



PARKS, RECREATION AND ARTS COMMITTEE OF COUNCIL MEETING RESULTS

June 14, 2022

5:15 p.m.

City Hall, Room 101

Chairperson Budoor called the meeting to order at 5:15 p.m.

Those in attendance included:

Councilmember Barb McGuinness, Ward I

Councilmember Mary Ann Mastorakos, Ward II

Councilmember Michael Moore, Ward III

Chairperson Gary Budoor, Ward IV

Also in attendance were:

Councilmember Merrell Hansen, Ward IV

Director of Parks, Recreation & Arts, Tom McCarthy

Executive Assistant, Parks, Recreation & Arts, Ann-Marie Stagoski

Superintendent of Sports and Wellness, Kevin Schuh

Barbara Briggs, Co-Chair of Parks, Recreation & Arts Advisory Committee

Agenda Item #1: Approval of Meeting Results

The meeting results of the May 10, 2022 Parks, Recreation & Arts Committee of Council Meeting were submitted for approval. Councilmember Moore made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Mastorakos, to approve the meeting results. There being no discussion, the motion was passed by a voice vote of 4 to 0.

Agenda Item #2: Approval for Twelve Synthetic Turf Infields

Discussion of installing twelve synthetic turf infields at the Chesterfield Valley Athletic Complex (CVAC) began with questions regarding the TIPS cooperative. Questions included whether we belonged to the cooperative and if there was a fee. Director McCarthy explained that governments, schools, and other groups automatically belonged to the group and the City currently uses a similar coop when acquiring vehicles, snow plows and other large equipment. There is no cost to belong to the group. Director McCarthy will look into how the cooperative is funded.

Councilmember Mastorakos asked about Byrne & Jones' experience with these kinds of projects in Missouri. Director McCarthy explained that installing this type of turf is one of their primary functions and that they were the company who installed the turf on our F Quad. Chairperson Budoor commented that this project needs to start by October in order to be completed by March of 2023.

Councilmember McGuinness asked how much the city made in a weekend on 16 fields to which Superintendent Schuh stated that it was approximately \$20,000 in field rental and \$40,000-\$50,000 in concessions revenue.

Councilmember McGuinness made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Moore, to approve the synthetic turf infield project and move it on to full council. There being no discussion, the motion was passed by a voice vote of 4 to 0.

Agenda Item #3: Parking Update for Central Park

Director McCarthy stated that Gershman is using St. Louis Parking to charge for parking at their facility during City events. They have 348 spots. The Mall (owned by Staenberg) wanted to do the same thing. The promoters of the Country Fair ended up paying them \$10,000 flat fee not to charge people to park at the mall. From a Parks Department standpoint, they are more concerned about community events such as the six free Sounds of Summer concerts (including Backstoppalooza), the Fall Festival, the Holiday Festival, Trunk or Treats (for seniors) and Trucks or Treats. When the 8 acres was purchased, it was intended to help alleviate parking issues at Central Park. There are several options the committee can take:

- Do nothing
- Approach Gershman about paying them \$1,000 per event to not charge (waiting on response)
- Rent school busses to get to and from the mall. (This option has challenges at the end of a concert when everyone would want to get on the busses at the same time.)
- Create parking in the two outer parcels of the 8 acres and create 94 spots on the south parcel and 245 in the north parcel. There were funds allocated when the purchase was made for this purpose.

Councilmember McGuinness moved to do nothing and let Gershman charge for parking in their lot if they choose. There was no second.

There was further discussion on whether or not the Mall would charge for parking this Saturday which was not known. Director McCarthy stated they would put out signs stating that Gershman is now charging for parking. Questions on parking on the grass were dismissed due to the soil becoming packed and not being able to grow grass as well as the lack of fencing which would lead to persons parking on all grassy areas rather than a certain area the City may allow.

