

STUDY SESSION
Recreational Division Strategic Planning Update
CITY HALL, Fifth Floor
6801 Delmar Blvd., University City, Missouri 63130
Monday, January 8, 2024
5:30 p.m.

AGENDA

1. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

At the Study Session of the City Council of University City held on Monday, January 8, 2024, Mayor Terry Crow, called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

In addition to the Mayor, the following members of Council were present:

Councilmember Stacy Clay; (*excused*)
Councilmember Aleta Klein
Councilmember Steven McMahon
Councilmember Jeffrey Hales
Councilmember Dennis Fuller
Councilmember Bwayne Smotherson

Also in attendance were City Manager, Gregory Rose; City Attorney, John F. Mulligan, Jr., and Interim Director of Public Works & Recreation, Darin Girdler.

2. CHANGES TO REGULAR AGENDA

None

3. RECREATIONAL DIVISION STRATEGIC PLANNING UPDATE

Mr. Rose stated Council is being asked to receive a presentation and provide further guidance, on the Recreational Division's Strategic Plan.

Mr. Girdler stated this update focuses on the reintroduction of Centennial Commons as it resumes normal operations.

Phase I - 2024 Centennial Commons

January:

- Laugh, Lunch & Bingo for 60+
 - Celebrity Bingo Callers

February:

- American Heart Association's Annual Go Red for Women Event
- Kid's Valentine Event
- Laugh, Lunch & Bingo for 60+
- Coach Recruitment/Participant Registration for the 2024 Red Bird Rookies Season

March:

- Laugh, Lunch & Bingo for 60+
- Kid's Easter Egg Event
- Fitness Programming from March through May
 - Monday - Senior Fitness & Yoga
 - Tuesday - Line Dancing
 - Wednesday - Senior Fitness & Step Aerobics
 - Thursday - Tai Chi
 - Saturday - Pilates

April:

- Laugh, Lunch & Bingo for 60+
- Kid's Event "Touch a Truck"

May:

- Redbird Rookies Summer Sports Program

September:

- Annual Community Yard Sale - September 14th
- Free document shredding
- Contractual Agreement with Aging Ahead Senior Programming; Heman Park Community Center (HPCC)
- Fitness Programming
- Centennial Commons/HPCC Reservations
- Rental/Programming of Gymnasium
 - Pickleball
 - Open Gym
 - Tennis Lessons
- Rental/Programming of Indoor Soccer Facility

Hours of Operation

- Saturday, May 25, 2024 through Monday, September 2, 2024
- Monday-Friday: 5:30 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.
- Saturday: 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.
- Sunday: 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Phase I - 2024 Heman Park Pool**March:** 2024 Season Pass "*Early Bird*" Program

- Allows unlimited access to Heman Park Swimming Pool Facility
- Available March 1st through May 1st
- Passes purchased at Centennial Commons
- 10% discount for passes purchased during this timeframe
- Passes are now good for only the current season (beginning 7-15-24; 50% off-season passes)
- Includes invitation to Private Pre-Opening Event

May 24, 2024:

- Celebrating 90 Years of Community Joy
- Member-only pre-opening celebration from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
- Unveiling of new "Wizard of Oz" Splash Pad
- Open Swim
- Music
- Food Trucks
- Adult-Youth Giveaways

Aquatic Programs/Events

- Session I: May 27th - July 1st
- Session II: July 15th - August 19th
- Swim Lessons for all ages
- Deep Water Fitness
- Aqua Fitness and Shallow Water Splash

Events:

- Family Dive In
- Annual Puppy Pool Party

Hours of Operation

- Saturday, May 25, 2024 to Monday, September 2, 2024
- Monday-Sunday & Holidays: Lap Swim 6:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m.
- Monday-Sunday & Holidays: Open Swim 12:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

- Back to School Hours/August 19th-September 2nd:
- Monday-Sunday: Lap Swim 6:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m.
- Monday-Friday: Open Swim 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
- Weekends & Holidays: Open Swim 12:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Mr. Girdler stated he received the construction schedule for Centennial Commons and the other facilities impacted by the flood on Friday, and after staff has had an opportunity to review the perimeters it will be forwarded to Mr. Rose for inclusion in his weekly report to Council. He stated staff's ability to bring programs back online will be predicated on the construction schedule, so the hope is that it will be accelerated.

