explore grant opportunities to help fund Phase I of the project which would include solutions to the storm water issues.

Heman Park – Centennial Commons – EIFS Painting and Caulking

A partial restoration effort to the exterior walls at Centennial Commons was undertaken in 2017. The work consisted of installation of "weepers" to allow for positive moisture control of the wall system, and cleaning, prepping, painting, and caulking the stucco surfaces at two of the exterior walls at the gymnasium. Additionally, the CMU block surfaces were treated with a clear waterproofing compound and the pre-cast stone sills were pointed with a flexible mortar. Subsurface CMU blocks received an elastomeric coating to provide a waterproof barrier. The work addressed an immediate maintenance need and should reduce future maintenance costs both to the exterior and interior of the building. The Public Works – Facilities Division who is responsible for this work will be making a funding request for this work.

Update the 2008 Comprehensive Parks Master Plan

Although the 2008 Master Plan still has some validity, the plan needs to be updated. This in part can be accomplished by starting with a Needs/Wants Analysis. Much like the Citizen Satisfaction Survey, a public engagement process could include both public meetings and a citizen survey to determine the needs and wants of the community.

Update the 2014 Heman Park Site Master Plan

Although the 2014 Master Plan has some good ideas, the plan needs to be updated. If funding and Land, Water, Conservation Fund restrictions weren't an issue, the 2014 Master Plan would be a very good plan, however, the reality of being able to fund the suggested improvements as outlined in the plan isn't financially feasible at this point. Accordingly, a plan needs to be developed that is not only financially feasible but is a plan that can be implemented. It should be completed *after* MSD has made a decision regarding the placement of projected storage tanks.

Greensfelder Park Phase 2

In July of 2019 the Parks Commission voted to recommend moving forward with an application of a Municipal Parks Planning Grant for Greensfelder Park. The City received a planning grant from the St. Louis County Municipal Parks Grant Commission for the development of a concept plan. ³ Since that time staff has hired and worked with a consultant to develop said concept plan. It is recommended that the City move forward with a Municipal Parks Construction Grant for the development of Phase 2 of the project. This would go over very well with the St. Louis County Municipal Parks Grant Commission as they funded the planning grant, and it would show that we are making progress towards the development of the park.

Heman Park - ADA Improvements

Although there are numerous improvements that need to be made to get into compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, it is recommended that these improvements take place: 1) Once we hear from MSD on the possible location of storage tanks within the park; 2) Possible funding allocated from MSD; and 2) In coordination with other individual improvements.

Heman Park – South Parking Lot and Drives

Although there are numerous improvements (grading, paving, lighting, landscaping) that need to be made, it is recommended that these improvements take place: 1) once we hear from MSD on the possible location of storage tanks within the park; 2) possible funding allocated from MSD; and 3) in coordination with other individual improvements.

Heman Park - Swimming Pool Pumps

As part of an ongoing maintenance plan, it is recommended that the pool pumps be replaced every seven to ten years. As such it is recommended that the Heman Park Swimming Pool pumps be scheduled to be replaced.

Heman Park - Pavilion and Bandstand

During our analysis it has been determined that the pavilion north of the south restrooms needs to be replaced. It is recommended that staff further explore and move forward with exploring the development of a new pavilion/band stage. However, for this to occur and to be functional for the band concerts that currently take place within the park, the proposed pavilion would need to be relocated up the hill closer to the

restrooms and parking etc. This would require the removal of a playground (slated to be removed and relocated later to develop a new all abilities playground).

A final recommendation from the Parks Commission needs to be made to replace the current bandstand. Will a new self-contained mobile stage unit be purchased that will provide users with more platform area, better acoustics, open air and better sight lines for audiences? The mobile stage is utilized for many community occasions and is also rented to outside organizations for special events. The existing stage is a 1994 model that no longer meets the needs of our regular users. A proposal put forward by the Parks staff supports eliminating the mobile stage and setting up a permanent stage in an existing park.

Heman Park – Beautification

Although there are numerous improvements (formal and informal landscaped beds, tree plantings, etc.) that need to be made, it is recommended that these improvements take place: 1) once we hear from MSD on the possible location of storage tanks within the park; 2) possible funding allocated from MSD; and 3) in coordination with other individual improvements.

Heman Park – South Shelter Roofs

Although there are numerous improvements that need to be made, it is recommended that these improvements take place: 1) once we hear from MSD on the possible location of storage tanks within the park; and 2) in coordination with other individual improvements.

Heman Park – River Des Peres

Although there are numerous improvements (streambank stabilization, riparian corridor plantings) that need to be made, it is recommended that these improvements take place: 1) once we hear from MSD on the possible location of storage tanks within the park; 2) possible funding allocated from MSD; and 3) in coordination with other individual improvements.