Councilmember Mastorakos pointed out that other free amenities such as the zoo are free but have some paid and some free parking. Director McCarthy stated that they could put out a statement saying "Give yourself an extra few minutes because we can no longer park next to *The Awakening*." Councilmember McGuinness felt that residents needed to understand that the City does not have resources to fund parking. Other councilmembers expressed the concern of committing to the free concerts and giving residents time to understand the transition.

No action was taken at this time.

Agenda Item #4: Pickleball information

Chairperson Budoor stated that the committee asked the Parks Department to negotiate with the YMCA regarding pickleball courts on their property. Director McCarthy explained that they offered a 30-year lease for \$1 if the City would take on all expenses of building the courts at a cost of 1.5 million dollars. This would include adding additional parking for the YMCA which would be lost in the court footprint, allowing the Y to use a football size space in Central Park with two tents from morning to night for their day camp. This would result in the loss of this space throughout the summer for other City Events. It is estimated that with charging for reservations and clinics the courts could possibly make \$50,000-\$70,000 per year. The courts would not be lit.

Councilmember Moore who was not previously on the committee asked for a recap of the options that have been presented. Those included:

- locating them at the YMCA
- locating them at the CVAC
- locating them in Central Park near *The Awakening*
- location them on the "Fairgrounds" property between Parks Circle Drive and Gershman

Councilmember McGuinness stated that we started talking about pickleball courts before residents voted down Proposition U and before Staenberg proposed 20 courts at The District. Council McGuinness also mentioned that Council decided to spend millions turfing the fields at the CVAC to keep that asset viable and something our present and future customers would want to use. In further discussion Council member McGuinness also said that the locations proposed were either unaffordable or not desirable.

Councilmember McGuinness moved to postpone indefinitely the installation of pickleball courts. Councilmember Mastorakos seconded the motion so we could move to discussion. There was further discussion on other locations to play pickleball in Chesterfield including the mall, The District, who is proposing installing up to 20 per courts per Council member McGuinness, the JCC, the YMCA as well as the 2 the City will install in Logan Park. Councilmember Mastorakos reminded the committee that the Parks Department has made these proposals because residents have come to him expressing a desire. Director McCarthy stated that the City put in courts at the Chesterfield Valley Athletic Complex to see if there was a need and now we have hundreds come to our clinics.

Councilmember Moored moved to amend the motion to "date certain" of one year. The motion was seconded by Councilmember McGuinness. There being no further discussion the motion to amend was passed on a voice vote of 4-0. The amended motion passed on a voice vote of 4-0.

Agenda Item #5: Cricket Update

We recently had an adult cricket tournament director call about playing at the CVAC and because we had a baseball tournament cancellation, we were able to accommodate the request and hosted our first cricket tournament. It was ten teams and they played on baseball fields C1-C4. There was no concrete pitch and they used a different type of ball since they had a dirt pitch area on the infield.

Chairperson Budoor said there were two options: putting in a youth recreational temporary pitch or put in a full fledge complete pitch for adults.

Director McCarthy stated that he could explore the option of starting a youth cricket league like we have for youth soccer now. We could then look at the 32 acres to research drainage costs. The CVAC is not geared for professional sports as we don't have fields of that level for other sports such as baseball or soccer.

Chairperson Budoor moved to explore the youth program options and direct the Parks Department to price out a more permanent pitch and field. It was seconded by Councilmember Moore. Councilmember McGuinness inquired where additional staff would be need for the youth program to which Director McCarthy stated that was not necessary. There being no further discussion, the motion passed on a voice vote of 4-0.

Agenda Item #6: Unfinished Business

Director McCarthy explained that approximately \$86,000 has been spent to date to get the pool open. The department is putting together a report on where we're at with the pool. We are currently short ten lifeguards and may have to close elements periodically. Director McCarthy will let the committee know how many pool passes have been sold to date.

Agenda Item #7: New Business

No new business.

Agenda Item #8: Adjournment

There being no further business to discuss, Chairperson Budoor adjourned the meeting at 6:55 p.m.