



PARKS, RECREATION AND ARTS COMMITTEE OF COUNCIL MEETING RESULTS

July 29, 2019

Chairperson DeCampi called the meeting to order at 5:02 p.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:

Mayor Bob Nation
Councilmember Ben Keathley, Ward II
Councilmember Michael Moore, Ward III
Director of Parks, Recreation and Arts, Tom McCarthy
Recording Secretary Mary Ann Madden
Mike Whelan- Parks, Recreation & Arts Citizen Advisory Committee Chair
Kelly Unnerstall- Parks, Recreation and Arts Citizen Advisory representative Ward #
John Hoffman

Agenda Item #1: Approval of Minutes

The meeting results of the June 3, 2019 Parks, Recreation & Arts Committee of Council Meeting were submitted for approval. Chair DeCampi made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Hurt to approve the meeting results. The motion was passed by a voice vote of 4 to 0.

Agenda Item #2: Gazebo for Central Park South Plaza

Director of Parks, Recreation and Arts Tom McCarthy presented budgetary prices on two shelters (*one gazebo and one pergola*) for the Committee's consideration for possible placement in the area of *The Awakening* sculpture:

- Carmel Polygon 32' Gazebo Shelter (*Music Man* gazebo) - \$81,390
- Pergola Shelter by Apollo - \$85,808

It was noted that Councilmember McGuinness had also submitted a suggested gazebo, which was not included in the meeting packet as it was received after packets had been distributed. She explained that the gazebo was smaller than the Carmel Polygon 32' Gazebo and included benches. Mr. McCarthy pointed out that the smaller gazebo was constructed of wood, which would require a lot more maintenance.

Discussion followed as to whether it was desirable to place a shelter in the green space of *The Awakening*. Suggestion was made to include a stone plaza with café tables, along with colorful park benches in the area instead of a shelter. Mr. McCarthy pointed out that the east side of the site is shaded and would be a good place for the tables and benches.

Councilmember McGuiness suggested that a shelter be considered for the South Plaza. Of the two Poligon gazebos presented, Councilmember Hurt pointed out that one gazebo includes steps, making it more expensive and less accessible for the handicapped. Mr. McCarthy felt that a pergola would be a better fit for the South Plaza vs. a gazebo. The pergola would allow for the ceiling louvers to open and close, and would accommodate a ceiling fan and lighting.

Mr. McCarthy then pointed out that the current budget does not allow for the purchase of a pergola or gazebo. He suggested waiting until year-end and seeing what next year's budget will permit.

Councilmember Hurt recommended that input also be requested from the Parks Citizens Advisory Committee on this matter.

Agenda Item #3: Monarch Levee Trailhead

Director of Parks, Recreation and Arts Tom McCarthy stated that at the Committee's request, he has reviewed adding a trailhead at the north end of the parking lot at the Prestige Outlet Mall for the Monarch Levee Trail. He pointed out that the City of Wildwood has recently completed a very attractive trailhead at the west end of the Monarch Levee Trail and Centaur Road.

He also noted that Great Rivers Greenway recommends trailheads every four miles, which the City has for the Monarch Levee Trail on the north side of the Valley. If the City were to add an additional trailhead at the mall, it would involve working with the Corp of Army Engineers, the Levee District, and the mall. The City would then take on the liabilities associated with the trailhead. Currently, this area is not being maintained and any bikers/walkers using it, are using it at their own risk as the City does not own the property and is not responsible for its upkeep. It was pointed out that even in its current condition, it is a high-trafficked area.

After further discussion, it was the consensus of the Committee that Mr. McCarthy should contact Mall management to discuss the possibility of the Mall maintaining a trailhead at this section of the trail noting that it would benefit the Mall.

Agenda Item #4: CVAC Baseball/Softball Fee Changes

Director of Parks, Recreation and Arts Tom McCarthy presented recommended baseball and softball practice fees, along with CBSA rental fees for the Chesterfield Valley Athletic Complex for 2020. It was noted that the recommendation is a marginal fee increase, with the last increase being in 2009. While the recommended fee increase is low, it is in line with a lot of other area facilities, which keeps it competitive.