Rabe Park – Playground and Surfacing

During the audit analysis it was determined that the playground and surfacing at Rabe Park ranked highest of all playgrounds to be replaced. As such it is recommended that the City apply for a Municipal Parks Construction Grant for the replacement of the existing playground and surfacing as well as needed ADA improvements to the park.

Greensfelder Park Phase 3

The City received a planning grant from the St. Louis County Municipal Parks Grant Commission for the development of a concept plan. Since that time staff has hired and worked with a consultant to develop said concept plan. It is recommended that the City move forward with a Municipal Parks Construction Grant for the development of Phase 3 of the project. This would go over very well with the St. Louis County Municipal Parks

Grant Commission as they funded the planning grant and it would show that we are making progress towards the development of the park. The question being asked by the Park Commission is whether a full park is needed in the area.

Ruth Park Golf Course – Short Game Practice Area

Completion of short game practice area and replacement of existing driving range tee turf.

Lewis Park – Playground and Surfacing

During the audit analysis it was determined that the playground and surfacing at Lewis Park ranked the third highest of all playgrounds to be replaced. As such it is recommended that the City apply for a Municipal Parks Construction Grant for the replacement of the existing playground and surfacing as well as needed ADA improvements to the park.

Ruth Park Golf Course – Main Building, Deck and Golf Cart Storage \$Unknown

The Commission voted in July 2019 to apply for a planning grant in 2020 to repair the golf shop and build an emergency shelter at the end of the driving range. To date this has not happened. This was deferred in place of funding for new netting and landscaping the driving range. The condition of the facility has deteriorated over the years. The masonry walls often leak during rain events, the stucco exterior walls are cracking and peeling, and the trim and walls need repair and painting. There is a need to improve aesthetics, eliminate yearly maintenance repair costs, provide a comfortable setting for guests and possibly add a concessions deck and below storage for golf carts.

Ruth Park Golf Course – Lights for the driving range

*Previously the driving range had lights. The lights should be reinstalled in such a way that they do not add additional lumens to the neighbors. The permit to install the lights still exists and the previous electrical conduit still exists. This should increase usage. The driving range is a moneymaker, and the addition of lights should increase revenues. Consideration of the management of the range at night must be addressed if the lights are installed.

Heman – Aquatics facility at Centennial Commons

An indoor aquatics facility would potentially attract more users to the Centennial Commons and could be a revenue generator. A study is needed to determine what would be attached to the current Centennial Commons facility. The expense is large, and it is anticipated that compensation from the MSD installation of tanks in Heman Park could fund the indoor aquatics facility.

PROCESS

This year the Parks, Recreation, and Forestry Department organized its priorities by listing projects with action dates. The Parks Commission reviewed the list of the Department's priorities and placed them into an order of most needed to least based on input from the Department, commissioner's park visits and monthly discussion in the commission meetings. The final list of priorities for the Parks Commission was finalized at the January meeting, and the list received a final vote at the February meeting.

Each priority includes a short description and page reference for additional information. They are listed in priority order according to three funding categories:

- Category 1, Over \$250,000
- Category 2, Over \$100,000 to under \$250,000
- Category 3, Under \$100,000

Please note that the decisions were made on a remote basis, thus tie votes were not decided as had been done in previous years. A quick summary shows that most of the priorities of the Parks and Recreation Department are congruent with the Parks Commission priorities. The major discrepancy is the lower priority placed on Greensfelder Park by the Parks Commission. Also, there are three items (*in italics*) that were not listed in the Parks, Recreation and Forestry document that received priority votes from the Parks Commission.

Category 1: Projects over \$250,000

Title	Short Description	Page	Park Staff priority	Proj. Comp Date	Park Commission priorities
Heman Park	ADA improvements	p. 6		FY24	1st (tie)
Heman Park	Playground	No Description		FY 24	1st (tie)
Rabe	Playground & surfacing	p. 7		FY 24	1st (tie)
Ruth Park	Deck & golf cart storage	p. 7		No date given	3rd (tie)
Lewis Park	Playground & surfacing	p. 7		FY 24	3rd (tie)
Heman Park	South parking lot & drives	p. 6		FY 24	6th (tie)
Heman Park	River Des Peres	p. 6		FY 24	6th (tie)
Greensfelder	Phase 1 development	p. 5		FY 24	No votes
Greensfelder	Phase 2 development	p. 6		N/A	No votes
Greensfelder	Phase 3	p. 6		N/A	No votes

Category 2: Projects over \$100,000 and under 250,000

Title	Short Description	Page	Park Staff priority	Proj. Comp. Date	Park Commission priorities
Heman	Centennial Commons- EIFS painting & caulking	p. 5		FY 23	1st (tie)
Heman	Swimming pool pumps	p. 6		FY 24	1st (tie)
Heman	South shelter roofs	p. 6		FY 24	1st (tie)
Ruth	Driving range lights	p. 7		N/A	3rd
Heman	Park pavilion & bandstand	p. 6		FY 24	4th
Ruth	Maintenance lot and drive	Completed		FY 25	5th
Heman	Beautification	p. 6		FY 24	No votes
Ruth	Centennial Commons aquatic center	p. 7		N/A	No votes

