



**PARKS COMMISSION  
Heman Park Community Center  
975 Pennsylvania**

**Tuesday, November 21, 2023  
6:30 p.m.**

**MINUTES**

**A. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER 6:38 pm**

**B. ROLL CALL**

1. James Wilke
2. Chris Cholley
3. Patrick Fox
4. Amy Gascon
5. Todd Strubhart
6. Darin Girdler
7. Lynda Euell-Taylor

**C. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

1. Can Mr. Nadler under new business be moved up after E. Citizen Participation? Patrick Fox motion, Amy Gascon seconded motion, the motion was approved.
2. Approval of Agenda: correct Mr. Nadler's name in J. New Business; after that change motion to approve Patrick Fox, Amy Gascon seconded motion, the motion was approved.

**D. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

1. September 2023: Patrick Fox asking for some changes in his statement of working with the school district but not WashU. Darin Girdler is going to make the change and send out an updated draft. Patrick Fox motioned for the approval of the minutes to be tabled, Amy Gascon seconded the motion, the motion was approved.

**E. CITIZEN PARTICIPATION**

1. **No citizen participation**

**F. NEW BUSINESS**

1. Proposed Sculptures – Arny Nadler, Washington University sculpture program leader, see hand-out
2. Flynn Park – three piece sculpture, Lewis Park – 6 floating wooden coins
3. installation end of March/beginning of April, removal four-six weeks, hoping to get approval to keep throughout the summer maybe until fall

for placement in the parks: Patrick Fox(?) makes motion to approve, Chris C (?) seconded the motion, the motion was approved.

**G. DEPARTMENT REPORT**

1. Darin Girdler: Lynda, Leslie and Merric are working on the policies a little at a time which is perfect, going to start meeting about programing and the reopening of the rec center in the spring and summer, the city has hires Navigate Consultants to make sure we follow all FEMA guidelines, the gym floor; there is roof work, foundation and work around the outside doors to get water to shed away from the building, the outside of the complex needs about \$2 million addition to the FEMA moneys, soccer roof is the worst
2. Lynda: the new program Charcuterie Workshop, Merric is the lead, each will get a tray wrapped to take home to share with the family, Patrick Fox expressed concern about it being on a Friday

eliminating a portion of the city's residents wondered if it could be scheduled for a second night during the week, the artwork needs to be more inclusive, at Centennial Commons

3. Amy Gascon asking if there is any type of estimation of when the work will begin, Darin Girdler targeting February/March. James Wilke it would be nice to have a timeline for all the different things you have, Darin Girdler as soon as we go out for bid a timeline will be able to be shared at that time, Amy Gascon asked about basketball, both Lynda Euell-Taylor and Darin Girdler stated no
4. Justin Wilhite, UCity School District, update – 3<sup>th</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, and 5<sup>th</sup> grade Interest Only survey, 140 responses, it may not work out to be a league but maybe a Saturday Skills & Drills, James Wilke (?) asking about looking into doing a program for the middle school age kids also, Jackson Park School for 10 weeks, wanted Mr. Fox to know he has had someone reach out about doing a program for the non-Saturday hours maybe an evening during the week or on Sunday

#### **H. COUNCIL LIAISON REPORT: None**

#### **I. COMMISSION MEMBERS PARK INSPECTIONS REPORT**

1. Heman Park: James Wilke, progress on softball field, the pile of branches is gone but replaced by a pile of millings, Todd Strubhart explained that it will be used to spread out for a parking area right next to the pile as well as used around the city on maintenance projects, James Wilke has concern because at the time of his visit there were two young children climbing on the pile, Olive side on the soccer field that has the ditch since the fields will be down for a few months can dirt be brought in to fill it and get grass growing before baseball season starts, Todd Strubhart stated we have a contract for fill dirt scheduled
2. Dog Park: Patrick Fox light is great, Darin Girdler asked about wood chips, Todd Strubhart stated they are scheduled to be delivered/installed next week, Patrick Fox asked is the lights inside the dog park are on a timer, he has gotten commits about the lights staying on past the normal 10:30 pm park curfew, Todd Strubhart stated he will check with Brian (Park Maintenance staff member), Patrick Fox asking if anything can be worked out with the Finance Department to accept the registration and needed documentation electronically, Todd Strubhart asking how many member are there, Patrick Fox doesn't know but believes there are more users than members, Todd Strubhart suggested a card entry program instead of the current punch code entry
3. Lewis Park: Amy Gascon, the fountain is still not working, Darin Girdler stated him, Todd Strubhart and Mike Warmbold have three fountain projects coming up, Flynn Park, Rainman at Epstein Park, and Memorial at Heman Park, Patrick Fox asked is the car/car parts was still in Ruth Park Woods,
4. James Wilke; announced with Chris C being new that the commission is going to redistribute three city parks per commission person in January, separate Heman Park into North Area and South Area,
5. Millar Park; Dirt along the walking trail, will it be seeded, Todd Strubhart it will be seeded in the spring
6. Amy Gascon stated that she would like to start having something good reported for each park assigned
7. Chris Cholley asked when are the restrooms to be winterized, Todd Strubhart stated they are scheduled to start closing them this week into next week.
8. Patrick Fox stated the water is off at the dog park, Todd Strubhart stated that the water has been turned off at 128 places in the city

#### **J. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

1. Parks Centennial Update: James Wilke stated they have had their last event of the year, for November 11<sup>th</sup> Veteran's Day at Heman Park Memorial Fountain, it was very well attended, and it was a nice ceremony, new event planned at the University City Library for January/February no final date has been set, fund raising

#### **K. COMMISSION COMMENTS**

1. James Wilke; Changes to rules and regulations/policies, we need to look at document passed out last month about how the commission is conducted, is it in line with how we conduct ourselves?

Does not like the title "By-Laws", Patrick Fox is asking if everyone has a copy of the by-laws, Darin Girdler stated it is posted on the website in the public documents, Chris C asking about the by-law, Patrick Fox (?) pointed out that there are two separate types of documents

2. James Wilke; Lynda Euell-Taylor has brought the recommendation for Pavilion Rules and Regulations regarding a \$200 refundable damage deposit, Lynda Euell-Taylor is inquiring because her staff starts taking picnic reservations the first working day in January
3. James Wilke; asking for a special Parks Commission meeting by Zoom for December 2023, Patrick Fox is concerned about the public commits, Patrick Fox has asked that the rental agreement be reviewed by all commission members to make suggestions on changes to be discussed at the December special meeting,
4. James Wilke: a meeting will be set up for December 4 at 6:00 pm at Centennial Commons to only discuss the \$200 refundable damage deposit

**L. ADJOURNMENT 8:14pm**

1. Amy Gascon motioned for adjournment, Patrick Fox seconded motion, motion approved