MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSON
CITY OF WASHINGTON, FRANKLIN COUNTY, MISSOURI
Wednesday, January 27, 2021

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 Gavin Woolley, Kevin Kreite, Bob Kloeppel, Bob Dzurick, Debbie Toedebusch, Dave Wehmeyer and Council Liaison's Jeff Patke & Nick Obermark.

Those not in attendance were Dan Cassette.

Agenda Item #3: Pledge of Allegiance

Agenda Item #4: Approval of Minutes January 6, 2021 minutes were approved by Tessie Steffens and Bob Kloeppel.

Agenda Item #5: Parks Report – given by Wayne Dunker
Class- Jim Durbin, Robin Peirick & Wayne Dunker all were CPO Certified (Certified Pool Operator) in early January.

Disc Golf-is about 98% complete.

Signs-New park signs Krog Park, Lakeview & Lions Club Thank you sign will be installed in February.

Tree work-Work continues in the parks as weather allows.

Purchasing-Staff has been working on purchasing pool items and working on pool fees. Gavin wanted to note that the crew is doing a great job at cleaning up tree removals.

Agenda Item #6: Communications from Audience

Agenda Item #7: Old Business –
Aquatic Facility-Westport Pools has some great drone shots that we have published. Once the water is in the pool, there will be another set of shots taken.

Pool house construction crew will be leaving soon. They will be back in the spring to finish up. Everything is on schedule and is 80% complete

The slide should be installed as early as the end of this week.

Agenda Items #8: New Business

Pool Fee Recommendations-Sparky, Tessie, Darren, Robin, Casey & Wayne have been on a committee to figure out new pool fees. Wayne showed slides with comparisons from the surrounding areas.

Union, Owensville, Warrenton & Cuba all have a $4-6 daily admission fees. Once you get into St. Louis County, they get into resident/non-resident fees.

Some cities do punch cards instead of passes.

Our previous contract with Midwest Pool was for 2018, 2019 & 2020 and $135,000 a year. Minimum wage has increased since our previous contract, so Midwest estimates $145-165,000 for 2021.

The committee came up with a proposal of $7 daily admission (ages 3 and up) and doing a punch card that has 20 punches for $100. The punch card can be used by anyone.

Old daily fees were $2.50 for a child and $4.00 for an adult. Old Season Pass fees were $50 for child and $65 for an adult. Passes were $99 plus you could add an additional 3 people for $10 each. Punch Cards were $15 for a child and $25 for an adult for 20 punches.

Fees have not been increased in at least 15 years according to Robin's research.

Anticipating revenue from the punch cards, daily admission, programming, etc. of $120,000.

Total estimated expenses are predicted to between $231,000-251,000. Making a net loss between $111-131,000.

When we go out to bid, we are going to do an alternate bid to look at 2-3 weekends past August 15 to Labor Day weekend.

Bob Dzurick wanted to know if we discussed a senior discount. Tessie commented that Robin does special programing for senior citizens. Sparky & Wayne both stated that many pools are going away with senior discounts and just charging one flat fee.

By changing to this fee structure, we would have three fees that go into the ordinance versus the long list we previously had.

The committee is still looking into pool rental and birthday party package fees.

The committee is also discussing splash pad hours. During normal hours of the pool, the splash pad will be part of the pool's admission fee. They are discussing having it open in the mornings during pool the pool season and then possibly after the pool closes.

Kevin stated even at a $7 daily fee, the City is losing $10 per entry.

Debbie Toedebusch motioned to recommend the fees to the City Council Meeting on February 16, 2021 with a second by Bob Kloeppel. We didn't make the deadline for the February 1, meeting. The fees will be presented at Council Workshop Meeting on February 16.

Lakeview Soccer Parking-Last meeting we discussed some additional parking options at Lakeview. Wayne showed a drawing that would add an additional 61 spaces. This project is not budgeted, so millings will be put down as an economical alternative.
Parks will need to remove a few trees and are looking at relocating the soccer pavilion to the other side of the road, near the entrance. Lakeview pavilion replacements are budgeted in the ½ cent sales tax for this year. The budgeted pavilion funds were estimated to pay for 4 pavilions, but in reality it will cover 3. The thought process is that we can take the soccer pavilion out and budget to build a new

one in a few years. The soccer pavilion does not have a fee associated with it. If we were to relocate the current pavilion, the concrete pad cost would be $7,200.

By adding these additional parking spaces, it will benefit the Fair as well. The trees that are proposed to be removed are not in great health; possibly from the parking issues during the Fair.

Discussion entailed regarding parking on the hillside by the Parks Shop and how it is used during the Fair. Darren Lamb stated that we have an agreement with the Chamber of Commerce, so he would need to have some discussions with the organization regarding the hillside parking.

The commission agreed that taking the pavilion down for now was the best option. Bob Dzurick made a motion to approve the parking option and removing the pavilion with a second by Debbie Toedebusch.

Hummingbird club sightline agreement-They have an agreement with the City so they can see the river from their lower windows. There are a number of trees that need to be removed. The agreement is that the Hummingbird Club pays for this work. The agreement was put in place in 2006 and this was last done in 2008-2009. The City gets discretion on which trees get removed. Josh and Wayne have met with the Hummingbird Club, have identified, and marked which trees are going to be removed. The City will bid this project out and will collect the proper insurance, but he club pays for the work.

Reduction of Landscaping Beds-Staff is working on reducing the size and number of landscape beds in the City. We have an abundance of beds and maintenance is time consuming.

Wayne is working on plan to reduce median maintenance as well.

Dave Wehmeyer stated he was listing to a seminar recently and said that the misconception a long time ago was that native plants were less maintenance. However, now that the natives have spread, it is causing unbelievable maintenance.

Other-
Wayne stated that Memorial Bench program is nearing completion.
Sparky wants a long range planning item, as well as a resurrection of Friends of the Park agenda item added to the monthly agenda.

Agenda Item #9: Executive Session: None

Agenda Item #10: Next Meeting – March 3, 2021.

Agenda Item #11: Adjournment – Meeting adjourned at 7:11 pm; motion from Bob Dzurick second by Betty Werner.

MINUTES SUBJECT TO PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION APPROVAL.