Category 3: Projects under \$100,000

Title	Short Description	Page See doc., Parks & Recreation Programs 2022	Park Staff priority	Proj. Comp. Date	Park Commission priorities
Heman	Tennis court resurfacing & signage	No description		FY 23	1st
Metcalfe	Playground surfacing/ADA improvements	No description		FY 26	2nd (tie)
Heman	Basketball court resurfacing	No description		FY 24	2nd (tie)
Kaufman	Tennis court resurfacing & signage	No description		FY 25	4th
Ruth	Short game practice area	p. 7		N/A	No votes
All parks	Update 2008 comprehensive parks master plan	p. 5		N/A	No votes
Heman	Update 2014 Heman master plan	p. 5		FY 23,? after MSD Plan	No votes



AGENDA ITEM COVER

MEETING DATE: October 18, 2022

AGENDA ITEM TITLE: UCity Parks 100th Birthday

AGENDA SECTION: Unfinished Business

BACKGROUND REVIEW:

Ms. Judy Prange of UCity In Bloom wanted to be sure that the Parks Commission knew that University City parks turn 100 next year, 2023. Also, the pool turns 90 on June 1, 2023. The entrance fee at that time was \$.25, also .25 to rent a swimsuit, and .10 to rent a towel.

Ms. Prange has stated that she has a lot of Parks information from when she was on the Parks Foundation, history of all parks, historic pictures, amazing things like the fact that the pool was dug by hand. This park tour brochure was created from the historic information.

Ms. Prange stated that it would be great fun for the city to celebrate this like we did for the Centennial and the Lion's birthday. We had a committee that developed many fun events for the whole community. This could bring people together and have fun.

ACTION:

No action is required as this is a discussion item. However, if the Commission would like to take action, there must be a motion and a second by a Commission member to make a recommendation and the motion must be approved by the majority of the Commission.

ATTACHMENTS:

100th Anniversary Plan

Celebrating University City Parks Centennial

Let's name 2023 as "The Year of U. City Parks"

1920's the Public Works Department began

1923 – first 3 parks, Lewis, Flynn, and Heman

1933 - pool was dug and build entirely by hand after the river was moved to a new channel. This was a Public Works project to give work to people who needed income.

PARKS

Ackert – 1967

Adams/Northmoor - 1933

Cunningham -1923

Eastgate – 1923

Flynn – 1923

Fogerty – 1928

Greensfelder – 1946

Greenway South – 1967

Heman – 1923

Kaufman – 1972

Kingsland – 1989

Lewis – 1923

Majerus – 1995

Metcalf – 1954

Millar – 1928

Mooney/Jackson – 1923 & 1931

Oakbrook

Rabe – 1934

Ruth – 1929

Ruth Park Woods – 1928

U. City celebrated the centennial of the Searchlight, the city's Centennial 2006, and the Lions Gates Centennial 2009.

2023 is the Centennial of beginning of creating U. City Parks. Also the 90th birthday of the pool.

Some ideas

- The 2023 City calendar will be photos of the parks “then and now”
Les Palmer is taking photos of the parks
- Monthly PR could be sent from the city about the history and information about a park. Sort of “Did you know our schools are in parks”?
- May 31, Memorial Day, 2023 could be the Grand Re-Opening of the pool, the same day it was originally opened and the first public pool in the county.
Maybe make it the 25-cent day like the original.
- June, July, and August could be special activities such as the school bands doing concerts in parks other than Heman, involve Arts & Letters
Other ideas that can get residents to the parks could be planned, scavenger hunts, walking, hiking, meet at the Woods, kid’s art projects, etc.
Bike tours and bus tours of the parks
- Do some fundraising events.
Sell a beautiful t-shirt “I love U. City Parks” with a graphic of a park with the proceeds going toward a new bandstand to be built in Mooney Park as the original 1923 plan had designed.
- Lions of Jazz concert at the High School or in a park if possible. That would be huge and could generate some funding for a project generated by the Parks Centennial.
- Add a park – Oakbrook, or an International Sculpture Park
Raise funding for a fountain in the circle at the north end of Jackson Park.
The original design called for this to be built.

Executive committee

Terry Crow – chair

Sue Rehkopf – U. City Archivist

Tim Cusick - council

Cindy Thierry – 1st

Les Palmer – 1st – President of Parks Foundation, now dissolved

James Wilke – Parks Commission

Steve McMahon - council

Judy Prange – 2nd

Chris Blumenhorst – School District rep

Irv Logan – 3rd

Alice Boon – 3rd