



**Memorandum
Parks, Recreation & Arts**

TO: Michael Geisel, City Administrator

FROM: Thomas McCarthy, Director of Parks, Recreation and Arts

DATE: September 7, 2016

RE: Meeting Summary – 09-06-2016 Parks, Recreation and Arts Committee

A meeting of the Parks, Recreation and Arts Committee took place on Tuesday, September 6, 2016. Those in attendance included Chairperson Barbara McGuinness, Ward 1; Councilmember Guy Tilman, Ward 2; and Councilmember Tom DeCampi, Ward 4. Also in attendance were Mayor Bob Nation; City Administrator Mike Geisel; Director of Parks, Recreation and Arts Tom McCarthy, Chairperson of the Parks, Recreation and Arts Citizens Advisory Committee, Michelle Keesal, and Executive Secretary Kathy Lantz.

Chairperson McGuinness called the meeting to order at 8:06 a.m. Councilmember Hurt was absent.

Agenda Item #1: Approval of Minutes

Chairperson McGuinness asked for a motion for approval of the July 11, 2016 Parks, Recreation and Arts Committee meeting summary. Tom McCarthy, Director of Parks, Recreation and Arts, made a correction: Page 6, Charge for a cricket game should be \$44.00 per game and not \$66.00 per game. **Councilmember Tilman moved to approve the July 11, 2016 meeting summary with the correction. The motion was seconded by Councilmember DeCampi and passed by a voice vote of 3 to 0.**

Agenda Item #2: Liaison Appointment for the Citizens Committee for the Environment (CCE)

Vice Chair Tilman stated that he would be the Liaison to the Citizens Committee for the Environment (CCE). Mr. McCarthy stated that the Committee meets the 4th Monday of the month at City Hall at 6:30 p.m.

Agenda Item #3: Schoettler Park Option

Mr. McCarthy stated that he was asked by Councilmember Dan Hurt to look at the properties at 1859 and 1965 Schoettler Road as an opportunity for a new park in Ward III. The property at 1859 Schoettler Road is 9.55 acres for a price tag of \$2,200,000. This property has a ranch house and nice barn. The property at 1965 Schoettler Road is 3.05 acres for \$490,000. Both properties have frontage along Schoettler Road.

Mr. McCarthy stated that the recommendations were to keep the barn but tear down the house on the larger parcel. The barn would be used to keep equipment for the maintenance crew. One person would be required for maintenance. Mr. McCarthy stated that perhaps the City could obtain a grant from the Municipal Parks Grant Commission in the amount of \$500,000 which could be used for development of the park after the property was purchased. If a grant was received, the new park would cost approximately \$113,570. The grant would cover demolition of buildings, a park sign, pavilion for 75 people with a BBQ, concrete pad for the pavilion, mulched playground surface with drain and gravel base, prefabricated bathroom, lights and security cameras, amenities (trash cans, dog waste stations, benches, signage, and drinking fountains), utilities (water, electric, sewer) and a 7% contingency.

Mr. McCarthy stated that there is not a lot of land available in Ward 3 for a park.

Phase II of the park would have a smaller pavilion, additional section of walking trail, bridges and a dog park area.

Mr. McCarthy stated that we would like to update the Master Plan in 2018 and we have allocated funds in the 2018 budget. If Council approves, we will move forward.

Chair McGuinness stated that this property is exposed to the public and is not hidden behind a school like the Green Trails School and park area. She stated that this property is rather pricey.

Mr. McCarthy stated this property has been on sale for a couple of years and the owners are anxious to sell. This property is just south from Logan College.

City Administrator Mike Geisel stated that the low part of the site is flood plain.

Chair McGuinness stated that the City does not have the funds to purchase these parcels and the person who wanted this brought to the Committee was absent so she suggested to table this item.

Open Discussion

Discussion followed concerning purchasing the parcels and waiting until there was money to develop them. Also whether the City should get a residential appraisal for the parcels and what the actual price is. If the parcels have been for sale for so long, there is not an interest in development due to the water issue.

Mr. Geisel stated that the first thing that should be considered is to obtain an appraisal for these parcels. He thinks the Committee would want an appraisal then there would not be any guessing on the price.

Mr. McCarthy stated that the house on the property is being lived in and there would be the possibility of leasing the house back to the current residents.

Mayor Nation stated that there are not that many properties available for park land in the City and to possibly get a residential appraisal.

Discussion following concerning the difference between tabling and postponing agenda items.

Councilmember Tilman moved to RECEIVE AND FILE the report and the Committee is expressing interest, but recognizes they have no financial means but are directing the Parks Director to remain aware of and report on any activities on this and other sites. The motion was seconded by Chair McGuinness and passed by a voice vote of 3-0.

This item will not be on the next Committee Agenda.

Agenda Item #4: Potential Fee Increases

Mr. McCarthy reviewed the current and proposed fee increases for the aquatic center, pavilion and CVAC field and light rental rates along with pool hour changes. Mr. McCarthy also showed the comparison with neighboring cities. Mr. McCarthy stated that the fees for Chesterfield were the lowest in the area. The increases will increase overall pool revenues by approximately \$30,000 a year and saving approximately \$13,000 in staff costs. Mr. McCarthy stated that the 'General Rate' would now be referenced as the 'Non-Resident Rate.'

Discussion

Topics discussed included not discouraging seniors from using the pool for exercise, pool rentals after hours, when some fees were last adjusted and how many use the pool after 7:30 p.m. and reviewing fees annually.

