

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
CITY OF WASHINGTON, FRANKLIN COUNTY, MISSOURI
Wednesday, October 7, 2020**

Agenda Item #1: Call Meeting to Order –Co-Chair Sparky Stuckenschneider called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

Agenda Item #2: Roll Call – Director of Parks & Recreation Wayne Dunker called roll. Those in attendance included co-Chair Sparky Stuckenschneider & Tessie Steffens. Commission Members Dan Cassette, Gavin Woolley, Kevin Kriete, Bob Kloepfel, Debbie Toedebusch and Council Liaison Nick Obermark.

Those not in attendance were Dave Wehmeyer, Betty Werner, Bob Dzurick and Council Liaison Jeff Patke.

Agenda Item #3: Pledge of Allegiance

Agenda Item #4: Approval of Minutes September 2, 2020 minutes were approved by Gavin Woolley and seconded by Kevin Kriete.

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

Fiscal Year- ended 9/30/20 we wrapped up projects. We refurbished three park signs - Barklage, Tiemann Valley & the Parks Shop sign.

Public Works had a contractor come in to repave the gazebo parking lot, main park parking lot and the pathways in front of the amphitheater.

Artwork-mural at Riverfront is almost complete.

Trail-have been working with Rotary on new mile markers for the trail. Rotary donated the signs. There will be a marker every .5 mile on the East Trail and the West will have a few.

Agenda Item #6: Communications from Audience – None

Agenda Item #7: Old Business –

New Aquatic Complex- Coming along very quickly. There are bricklayers & ironworkers on site, concrete is being poured, utilities are started & Circle Drive is now closed.

Renaming of Circle Drive- Name change went in front of Council on Monday night. The name has to be advertised in the paper for 4 weeks and if people do not have issues; it will go back to council for approval. There are no addressed affected in the name change other than city property, so we do not anticipate an issue. The new address will be 201 Aquatic Circle Drive.

East Riverfront Trail – We did some concrete work on our own recently. From here on out will just be minor cosmetic things. Sparky noted the bench placements were very well thought out!

Bridge Piers-the porta potty will go behind the old piers to conceal it, they also serve as a EMS turnaround point and there will be a plaque mounted on the pier for an educational piece. We are working with the Historical Society to get history on the bridge. There will be a landscape bed with tall grasses will be planted to try to prevent graffiti. Gavin mentioned an anti-graffiti coating that has been used on the mural on Elm Street might be helpful.

Disc Golf- opened mid-September. We had a contractor come in and open all the holes and did some tree removal. Staff removed all stumps, placed baskets and we will start pouring the t-pads on the front 9 and then will go to the back 9.

Hole 11 goes across the creek. We have been working on a way to cross the creek; will possibly be adding large rocks. We had budgeted money for a bridge, but after we started, we found out that the Core was going to have issues and there was going to be a lot more hoops to jump through, so we re-evaluated.

We have heard the back 9 is really challenging and everyone is enjoying the course. It uses all of the property; it is a great use of the land.

Sculpture placement- we had previously discussed placing the final piece at the Parks Shop in the flag plaza. Wayne followed up with Sally Bocklage of the Master Gardener's, and it was decided the balance would be off at the site. Now looking at the Firehouses and is working with Chief Tim Frankenberg.

Agenda Items #8: New Business

Soccer parking- The committee had pictures to view of the damage being done. Part of the parking issues this season are because the association split field 1 into four sections with all 4 games starting at the same time. Parking was already an issue and this just added to the issue. Parking curbs were mentioned to try to prevent damage, but staff is afraid of doing that and having people park in other areas and causing different issues.

Staff puts up wooden barricades now at the Park Shop entrance because they have parked in ways that our staff cannot get to the shop on Saturdays.

Danny stated that he would prefer to just fix the grass vs putting in a parking lot. Staff has discussed putting in an additional spots near the pavilion, but it does not gain much.

Gavin mentioned that Shaw Nature Reserve puts in a rock base and lets grass grow over it, something to consider.

The Soccer Association would like another field as well as another parking lot. It was asked why games were not being used on the other fields. Wayne stated that the association wants to keep everything in one location; it was their choice to not use the other fields. They do not want to have to walk anywhere. The commission would like to invite the Soccer Association to a future Parks Commission meeting to discuss the parking issues.

Main Park Playground – opened last Friday. The mulch is just temporary; it is being used to be a barrier for mud until we get the sidewalks poured.

Park Commission Orientation Manual- Staff has been looking at various manuals from other cities around St. Louis and nationally along with the manual that is given to City Council and have come up with a draft. Tessie, Sparky & Wayne will review the drafts and then bring it to the board to look at.

Other -

Water Works Building-Gavin asked what the status was. Parks is responsible for building maintenance. There is money in the budget do tuck pointing and window work and maybe painting. Currently there are not any tenant leads nor a budget for the interior. Sal is working on another proposal for the building. If anyone has leads, direct them to Wayne.

Caboose-needs to be repainted badly. Wayne will make note and mention to the City Administrator that it was brought up in this meeting.

Phoenix-Tessie wanted to mention Phoenix still needs attention.

Tessie also stated that she had a call today from a citizen that the Parks Staff ran over a turtle and snake. Tessie told her that we are still working down there and that people need to be considerate of that. Maybe it could be mentioned again in the paper that work is still being done, because people forget.

Wayne stated it is a no win situation whatever we do down there.

Tessie asked what is the total length of the East Trail; Wayne stated the East Trail is 2.6 miles. Starts at the boat trailer parking lot by the yellow gate and goes until the trail connects to Kingsland Drive.

The West trail is 2.35 miles in total length if you walk the west loop. Starts at the kiosk in the parking lot to bridge is 1 mile. If you walk one loop, it is 0.35, and back is another mile. The kiosk will become our trailhead and will have maps of both trails in it.

Staff and Public Works are working on East trail connection to keep it away from the Water Works building and put it in front of the pavilion. Trying to get a grant to do all the work that needs to be performed.

Gavin wanted as a board congratulate Chad on his recent promotion. Wayne stated that Chad did not take on a ton more responsibility because he was already doing most of what is in the new job description. He did take over Building Maintenance for the City, so Bruce Walters now reports to him.

Nick mentioned the netting needed for Main Park Playground. He just did not want it to fall off Parks to do list. Wayne stated that some netting had been purchased.

Agenda Item #9: Executive Session: None

Agenda Item #10: Next Meeting – November 4, 2020.

Agenda Item #11: Adjournment – Meeting adjourned at 6:55 pm with a motion from Gavin Woolley and a second by Danny Cassette.

MINUTES SUBJECT TO PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION APPROVAL.