

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
CITY OF WASHINGTON, FRANKLIN COUNTY, MISSOURI
Wednesday, July 1, 2020**

Agenda Item #1: Call Meeting to Order –Co-Chair Sparky Stuckenschneider called the meeting to order at 6:01 pm.

Agenda Item #2: Roll Call – Director of Parks & Recreation Wayne Dunker called roll. Those in attendance included co-Chairs Sparky Stuckenschneider & Tessie Steffens. Commission Members Gavin Woolley, Kevin Kriete, Bob Dzurick, Betty Werner as well as Council Liaisons Nick Obermark & Jeff Patke.

Those not in attendance were Dan Cassette, Bob Kloppel, Debbie Todebusch and Dave Wehmeyer.

Agenda Item #3: Pledge of Allegiance

Agenda Item #4: Approval of Minutes June 3, 2020 minutes were approved by member Woolley and seconded by member Dzurick.

Agenda Item #5: Parks Report – given by Wayne Dunker

John Patke with Patke Restoration has done work for us and gave us a bid on cleaning the columns at Krog Park & Main Park. He approached us recently and asked if he could clean those columns at no charge. He did the cleaning recently did the work and we did a Facebook post on it. They look great!

Sparky asked if we could do a photo shoot to give him recognition.

Wayne stated that we could, but the Missourian gave did a Facebook post as well as the City, so we did give him recognition.

DTW Cleanup-very successful, had more than 60 volunteers. Very organized, and got a lot done. We had 7-8 people spraying weeds all over downtown, the US Bank lot and City Hall. The beds at the Riverfront, Water Works Building, Depot, Amtrak and Caboose were all addressed as well as some tree work. We went through 14 loads of mulch.

Depot-The painting has started. There were signs on both ends of the building that we assumed were black, but ended up being the green color that was on the gutters. They will now be painted black.

Football-Starting to prepare for them starting in July. Have add some water break issues that we are addressing.

Agenda Item #6: Communications from Audience –

Agenda Item #7: Old Business –

Main Park Playground- The concrete work is ½ done. The forms are up around the ball and the swing area still needs to be formed and poured. Once that is done the contractor will come back and pour the surfacing. The plan is to open it at that point, but that date is still unknown. The City will still need to landscape it. With the Pool project there will be sidewalks that will connect from Eckelkamp Park to the hill on the side of the pool, over to Main Park Pavilion and then to the new playground.

Sparky asked if a grand opening was planned. Wayne said he envisioned that.

Jeff wanted to go on record that he believes we made a mistake on where the playground was placed. Foul balls are definitely an issue and need to be addressed. Since baseball will be over this year before the playground opens but before baseball season starts next year it needs to be addressed.

Sparky stated that he remembered having a meeting at that location in the cold and rain and no one said anything about its placement. Nick said that is when it got decided to move it down to where it went. Jeff agreed he was not there, but he has stated his opinion from the beginning.

Jeff said there needs to be a 30-40' net off the field or a canopy placed over the main playground to help with the line drives since that is the area in harm's way.

Kevin said you go do some type of shade structure like we are doing at the pool.

New Aquatic Facility- Everything is on track! Working with Westport to get a new rendering on the features added and deleted. Darren wanted us to get a budget number to move the Parks Offices to the top of the old pool house.

Last week all the steel got removed. They found parts of the original concrete pool from 1936. Put us a bit of a halt to deal with that, but we are moving forward now. Gavin asked if we are going to have a rock issue, Wayne said they are doing more exploring to look into the bedrock by the old pool house.

Agenda Items #8: New Business

Riverfront Park Artwork- Electrical box at the Riverfront between Water Works building and the Restrooms. Zoe with the Blu Room approached us in March about painting that since it is directly across from her business.

Working with DTW and Danny Cassette to run cables and do the electrical work down to the parking lot for DTW events. That got finished in June and the railing on the fence behind it got painted during the cleanup day so it is ready to be discussed.

We have talked to Rebecca Mayer with the Arts Council. She didn't have much to say, but we did run it by her.

An Art Teacher from the High School is going to be doing the painting. Wayne wants them to wash it and clean it properly before it happens. If it gets approved, we will have a meeting to discuss the project. She will be painting the two broad sides.

John Nilges was ok with it, Danny Cassette recommended not to paint it black for heat purposes. Jeff didn't know if he would be too much. Tessie thought it was a perfect addition to the space and it brings other artwork to the area since we have the sculptures. Bob thought it should be more river related. Wayne was uncertain about that, because this is what the artist offered.

Sparky said as long as the Arts Council is good, we are good. Tessie made a motion to move forward with a second by Betty.

The sign for the mural at Main & Elm got stolen again. Wayne said if they got a new sign, we would make a frame and mount it to the railing to solve the problem.

Lakeview Ballfields- Since the Little League decided not to have games this year at Lakeview, we have had a few tournaments in June. There was a financial report given to the members. Even though we updated our fees, our fees are not set up for tournaments. We didn't plan on COVID happening the next year!

We have another group looking at July at Ronsick and it will be after Kent is done with his season.

Chris Hahne did open the concession stand for the last tournament and maybe doing the one at Ronsick.

Bob said he sat at couple of games and heard lots of compliments and they even picked up there on trash. Wayne said we stressed that they needed to do that or they weren't going to get the \$500 deposit.

They didn't play on Sunday because the rumor was a parent had tested positive for COVID, so they played it safe and cancelled.

Free Movies- Since COVID happened, we have stopped all programing. Now that things have opened up again, we had a free movie FROZEN II with about 60 people attending. Next one is July 30 with A Dogs Way Home.

Softball-postponed with tentatively starting in late July

Town & Country Fair-Wayne is attending a meeting after this meeting to see what they are planning and what the City's involvement is.

Gavin asked if the City was still in contract, and we are. August's meeting will be cancelled unless otherwise notified.

Gavin asked what the status of the east end of trail was. Kevin said the contractor is waiting on the river to be below 8' to remove the rock that was put in the river (Contractor is required by the Coastguard & Core of Engineers). The river has been at 10.9' or higher. The Dakotas have been releasing water for around a year now, and it doesn't really ever drop below 11'. The 8' level is based on the type of equipment that contractor is using and its limitations. The level has to be known in advance and have a few weeks to prepare. The last time it was that low was in December and rock got hauled out then until they couldn't anymore. The bridge trail will not open until the bottom work is done.

Kevin stated that the contractor technically still owns the bridge and will not turn it over to MoDot until all the work is done. The city has no control. The project is over a year over scheduled. The contractor wants it done as much as everyone else does!

Agenda Item #9: Executive Session: None

Agenda Item #10: Next Meeting – September 2, 2020.

Agenda Item #11: Adjournment – Meeting adjourned at 6:54 pm with a motion from Kevin and a second by Gavin.

MINUTES SUBJECT TO PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION APPROVAL.