



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

**Tuesday, September 17, 2024**  
**6:30 p.m.**

**Minutes**

**A. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER**

6:33 meeting called to order by James Wilke

**B. ROLL CALL**

In attendance: Commission President James Wilke, Commission Members Amy Gascon, Lisa Hummel, Patrick Fox, Josh Winstral. Also, in attendance was Director of Parks, Recreation and Forestry Darin Girdler, and Deputy Director of Parks Maintenance Todd Strubhart, and Deputy Director of Recreation Services Lynda Euell-Taylor.

**C. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Lisa Hummel made a motion to amend the agenda and Amy Gascon seconded to move Cunningham Recreation Presentation to after the Citizen Participation, all in favor.

Amy Gascon motioned to approve amended agenda and Lisa Hummel seconded, all in favor.

**D. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

July 2024 – two typos in the July minutes. First, Section H, “Dog Park – grateful that water is on and new mulch has been put down, fill all the dog poop bags when they get filled” should say “Dog Park – grateful that water is on and new mulch has been put down, fill all the dog poop bags when they get emptied”. Secondly, the word trail was misspelled as trial.

**E. CITIZEN PARTICIPATION**

**XXX** - Greenfelder Park – what is going on with this park, there has been nothing going on with this park for a while. There isn't a neighborhood park near by that children can walk to, so the children are playing in the street. If there were additions to improve the park there would need to be speed bumps as cars traveling too quickly in the neighborhood. Feedback from Darin: There was a plan for Greenfelder Park but it received negative feedback. We can review the Greensfelder plan at the next meeting and see if updates are needed to the plan. Additionally, we can investigate if a design grant would be applicable to draw up designs. Todd has copies of the previous designs that the Commission can review.

**XXX** - Dog Park is not getting any attention, it took 16 months to repair dog park fence. The new fence when it was put in was put 3 feet in the park, so the only water source is now fenced off. The doors/locks are no longer working so using a bungee cord to keep door closed. Citizen is paying to use dog park, but the park isn't getting the attention it used to get.

**F. DEPARTMENT REPORT**

- 1) FEMA Rehabilitation Update – pretty much completed, maybe a few punch list items left. Some weight equipment and appliances have been ordered, so still waiting for those items. No official date yet for the reopening of the gym for basketball; hoping for the first week of October. Finished sanding the floors today and staining is starting. Indoor soccer field is done but is storage for now. Clayton coaches have expressed interested in doing an indoor soccer season November/December time frame is hopefully but by 1<sup>st</sup> of the year. Currently having the PA system installed for the pool and have ordered the appliances for the concession stand for the pool.
- 2) Director Recruitment Update – Darin has been named the Director of Parks, Recreation, and Public Areas Maintenance, August 26<sup>th</sup>. It will be 9-12 months of a transition of Darin's previous responsibilities, Public Works.
- 3) QR Code Project – New Communication Manager starts July 15<sup>th</sup>
- 4) Recreation Programming Update – working on what a summer camp will look like for summer 2025

along with a budget

#### **G. COUNCIL LIAISON REPORT**

Steve McMahon was not present at the meeting.

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

Ruth Park Golf Course – grass looks great, Su had concerns about the creek but wasn't present to share specific feedback so Darin will need to get with Su on that comment

Heman Park – Field 5 mound needs to be moved back (to the east about 10 feet), can keep the same field size

Dog Park – it would be nice to have online enrollment

Centennial Commons – there is room for improvement in the processes to allow improved experiences for the citizens

Millar Park – busy when there and soap in both bathrooms, water fountain still not working

Ruth Park Woods – new trails and looking really nice

#### **I. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Rules and Regulations – haven't met but have the link to the policies and will review over the next month

Budget Committee – received files late last week and will review over the next month

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

#### **K. NEW BUSINESS**

- 1) Cunningham Recreation Presentation – The proposal includes a matching grant, must place order by 10/15, must pay for equipment when purchasing to get the grant. The proposal does not include set up/installation, that is to be done by the Parks Department. Life expectancy of the equipment is approx. 20-30 years. Both playgrounds (Rabe Park and Metcalfe Park) were budgeted for in FY25.
- 2) Ruth Park Driving Range (see attachment) – The major retailer has put the city in a tough position. Still waiting on about 25 loads of dirt to be delivered to by the first tee for the putting green. The grading of the dirt on the driving range is not what was verbally agreed to. Darin is working with legal and Gregory Rose to get this item resolved with the developer.

#### **L. COMMISSION COMMENTS**

None

#### **M. ADJOURNMENT**

Lisa motioned to adjourn at 7:42, Amy seconded, all in favor.