

Chesterfield Parks, Recreation and Arts Citizens Advisory
Committee Meeting Minutes
February 11, 2017

Minutes taken by Tricia Whelan

Attendees: Gary Stein, Cindy Lau, Darcy Capstick, Tricia Whelan, Don Collins, Alan Politte, Laura Schellenberg, Mary Monachella, Kelli Unnerstall, Alan Keathley, John Gruender, Bill Dowdy
Staff Liaison: Tom McCarthy; Committee Chair: Mike Whelan
Council Liaison: Guy Tilman. Councilwoman Barb McGuinness was also in attendance
Execused absences: John Nations, Kimberly Cameron, Robert Kilo

Also in attendance were guests: Mike and Mary Kane

Mike Whelan called the meeting to order.

Approval of January minutes.

The minutes of the January 21st, 2017 minutes were approved, as amended, on a motion by Darcy Capstick and seconded by Don Collins.

Arts Sculpture Review and Placement Discussion

Tom McCarthy discussed citizens comments about the art (Meeting Places by Catherine Magel) placed in Central Park and specifically, where it was located in the park. There is a proposal to review, set an Art Placement Policy; and to come up with a concept and send it up the food chain to get citizens' input. This is regarding placement of art of the art piece, Meeting Places. This colorful piece has started the discussion. Catherine Magel is the artist that created the piece. It was worked on at the Amphitheater during the concerts in 2016 and children helped paint it. Tom McCarthy discussed where the art was placed at Central Park. Barb McGuinness stated that it is not appropriate to have staff-driven art pieces and art placement. Tom McCarthy went over the pros and cons of the process on how they come up with the actual placement.

A proposal was made to be called: Parks, Recreation and Arts Policy on Review and Placement of Long-Term Art on City Property. This policy would allow for citizen input on the placement of the art through the Citizens Advisory Committee. Discussion was held on the proposed policy. Darcy Capstick complimented Tom McCarthy on the process.

Mary Kane discussed the Central Park art placement. She loves many things about the parks, however, this particular art piece is very conspicuous and colorful and kind of ruins the view. She noted that other citizens had also commented about the placement of the art. It can be seen from the Yoga class at the Y. She thought the art had been left by someone and was not permanent. Mary Kane asked about what the process is when the City decides where something should go. Does the City take into consideration the view? Mary stated that she did not want to criticize the art piece itself, just the placement.

Guy Tilman asked if the placement of the art should be part of the initial selection process with the artist, prior to the art being created. Alan Keathley stated that the recent sculpture competition showed that some of the artists had a place for the art prior to creating it. Alan Keathley complimented

Tom McCarthy on the proposed policy. Tom McCarthy stated that the colorful art piece may be moved with citizen input. It has upset some people. Tom McCarthy also stated that there were complaints on the placement of the Coyote at Eberwein Park three or four years ago. Laura Schellenberg noted that beauty is in the eye of the beholder. Tom McCarthy stated that there are people who don't like the location of the piece. Everyone is not going to like every piece and every placement. Tom McCarthy thanked Mr. and Mrs. Kane for voicing their concerns to the Committee. The Kane's thanked the Committee for their time and then left the meeting.

The Art Placement Proposal was again discussed and Alan Politte made a motion to change the time to 9 months unless the art piece sells. The original motion was approved with the amendment. All voted in favor with none opposed. The proposed policy will now move forward to the Committee of Council for approval. The discussion on if the piece sells is not about permanent placement but with our Art on Loan program.

Farmers Market/Party Off the Parkway

Cindy Lau is the Chair of this Committee. Cindy Lau is real excited about where we ended up. Laura, Kim, Guy and Cindy met. They discussed a Farmers Market and researched communities who had successful Farmers Markets. Cindy noted that some Farmers Markets failed after a few years as community interest waxed and waned. Kirkwood and University City have successful Farmers Markets. Jamie Cawthon has experience in this area and the Committee reached out to her. She is knowledgeable about gardens, food trucks, micro vendors, Farmers, etc. She has a good concept. She has been involved with the Farmers Market at Tower Grove. Crafts, health, walks, Yoga, microbrewery and wineries were also items discussed as they relate to the concept. The thought was to have the Farmers Market on a Thursday night so as not to compete with other events. They have discussed some of the costs, staffing, promotion, etc. in regards to this.

Tom McCarthy stated that it would most likely run from May through November. Staff is pretty tight right now so maybe a once a month pilot project is the way to start. Have it for five months from May through September. There could be live music, restaurants, Chef Demos, etc. Central Park was chosen as the location. It has the amenities needed to support this type of event. It is closer to most of the residents. Also, Thursday night does not compete with the Chamber Concerts at Faust Park. The event timing needs to be consistent so people know when to come to it. After the pilot program is over, we can look at it and see if it was worthwhile; did new people visit, is it something different, were the food trucks there. We may be able to take a percentage of the food truck sales to subsidize the event. Cindy Lau stated that we want to do it really well or not do it at all. We would like to use local companies. Cindy Lau stated that we are talking thousands of dollars. We don't know the costs yet. We should just wait for the numbers. It needs to be diverse. Jamie knows major chefs from major restaurants which is a huge plus. Alan Politte discussed the parking problem as it relates to Central Park. Shuttles could be used at this event, if needed. Cindy Lau stated that there will be more to follow on the Farmers Market planning.

Parks, Recreation & Arts Updates

Tom McCarthy stated that he is now in charge of the Chesterfield Citizens Committee for the Environment and the Older Adults Task Force. Guy Tilman noted that he is the Council liaison for both of these committees. There will be more opportunities to get involved.

Darcy Capstick updated the Committee on the upcoming Chesterfield Earth Day Festival. It is Saturday, April 29, 2017 from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at Chesterfield Mall – Center Court.

Tom McCarthy stated that there was an article published about the Doorack property. The City is putting together a proposal on potential uses for the property. It was noted that the City fixed up the lot at Olive and 141 and Starbucks promptly purchased it. This was a win-win for both parties.

Tom McCarthy stated that there is a majority of gravel on the main parking lot at the CVAC. They are slowly putting concrete down as funds become available. Before the CVAC opens in March, 1/6 of the main parking lot at the CVAC will be completed. Also the Enviro toilet has been delivered for River's Edge, but one piece is missing so it still needs to be completed.

Tom McCarthy stated that there will be opportunities for volunteer sign-ups at the next meeting. Tom McCarthy will email the concert line- up for the season to the Committee.

Unfinished Business

Darcy Capstick discussed Arbor Day.

New Business

None

The meeting was adjourned at 9:40 a.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for March 11, 2017.