

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE
PARK COMMISSION
CITY OF UNIVERSITY CITY, ST. LOUIS COUNTY, MISSOURI
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 2023**

Agenda Item A: Call Meeting to Order

Park Commission President, James Wilke called the meeting to order.

Agenda Item B: ROLL CALL

Steve McMahon
Amy Gascon
Patrick Fox
Lisa Hummel
Todd Strubhart
Darin Girdler
Soon to be New Member Chris Cholley

Agenda Item C: APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Approved

Agenda Item D: APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1) August 15, 2023 – Draft

Minutes: "Police closing Heman Park." Minutes verbatim needs to be added to agenda for Mr. Fox's comments of. 8/15/2023. Minutes will be held over.

Agenda Item E: CITIZEN PARTICIPATION

None

Agenda Item F: DEPARTMENT REPORT

- Entering into a services agreement for rehab of Centennial Commons with Navigate Building Solutions, to meet all FEMA requirements
 - Effect time lines for larger spaces, basketball courts and soccer field
 - Drywall and entry area work to be completed
 - Basketball courts wood needs to be ordered
- FEMA approve all park related projects?
 - Park maintenance facilities
 - Field #6 affected by flood, doubled raked, and getting more TLC, dumped 10 loads, 3 employees did 3 hours of work to clean up rock
- Storm damage clean up completed
 - Getting rid of large pile of storm debris
 - Will be double ground

Agenda Item G: COUNCIL LIAISON REPORT

- Park issues at council meeting, a lot of members requesting to getting the entire commons up and running including programs started back
- Get the public comments forms filled out and get them to the Parks Commission so they can express their view with us directly. Check with City Clerk to get those forms.

Agenda Item H: COMMISSION MEMBERS PARK INSPECTION REPORT

Su Schmalz report:

Kaufmann

- playground fountain doesn't have good water pressure, but the tennis court fountain is in good shape,
- the area just north of the tennis courts practice wall, in disrepair, not part of repaving project, broken asphalt
- all four courts supposed to be for pickle ball?
 - Todd: only two, company made a mistake, they have restriped the courts in two different colors as of today
- Trash cans by the courts are often over full, needs to be emptied more
- Tennis use time signs

Ruth Park

- The fountain on the 5th hole is still not working
- Memorial bench at hole #8 never got addressed
 - Todd: Too expensive to repair it
 - Needs to be some way repaired or get it removed.
- Youth lessons were not promoted/posted
 - Data on how many participants were UCity residents, published in UCity schools in the future, PTO (One UCity) to promote
 - Large netting around course needs repaired

Dog Park:

- MSD out of dog park
- Lights out
 - Todd stated they are going to change all of them into LED

Lisa Hummel report:

Ruth Park Woods; McKnight entrance still block

Todd: Jacob evaluated trees, has removed dangerous hangers

Millar: finally got all the tree debris removed

Ladies: Restroom needs soap

Men: soap dispenser pulled off the wall

Times to open? needs to be open around 6am

Metcalfe still have large branches down

Lewis Park

Center fountain still not working

Agenda Item I: UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1) Parks Centennial Update:

Bike ride 75 people participated

October 27 – Trunk or Treat

October 28 PTO (One UCity)

Organize with School PTO (One UCity) on times to do event together

Next event: Veterans day 11/11/2023

Agenda Item J: NEW BUSINESS

1) Story Walk Program

Patrick Wall: UCity Library Director

- Story Wall Program
 - Grant funds 15 real estate signs
 - In the Loop and a different park every two months
 - Change books once a month
 - Do we need city council approval, to let UCity library let use in park
 - Move Fogerty to bottom then start with the second park listed
- Approved to support

- Change Kingsland Park to Shelly Welch Park

2) Tennis Court Usage

- James Hopkins
 - First come first serve
 - Four or five professional holds lessons
 - Will not allow anyone to use the court, they hold
 - Someone is going to hurt
 - Tennis groups keep court for two or more hours
 - Wants to sell permits to use the courts
 - Yearly – charge \$30
 - Daily - charge \$5-\$10
 - Grant money from Professional Tennis Association holds tournaments taking up the tennis courts for the whole day
 - Kaufman Park - Pickle Ball groups using more then the two assigned courts
 - Signs are not affective.
 - Concerned about confronting players holding courts
 - Heman Park; Backboards needs to be worked on, paint peeling, can't use
 - Most people using the courts, pickle ball especially, are not ucity residents
- Lessons: Saturday and Sunday in early morning hours
 - Wants the fourth court with two benches
 - Professional lesson personnel should have business license.
 - Grant from USTA, the members feel they have
 - Webster Groves courts are paying courts
 - Tournaments-permits/reservation
 - Some but not all request permits

- Lynda doesn't know anything about Mr. Hopkins concerns
 - 2004 Grant, USTA
 - What are the options for a tennis court marshall?
 - Rules in place, not being followed
 - What are the rules?
- Athletic field; people are using without permits
 - But will leave field if someone comes that has a permit
- Lynda: Park marshall instead of tennis marshall
- Helpful: how much are the cost for the permits?
 - To bring order to the issue
 - Fees schedules
 - Look into fees, rules, what would it take to have a part-time marshal
 - Park Commission do we have the authority to create a new staff position?
- Placing this concern/issue on the Unfinished Business for the October meeting.