Councilmember Tilman stated that Chesterfield should base their rates on what is good for the residents of Chesterfield, City and our operations. Those that are using the pool are paying for the pool.

Councilmember DeCampi moved to add \$1.00 to the Resident and Non-Resident Daily Pool Rates. The Resident rates will now be: \$5.00 for children 2-18, \$6.00 for adults 18-61, and \$5.00 for seniors over 62. The Non-Resident rates will be: \$8.00 for children 2-18, \$8.00 for adults 18-61, and \$8.00 for seniors over 62. Season pool pass rates will be as follows: For Residents: Individual Child 2-18 - \$80.00, Individual Adult 18-61 - \$90.00, Individual Senior 62 + - \$80.00, Family of four - \$200.00. There will not be a rate change for Non-Resident Pool Passes or Additional Family Member. The motion was seconded by Chair McGuinness and passed by a voice vote of 2 to 0. Councilmember Tilman voted no.

Councilmember Tilman moved to approve the new hours for the aquatic center as recommended by staff. They will be Noon-7:30pm Monday through Friday, 11:00am -7:30 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays. The motion was seconded by Councilmember DeCampi and passed by a voice vote of 3 to 0.

Councilmember Tilman moved to approve the increased fees for after hours pool rentals. The Resident rate will be \$300.00 per hour (minimum of two hours) and Non-Resident rate will be \$390.00 per hour (minimum of two hours). The motion was seconded by Councilmember DeCampi and passed by a voice vote of 3 to 0.

CVAC Fee Increases:

Mr. McCarthy stated that in 2016, with Council approval, staff moved the field location of the F5 and F6 fields and completely rebuilt them. The fields now have nice skinned infields, irrigated outfields, complete backstops, fence lines down the first and third base lines and home run fences. The additional \$2.00 per field will bring these fields more in line with what they should be charged and to help defray the cost of maintaining them at the higher level due to the improvements. With an increase in electrical cost repairs and maintenance on the lights, staff is recommending a \$1.00 increase in the light fee. In the past, by a staff oversight, CBSA was not paying for the lights. By charging CBSA \$9.00 per hour next year, CBSA will be eased into the new fees and give them time to pass these costs along to the teams. These increases will generate an additional \$34,000 per year.

Mr. Geisel stated that every year the CBSA receives \$50,000 in field credits through 2019.

Councilmember Tilman moved to approve the fees, as proposed, \$16.00 per game for fields F5 and F6. These fees will be reviewed by staff next year. The motion was seconded by Councilmember DeCampi and passed by a voice vote of 3 to 0.

Councilmember DeCampi moved to raise the rate to \$20.00 per hour for lights and CBSA will be charged \$10.00 per hour for the lights. These fees will be reviewed by staff next year. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Tilman and passed by a voice vote of 3 to 0.

Councilmember Tilman asked staff to call Ameren and see if they have any special programs for municipalities and, with the thousands of people visiting the complex each year, to advertise Ameren on perhaps fences for better rates.

Open Discussion

There was discussion concerning the rates for pavilion rentals. The rates have not been raised since 2009. Cost of the rental covers maintenance on the pavilion. There is a \$100 refundable deposit per rental.

Councilmember DeCampi moved to raise the pavilion rates to \$55.00 per day Monday through Friday and \$110 per day for weekends and holidays. These fees will be reviewed by staff next year. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Tilman and passed by a voice vote of 3 to 0.

Agenda Item #5: Fields F5 & F6 Update

Mr. McCarthy stated that CBSA has already cut a check to the City for \$25,000. We have spent \$55,000 for upgrades and the City is waiting to find shade structures to finish the project. Staff has gotten rave reviews on the two new fields.

Agenda Item #6: Shoeman Water Project Update

Mr. McCarthy stated that 1,700 pairs of shoes have been collected so far. There will be collection boxes out at the amphitheater for Taste of St. Louis and Backstoppalooza. Staff will reassess the project after a year. There are other collection sites throughout the City.

Agenda Item #7: Unfinished Business

Mr. McCarthy stated that the new Parks Master Plan will cost approximately \$60,000. Some of the work can be done in-house.

There was general discussion concerning the cost of the City's free concerts and purchasing sound equipment.

Chair McGuinness stated that Mayor Nation was going to send a note to all of the cities that benefitted from the change in the sales tax distribution that the Mayor was instrumental in getting changed and asking them to donate to the Veterans Honor Park. She asked if there had been any response.

Mayor Nation stated that there has been one response from the City of Green Park and they have declined to donate saying it does not benefit their city.

Agenda Item #8: New Business

Councilmember DeCampi stated that there a 12-acre parcel at 16911 Wildhorse Creek Road for a possible park in Ward IV. The price is \$240,000 and appraised at \$96,000 by the County. The property is owned by Tim Gamma and is a flood plain. Possibilities would be for a walking trail with a 9-hole disc golf course, pavilion and restroom. There could also be the possibility of a grant from the Municipal Park Grant Commission.

There was discussion about purchasing land when available since there is not a lot of available land left in the City.

Councilmember Tilman moved to have the Director of Parks, Recreation and Arts check out the property and update the Committee at their next meeting. The motion was seconded by Councilmember DeCampi and passed by a voice vote of 3 to 0.

Mr. McCarthy stated that if someone wants to fill a vacancy on the Parks, Recreation and Arts Citizens Advisory Committee to submit a resume to the two Councilmembers in their ward who will then forward the resume to the Mayor with a recommendation.

Councilmember DeCampi moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Councilman Tilman and passed by a voice vote of 3 to 0.

The meeting adjourned at 10:27a.m.