Councilmember McGuiness made a motion to forward the recommended fee increases to City Council with a recommendation to approve. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Hurt and passed by a voice vote of 4 to 0.

Agenda Item #5: Cricket Pitch Discussion

Director of Parks, Recreation and Arts Tom McCarthy gave an update on discussions with Ganesh regarding the cricket fields noting that there has not been any feedback from Ganesh since their last meeting two months ago. Mr. McCarthy then provided the costs associated with putting in a cricket field with a permanent concrete pitch at an estimated cost of \$35,200.

Practice Rates for residents would be \$120/hour; and \$150/hour for non-residents.

Game Rates for residents would be \$130/hour; and \$170/hour for non-residents.

It was noted that these rates are based on the size of the field, which is basically the size of two soccer fields, and these would be the costs for renting two soccer fields.

It was noted that Ganesh has offered to pay \$34/hour for practice time. If this rate was accepted, Mr. McCarthy stated that lower rates would have to be given to CBSA and Ascension Soccer based on current contracts which would have very large implication on the field rental revenues.

During discussion, the following information was provided:

- Ascension Soccer gave the City \$60,000 in the past to help put in lights on a soccer field they wanted lit. Consequently, the City gave them a five-year extension on their contract with the City.
- CBSA gave the City money two years ago to put in Fields F5 and F6.
- JB Marine gave the City \$50,000 to help with the installation of lights.
- These three organizations were not given credits toward the rental fees because of their contribution; they were billed the current rental fees at the time.
- Ganesh has offered to contribute money up front to put in a cricket field but asked that it be credited toward rental fees.

After further discussion, it was agreed that before any negotiations can be made with Ganesh, a business plan should be submitted to Director McCarthy. It is Staff's recommendation that any agreement be for five years at least with a guaranteed amount of rental time at the current practice and rental rates. It should also be stipulated that Ganesh would be responsible for the \$35,200 cost of installing the cricket field and pitch.

Councilmember Keathley then provided the following information about area soccer teams:

- Ganesh already has 200 youth enrolled in cricket programs. There is also a men's league.
- Both of these leagues are utilizing a field in the O'Fallon area.
- A lot of the team members are from the West County/St. Louis County area, and it is anticipated that they would prefer to use a field in Chesterfield with better amenities than the field currently being used.

Councilmember Keathley questioned whether a permanent pitch could be placed between the sidelines of two soccer fields. Mr. McCarthy replied that this would not be feasible because the soccer fields are fully booked, so there would be no available time for cricket games or practices, and would not work for Ganesh's needs from previous discussions.

It was agreed that Director McCarthy should follow up with Ganesh and report back to the committee at our next meeting.

Agenda Item #6: Unfinished Business

- Councilmember McGuiness asked for an update on the street lights for Veterans Place Drive/Central Park. Mr. McCarthy stated that he is still working on getting the appropriate bulb for the fixtures. If something is not resolved within the next three weeks, he will look at other options for obtaining the light bulbs through a different consultant.
- Councilmember McGuiness questioned whether the City wants to keep the Holtzmann property. Mr. McCarthy recommended keeping the property because as the urban area develops, the City will lose a lot of flexibility with respect to large event space. Discussion followed about the benefits/repercussions of closing Veterans Place Drive in order to make a plaza area. It was agreed to add this matter to a future Committee agenda.

Agenda Item #7: New Business

- Kelli Unnerstall, member of the Parks, Recreation & Arts Citizens Advisory Committee, provided information to the Committee members regarding a possible City park along Schoettler Road in Ward III. She pointed out that the appraisal for the property in question covers a range of \$795,096 - \$1,166,724 and asked Council to consider working within that range to negotiate a purchase price for the property.
- Ms. Unnerstall stated that the Citizens Committee recently approved establishing a *Trails and Connectivity Subcommittee* chaired by Ms. Unnerstall, and which will have its first meeting August 1st.

Agenda Item #8: Adjournment

There being no further business to discuss, Chairperson DeCampi adjourned the meeting at 5:50 p.m.