

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
CITY OF WASHINGTON, FRANKLIN COUNTY, MISSOURI
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 4, 2019**

Agenda Item #1: Call Meeting to Order –Vice-Chair Tessie Steffens called the meeting to order at 6:02 pm.

Agenda Item #2: Roll Call – Director of Parks & Recreation Wayne Dunker called roll. Those in attendance included; Vice Chair Tessie Steffens; Commission Members Bob Kloeppe, Gavin Woolley, Betty Werner, Dave Wehmeyer, Dan Cassette, Debbie Toedebusch and Council Liaison Nick Obermark.

Agenda Item #3: Pledge of Allegiance

Agenda Item #4: Approval of Minutes –

Gavin made a motion and Debbie seconded the motion to approve the July 3, 2019 minutes.

Agenda Item #5: Parks Report –

Wayne stated we have been working with tree committee. They identified three Parks-Phoenix, Krog and Lakeview ballfields. Wayne has asked for Urban Forestry to come up with a list of trees for those parks could use. Hoping to get the trees planted in October.

Field Maintenance-working with grass, field repairs such and irrigation issues.

Have been working with Engineering Department to get some parking lots Redone-Waterworks lot, Lafayette park and dog park.

Dog Park-

Wayne showed a drawing of what improvements were planned. Pave the parking lot, add a new small dog park area, locate and pour bench pads.

An additional section will be added to the large dog area to accommodate the space the new small dog area takes.

Spring/Summer: (without budget)

- Installed picnic tables
- repaved parking lot entry
- over-seeded
- re-graded pathway to entry gate
- removed dead plants
- sand bagged culvert pipe during flooding

Fall: (\$34,000 budget)

- new parking lot and sidewalks
- entry sign
- new fencing
- concrete pad around water facet
- replace plantings that were removed

-move the dirt pile on the West side and take it to Burger Park for Disc golf

We have to try and get this done with that budget. We do have \$5000 from the Lions Club, and the Patrons of the Park closed out the account and \$2500 was earmarked to go to the Dog Park to help with the costs.

Agenda Item #6: Communications from Audience –

Amy Niehaus from the Dog Park group.

Amy asked the bids for the additional fencing, has that been received. Wayne replied that the City had received two quotes, one was for \$9000 and the other for \$14,000. She wanted to know if that was going to happen in the fall. Wayne said it would go out to bid in October and hope to be done by the end of the year.

She asked to keep them informed when the bids come in. She may have additional funds to make it happen.

Donor Board-Amy said that the City previously committed to paying for it. Wayne remembered talking about it but thought the Dog Park was handling that. She recognized that Wayne was dealing with a lot of history that may or not be true. She thought this was going in coordination with All Abilities. She was told that two years or more. Would like to keep it on the list.

Amy knew that the City met with Lions Club and wanted to know if the benches that the Lions Club donated for the dog park were discussed. Wayne said that was not brought up in that meeting.

Darren Lamb stated that the Tree committee will also be doing benches. Wayne stated that they started with trees first because they need to get in the ground this fall. We will start with benches after that is done. The group has been looking at spots. We would like to address the benches for the Dog park with that committee. Commission member Wooley asked Amy if they had locations picked out. She replied that they had not. Mr. Woolley asked for her to do that.

Amy stated that Haven Materials had offered to donate a limited amount of concrete and that no one from the City has reached out to them since they made that offer. Amy will share Haven Materials contact information with Wayne. Gavin asked how much concrete they had donated. Amy did not know the specific amount, they just offered some.

Amy stated as always they offer to help since staff resources are limited.

Agenda Item #7: Old Business

New Aquatic Facility- Wayne has been working on RFP and is hoping to get it finished this week. Ideally the goal is to have someone selected and in place starting January 1, 2020.

Agenda Items #8: New Business

Facility fees Recommendation-

Tennis court Fees-Wayne gave a diagram showing the old fees and the new fees. We are trying to simplify fees instead of having private, non-profit and commercial.

Gavin asked if that fee it is a reservation fee. The answer is yes. If the court is not reserved the courts are still useable. Commission member Debbie Toedebusch asked if these fees are comparable and they are. Wayne stated most people don't request lights, so the \$5 a day fee will be the most used.

Vice Chair member Tessie Steffens asked the commission if anything stands out that you would like to discuss.

Debbie asked if the wording on the front page of the fees could be changed. It could be a little bit clearer. Wayne said that could be fixed.

Tessie said the goal is we approve this tonight, it goes on to council and gets approved and goes into effect October 1 with the new budget.