3) School District

Justin Wilhite

Partnership between the City and the school district

New position: District Activities Coordinator

- A position to work with youth sports/activities, person would work with and for both the school district and the city.
 - Cost sharing between school district and the city
- One place to keep community up-to-date
- Current events: high school kids – Amazing Race
 - U-Amazing Race on the grounds around the schools
 - Have the parents and community involved
- Other uses for school facilities
 - Track for public use outside of school hours
- Wants to attend each month to give updates.

4) Alta Dena Marker Sign Request

- Updated and bid from contractor, over \$20,000
- Post with arm, 10' pole with sign hanging from it (like the border UCity signs) 10' fluted 4" cast iron pole
- Would not block traffic site lines
- Have identified 6 signs locations on the borders of the Alta Dena
 - 2 Jackson, 1 Pershing (at Taco Budda), corner lots, Kingsbury island, 2 islands on Pershing
 - Tree lawn is not under Park Commission, under Street
- Not a monument, Park Commission voted to support the current post signs in placement for the Park Commission jurisdiction.

5) Pickle ball

Lisa Roth

- Available for kids at all ages
- Certified Pickle ball coach
- Implement a better system for the use of the public courts
 - Permits
 - Non-biased person to regulate use of courts by residents and non-residents

- Grants available for supplies
- Take to the schools; after school programs
- Athletics important for youth

6) University City Comprehensive Plan

Amy

- Her husband is on the committee
- Planning Commission bring it to all committees
- Section: parks
 - page 72: D2 Enhance The Community Through Parks and Recreation Facilities To Meet The Needs of All Residents
 - Matrix, Implementation Plan, Section 5, Page 118,
- Is this a direction of D2, six different items?
- Lead coordinators: one item to be taken over responsibility
- She has no problem with D2
- 1st item: Update University City Parks Master Plan to include a maintenance management plan for parks, prioritizing strategic investment in maintenance, programming, and naturalized spaces.
 - The best item for us to support/lead coordinator on

Patrick Fox:

- Is in agreement with working with the school district but does not support working with Washington University at all since they have the financial evasive but are a drain on the City's resources.
- D.2.4 Restart and expand parks and recreation programming for seniors and youth
 - States the funding is limited yet does not show or explain how the funding for these programs would be accomplished. Investing in people, facilities
- How do we accomplish this items
- Evaluate fee structure

Amy:

- financial transparency, Planning Committee has been talking with the City Manager about the financial transparency with the commissions needed to accomplish some of the goal set out in this plan. want more green space and parks we will need more financial means to accomplish them.
- F4: Improve intra-governmental coordination and cooperation
 - Hire a grant coordinator
 - Collaboration and sharing between departments and commissions

James:

Charter: the Park Commission has the right to recommend and approve a budget before it goes to the City Manager, which hasn't been done in the last couple of years. Need to understand the ebb and flow of revenues and expenses

Todd:

The name needs to be changed to reflect Parks and Recreation Master Plan.

Darin:

The understanding of the document is a framework/foundation to find solutions

7) No Smoking In Parks

Sue requested

Unfinished Business for October's meeting

Darin: will have to be an ordinance, not just a policy

James: is there a state or county ruling

Looking at our ordinance language on this

Find an ordinance already on the books

St. Louis County has passed one for the county parks

Put on next months agenda to continue discussion

Look for other city's ordinances language, detail

8) Golf Course Fees/Clayton Agreement

Sue requested

Unfinished business for October meeting

- Grant was for 20 to 30 years
- Grant for driving range, Clayton gave \$30,000 for other government matching fund

James would like to see the grant paperwork

Amy?

Revisit golf course fees, do we have a schedule for reviewing/changing

Patrick?

Should be when budgeting, will need councils approval to make the changes

Put back on agenda: wants fee schedule and grant paperwork

Commission – just do a recommendation or set the fee

The commission makes a recommendation to the council who decides to change or not to change

Check with Mr. Mulligan

Should have citizen's input

Documents for September meeting:

1969 Tennis permit fees

Driving range grant

Golf course fee schedule

9) Management Polices

Unfinished business for October meeting

Darin has 29 policies, for park use

Have comprehensive policies not relay individual rules that are or not followed

In the past, staff would bring a policy for review.

Have been waiting for these policies for over a year

Darin will email the policies to all the commission members

Agenda Item K: COMMISSION COMMENTS

Patrick Talked to Mary Goodman

New website creation, can such things like the dog park registration be put available through the website:

Fill out the form

Upload documents

Pay the fee

Instead of going into city hall and being told by different people different paperwork needed to register for the dog park.

Darin: Update

City Manager's report – commissioned BakerTilly national search for a director

Agenda Item L: ADJOURNMENT

The motion was approved.