Before renovating the gym; which will be the most complex renovation, a trench drain or removal of the stoops outside of the emergency exit doors will need to be reconstructed to pitch away from the building to make sure any surface water is evacuated.

All of the roofs have been examined, and although the gym's roof is 18 years old, it is still in pretty good shape. Funds for exterior improvements to the facility will be requested in the next year's budget.

Mr. Girdler thanked Lynda Euell-Taylor and the staff at Centennial Commons for their efforts to help him develop this plan.

Mr. Rose stated while Centennial Commons is partially online, with the exercise area, the walking track, and the pool. This is a continuation of their efforts to make it fully operational. Staff has been coordinating their efforts with FEMA, which requires very specific and detailed bidding documents. And as a result, Council authorized staff to enter into a contract with NAVIGATE. Mr. Girdler and his staff have been working with NAVIGATE and FEMA to ensure that any funds expended will be reimbursed. He then asked Mr. Girdler if he could provide an estimated time for when the bidding would commence? Mr. Girdler stated it is scheduled to start next month.

Councilmember Smotherson posed the following questions to Mr. Girdler:

Q. Does U City have Splash Pads at any of its other locations?

A. Yes, Fogerty Park.

Q. Will you need a membership to access the Splash Pad at Heman?

A. Yes.

Q. Was there anything in your discussions to bring back summer or winter camps, the 50+ basketball league, and the weekly Bridge Club held on Thursdays at Centennial Commons?

A. Although there have not been any specific discussions, they can be included in the bi-weekly planning meetings conducted with his staff, the recreation center, and Centennial Commons.

Q. What will the fitness programs being resumed in September consist of?

A. While I don't have any specific details, it will be a general fitness program.

Q. (Mr. Rose): Are you referring to classes like aerobics that were conducted by third-party contractors?

A. Yes.

Mr. Rose stated September will consist of overall fitness programs that are not conducted by City staff. So, before these facilities come back online a robust marketing campaign will be conducted to ensure organizations that have used them in the past will be notified about their reopening.

Councilmember Hales stated this is all very welcoming news and his hope is that the progress with Centennial Commons moves as quickly as possible. One of the questions posed by Council was related to membership at these facilities post-COVID and the flood, and whether they will have enough members to support all of these plans. So perhaps, a similar incentive like the early-bird membership could be offered at Centennial Commons.

Councilmember Klein echoed Councilmember Hales' enthusiasm and thinks the community is going to be excited as well. She reiterated the need for summer programs for school-aged children and the importance of making sure that their marketing campaign reaches everyone.

Mr. Girdler stated the intent is to not only follow their past marketing practices but to look at ways they can be enhanced.

Mayor Crow asked if there was an update on the perpetual issue of hiring lifeguards? Mr. Girdler stated they will be using the same company for the entire season this year, so staff should not be an issue.

Mayor Crow acknowledged Mr. Wilke's presence and thanked him for his service on the City's Park Commission.

4. **EXECUTIVE SESSION** - *(Roll call vote required)*

Motion to go into a Closed Session according to Missouri Revised Statutes 610.021 (1) Legal actions, causes of action, or litigation involving a public governmental body and any confidential or privileged communications between a public governmental body or its representatives or attorneys.

Councilmember Hales moved to close the Regular Session and go into a Closed Session, it was seconded by Councilmember McMahon.

Roll Call Vote Was:

Ayes: Councilmember Klein, Councilmember Smotherson, Councilmember McMahon, Councilmember Hales, Councilmember Fuller, and Mayor Crow.

Nays: None.

5. **Adjournment**

Mayor Crow thanked everyone for their participation and closed the Regular Session at 5:51 p.m. to go into a Closed Session on the second floor. The Closed Session reconvened in an open session at 6:22 p.m.

LaRette Reese
City Clerk, MRCC