



PARKS, RECREATION AND ARTS COMMITTEE OF COUNCIL MEETING RESULTS

November 4, 2019

Chairperson DeCampi called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m.

Those in attendance included:

Councilmember Barbara McGuinness, Ward I
Councilmember Mary Ann Mastorakos, Ward II
Councilmember Dan Hurt, Ward III
Chairperson Tom DeCampi, Ward IV

Also in attendance were:

Director of Parks, Recreation & Arts, Tom McCarthy
Executive Assistant, Parks, Recreation & Arts, Ann-Marie Stagoski
Chair of Parks, Recreation & Arts Advisory Committee, Mike Whelan

Agenda Item #1: Approval of Minutes

The meeting results of the September 9, 2019 Parks, Recreation & Arts Committee of Council Meeting were submitted for approval. Chair DeCampi made a motion, seconded by Councilmember McGuinness to approve the meeting results. After discussion it was agreed Agenda Item #6, second bullet point should read "Currently trees are required to be maintained in perpetuity." The amended motion was passed by a voice vote of 4 to 0.

Agenda Item #2: Chen Yue Ling Sculpture Discussion

Director McCarthy explained that artist Jack Scharr is selling art pieces and has approached the City about purchasing the Chen Yue Ling sculpture for \$30,000. Director McCarthy recommends not purchasing but continuing to rent art through the Creative Arts Alliance which allows new artists a platform and allows varying pieces of art over time. Councilmember McGuinness commended the Creative Arts Alliance and likes how the art rotates.

Councilmember McGuinness moved to decline the purchase and the motion was seconded by Councilmember Mastorakos. There was discussion as to whether this piece could become part of the Creative Arts Alliance or if they had interest in donating it. The motion was passed by a voice vote of 4 to 0.

Agenda Item #3: Chesterfield Baseball Softball Association

Director McCarthy explained that Chesterfield Baseball Softball Association (CBSA) would be interested in helping to fund four synthetic turf fields in the F quad. They have offered to give \$350,000 in an escrow account toward that project. Adding these fields would increase revenues and consolidate field usage. There are concerns that if another city/facility installed turf fields, that tournaments would gravitate toward them. We are currently the premiere location. Director McCarthy requests approval and move request on to the full council.

Councilmember Hurt expressed interest in receiving payments upon completion of installation, in the 1st year and in the 2nd year. There was discussion on putting the money in escrow which was explained that this would help assure payment to the City as well as provide assurances to CBSA that terms were being met. Field rental fees on the turf fields would be more than rental fees for dirt/grass fields. There was discussion on the pros and cons of turf vs. dirt, replacement costs and techniques, longevity of the fields and where the money to pay for the City's portion of the fields should come from. Additionally, the benefits of playing more games and less rain outs were discussed. When teams stay for an entire tournament, they are paying for more hotel rooms, eating out for more meals and doing more shopping in the area. Economic impact is a win for the restaurants, stores, hotels, Parks tax and general fund revenue.

Director McCarthy explained that installation would involve removing 18 inches of dirt, putting in gravel, putting in drainage and then laying turf. Games would be playable in the rain. The life of a synthetic turf field is approximately 8-10 years. Heavy use areas like the batter's box would be removed and replaced every 1-2 years. Replacement of the turf would be paid for by setting aside \$40,000 per year of the proceeds to pay for the approximately \$300,000 replacement costs. Costs of replacing the turf are lower than installation because the drainage system doesn't need to be redone. Installation is expected to take 3-4 months and have the fields ready for use in April 2020.

Councilmember Hurt moved to recommend this project and move to the full council with the money coming from the general fund and requiring CBSA to pay a minimum of 1/3 upon completion, 1/3 in the first year and 1/3 in the second year. There was no second.

Councilmember McGuinness moved to recommend this project and move to the full council with \$415,000 coming from the general fund and \$415,000 coming from the Parks fund and requiring CBSA to pay a minimum of \$150,000 upon completion, \$100,000 one year after completion and \$100,000 two years after completion with all money going into escrow. Councilmember Hurt seconded the motion. The motion was passed by a voice vote of 4 to 0.

Agenda Item #4: Veterans Place Drive Closure Discussion

Councilmember McGuinness discussed the need to investigate closing Veterans Place Drive. Parks staff should look into exploring part of the road sporadically for events, seasonally (late April to Dec 1) or permanently. The proposal to close the road would be from close to the south edge of the amphitheater entrance to the south edge of the Awakening property. This allows for vehicle access to the amphitheater if needed and also allows children playing at The Awakening to more safely cross the street.

Items to be investigated include: Can it be closed? What are the ramifications? Should we close it? Would it help the City? Would it help preserve the City assets for the residents? Would it create a common space/plaza area? Do the approved ingress and egresses affect the closure?

Director McCarthy pointed out that closing that area would help connect The Awakening area to the rest of the park area. He recommended looking into whether the closure was feasible and instituting a sample closure. Councilmember McGuinness requested Parks staff look into parking opportunities for the Central Park area. Additional events could be explored in the area during closures such as Food Truck Fridays, Farmers Markets, Fall Festivals, etc.

Director McCarthy brought the road easement to the attention to the councilmembers. The easement goes from the ingress near the amphitheater entrance around to the roundabout.

Councilmember Mastorakos requested legal team look into issues around the closure. Director McCarthy and Councilmember McGuinness agreed the road closure has been a discussion for years.

Director McCarthy pointed out that about 8 feet of the Awakening property between the statue and the parking is owned by someone else. They maintain that strip while the City maintains the remainder of the property. Councilmember McGuiness requested that Director McCarthy look into whether that strip could become part of the City property.

The committee directed staff to investigate the closing of Veterans Place Drive, temporarily or permanently, and the issues surrounding a closure. Further, the committee directed staff to investigate the entire issue of the limited parking availability for the public use of our assets on Veterans Place Drive.

Agenda Item #5: Unfinished Business

Director McCarthy requested a date be set for the next meeting of the Parks, Recreation & Arts Committee of Council. It was agreed that Monday, November 18 at 5:15 p.m. would be the next meeting.

Agenda Item #6: New Business

No new business.

Agenda Item #7: Adjournment

There being no further business to discuss, Chairperson DeCampi adjourned the meeting at 9:08 a.m.