Any rentals on the books get the old rates. Tessie said, we started this process 10-12 years ago. It's been a long process. We just need to do this!

Darren Lamb commented that we will put a consumer price index on all the fees like we have done for all the other fees. He also stated that one substantial change is the Senior Center. When you get either one of those packages it will be unchaperoned. We are going to meet with the Senior Center to make sure they are aware that if anything gets damaged we have a \$500 deposit to replace that. We had have been limited because the senior wanted to keep someone there so the time was limited. This elevates all of that. We are trying to make it simple for staff.

Wayne, we added Phoenix Park. We left the upper Pavilion at Lions Lake is still free. Included cleaning fees at the Audi and Senior Center.

Commission member Betty Warner asked if there was a discount for no- profits (*She's been asked by a few people*). Wayne stated its one fee for everyone. Darren and Tessie stated the only exceptions are to those groups that donate \$5000 in the year, they get ½ the rental rate.

Darren said that Downtown Washington had not paid for fees in the past. The City will increase the budget to help offset the cost for the facility use. We will give them credit with all of the service hours and they will eligible for the facilities at ½ off. Debbie sated that has to be ongoing. Darren agreed but said it needs to be realistic such as the Rotary just gave us \$6000 for the fountain. Needs to be clarified in the ordinance when we make these changes.

Commission member Bob Klopell asked about the Memorial Day and Fireworks as it has been free in the past. For Memorial Day, Darren said that depended on if the City will be Parks Sponsor of the event or not. If we are a sponsor, we typically do it free, but the parks department can't take on every event just so people can get out of fees.

As far as the Fireworks, For the City to Co-sponsor the Fireworks would be one approach. Darren said that the Fireworks is a whole other conversation. It has been talked about the City taking over that event or working with the Legion on that event.

Gavin asked if it is up to the council to waive that fee. Darren said yes, it's up to them!

A motion to approve the fees was made by Commission member Debbie Toedbusch, seconded by Commission Member Cassette. The motion was approved with a unanimous vote.

Disc Golf-

We have placed the baskets for the 1st 9 holes. Shawn with the Lions Club helped layout and design the course.

We can probably open this week for the 1st nine holes for play. Possibly having a grand opening later this month.

The goal is to have back nine (in the woods) open by the spring.

Bob asked if the Lions Club has volunteers to help, he has some people ask.

Wayne stated that yes they do as we have some concrete work that needs to be done at the T-boxes. Right now we have Astroturf just so that the course can get played and make sure they are in the places everyone wants them. At that time, all the volunteers could be used. Maybe in a month or so.

The volunteers can contact Wayne and he can get them in touch with the Lions club.

Kiosk on Riverfront-

Wayne has been working with John Nilges, Public Works director, to get a grant through the core of Engineers-Silver Jacket. The Grant is for areas that have been involved in flooding. If you had flooding the grant paid for a picture that gets mounted to a plaque. We are using the flood of 93 as our flood.

The next task was figuring out how to display it. We decided on a 4 sided kiosk like the one at the market. The Storm water fund is paying for the kiosk since one side of the kiosk will educational for storm water. We can have information about parks on one side, a map and some other information. The Kiosk will be removable so when the water comes up it can be moved with a bobcat. It will be in on the West side of Elbert Drive. We have some plans to put some grasses and rocks to spruce that area up.

Additional Comments:

Betty said that the soccer parking is terrible. Something has got to be done. They are parking all over in the grass-everywhere. She had to park at Grandview. She thinks there is room for one more row in the parking lot. She encouraged everyone to come out at 9am on a Saturday morning and see the chaos.

Tessie said scheduling can be an issue as well. Wayne did state that parking issue was discussed with the Soccer Association. Debbie said it's been this way for a long time. Wayne said he would mention to Sara about scheduling. Debbie said years ago behind field #3 had been discussed about parking. People park at the Football, but that gets crazy as well. Wayne said we would look into it.

Agenda Item #9: Executive Session:

Agenda Item #10: Next Meeting – October 2, 2019 is the next meeting date, but needs to be changed since our Parks Director will be in St. Charles IL for America in Bloom. The new suggested date is Thursday October 10, 2019.

Tessie asked Casey to send a meeting reminder to those who aren't here to get it on the calendar.

Agenda Item #11: Adjournment – A motion was made by Commission Member Werner, seconded by Commission member Toedebusch at 6:52 pm, to adjourn. The motion was approved with a unanimous vote.

MINUTES SUBJECT TO PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION APPROVAL.