

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE  
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION  
CITY OF WASHINGTON, FRANKLIN COUNTY, MISSOURI  
Wednesday, November 10, 2021**

**Agenda Item #1: Call Meeting to Order** –Co-Chair, Tessie Steffens, called the meeting to order at 5:31 p.m.

**Agenda Item #2: Roll Call** – Director of Parks & Recreation Wayne Dunker called roll. Those in attendance-included Co-Chair Tessie Steffens & Sparky Stuckenschneider. Commission Members Gavin Woolley, Betty Werner, Bob Dzurick, Bob Kloeppel, Danny Cassette, Kevin Kriete and Council Liaison Jeff Patke.

Those not in attendance –Commission Members Debbie Toedebusch, Dave Wehmeyer, Council Liaison Duane Reed and City Administrator Darren Lamb.

**Agenda Item #3: Pledge of Allegiance**

**Agenda Item #4: Approval of Minutes** (*October 13, 2021*) a motion by Bob Dzurick with a second by Betty Werner.

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

- Lions Lake Pavilions are on track. Demo has been completed. Waiting on contractor to pour the footings. Pavilions scheduled to be delivered in February 2022.
- Ronsick turf infield project start date is November 23, 2021.
- Main Stage Roof Addition bid packets are out. Due back November 30, 2021
- Water Works Building Renovation bid packets are out. Due back November 30, 2021
- Phoenix playground is set to be delivered last week of January 2022. Staff has some site work to do this winter.
- Will be applying for a MDC tree grant (TRIM Grant) for the 1<sup>st</sup> Parkway Ride Away Trees (18 pin oaks are dying).
- Historic Downtown Washington Inc applied for a Union Pacific grant on behalf of the Parks Department and received \$2,000. The funds will be used to help paint the caboose and for the Santa/Amtrak event
- Staff is working on Soccer Field #2 field maintenance.
- City received a letter from the Chamber of Commerce (included in meeting packet) notifying the City they are no longer considering the Burger Park site for a potential RV Park. They are beginning to look for alternate locations.
- Currently three (3) Full Time staff members short.

**Agenda Item #6: Communications from Audience**

- Mr. Joe Vernaci spoke about renaming Phoenix Park. Prior to voting The Commission asked Mr. Vernaci if an alternate solution to re-naming the park would be acceptable, such as naming the Phoenix Park trail after the former Mayor, Richard F. Stratman. Mr. Vernaci stated anything is better than what is currently at the park for the former Mayor.

**Agenda Item #7: Old Business –**

Re-naming Phoenix Park to Richard F. Straatmann Park

- The Commission discussed Pros, Cons and alternate solutions

#### Cons:

- Will be playing favoritism. The Commission rejected a potential name when park was built.
- Looks bad/opens up an assortment of problems for all the others that we have denied.
- Hall of Fame wall in City Hall was created to recognize individuals who went above and beyond. Allowing a name change to this park defeats the Hall of Fame wall's purpose.
- Many individuals around town deserve recognition. Where does this stop?

#### Pros

- City just named the new industrial park after Dick Oldenburg.
- Surrounding city's/places name things after other people.
- If the City is naming industrial parks after people, why should parks be different?
- Mr. Stratman was instrumental in getting Phoenix Park built
- Just because The Commission has decided not to change names in the past, does not mean they cannot in the future.

#### Options to honor Dick Straatmann:

- Name the Phoenix Pavilion after him.
- Name the Phoenix Trail after him.
- Could have a memorial for him.
- Could put a special thank you to him on the entrance sign.

#### Vote:

With a vote of six (6) yes votes to two (2) no votes, the Parks and Recreation Commission decided not to make a recommendation to City Council to rename Phoenix Park Richard F. Straatmann Park. The Commission's recommendation is to re-name the trail in Phoenix Park Trail the Richard F. Straatmann Trail. The Commission recommends including proper naming signage for the trail.

### **Agenda Items #8: New Business**

#### Pool Report:

- The Commission was given a handout showing a comparison of 2019 to 2021 revenue.
- Staff will look into the cost to stay open in 2022 the week between the fair ending and school opening. Office received many calls during that week about being closed.
- Need better splash pad signage, advertising and staffing in 2022
- With the pool being new, the chemical cost was unknown. Budgeted \$10,000-12,000 and spent approximately \$3,000.00
- Plan to run the concession stand in house just as we did in 2021
- Will have two new shade umbrellas (donations) and a new deck shower (upgrade) in 2022

#### Urban Forestry Council:

- Has a few committee openings. If anyone knows, someone who would like to be a member let Wayne know.
- Monthly meetings with alternating "work" days

#### Water Works Building Project:

- City has someone interested in the building.
- City is using Horn Architects for engineering and bidding services
- Bids due back November 30, 2021.

#### Other:

- Angel of Hope Ceremony is December 6, 2021 at 7pm. The Angel is one of 120 statues around the United States and Canada. Closest Angel statues are at Blanchet Park in St. Charles and in Mexico MO.
- Kiwanis donated \$1,000 earmarked for a sign at the Angel of Hope area. Ziglin is manufacturing the sign and it will match all the other park signage.
- Need to look at how to keep cars off West Trail. People are driving on the asphalt despite the signage and deterrents.

**Agenda Item #9: Executive Session:** None

**Agenda Item #10: Next Meeting** –December 8, 2021 at 5:30pm

**Agenda Item #11: Adjournment** – Meeting adjourned at 6:26 by Bob Kloeppel with a second by Bob Dzurick.

MINUTES SUBJECT TO PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION APPROVAL.