



**Memorandum
Parks, Recreation & Arts**

TO: Michael Geisel, City Administrator
FROM:  Thomas McCarthy, Director of Parks, Recreation and Arts
DATE: June 7, 2017
RE: Meeting Summary – 06-06-2017 Parks, Recreation and Arts Committee

A meeting of the Parks, Recreation and Arts Committee took place on Tuesday, June 6, 2017. Those in attendance included Chairperson Randy Logan, Ward 3; Councilmember Barbara McGuinness, Ward 1; Councilmember Ben Keathley, Ward 2 and Councilmember Tom DeCampi, Ward 4. Also in attendance were Councilmember Dan Hurt, Ward 3; Director of Parks, Recreation and Arts Tom McCarthy, and Executive Assistant Kathy Lantz.

Chairperson Logan called the meeting to order at 6:04pm.

Agenda Item #1: Approval of Minutes

Councilmember McGuinness moved to approve the February 6, 2017 meeting summary. The motion was seconded by Councilmember DeCampi and passed by a voice vote of 4 to 0.

Agenda Item #2: Liaison Appointments for the Parks, Recreation and Arts Citizens Advisory Committee; Senior Task Force Committee and the Citizens Committee for the Environment

Councilmember Keathley stated that he would like to be considered as the liaison for the Citizens Committee for the Environment.

Chairman Logan moved to nominate Councilmember Keathley as the liaison for the Citizens Committee for the Environment. The motion was seconded by Councilmember McGuinness and passed by a voice vote of 4 to 0.

Parks, Recreation and Arts Director, Tom McCarthy, stated that the Parks, Recreation and Arts Citizens Advisory Committee meets the second Saturday of the month at 8:15am at the Parks Administrative Building, the Senior Task Force meets the second Tuesday of the month at 2:00pm at City Hall and the Citizens Committee for the Environment meets the fourth Thursday of the month at 6:30pm at City Hall. Mr. McCarthy stated that the Senior Task Force works together with the City and the West County YMCA.

Councilmember McGuinness and Councilmember DeCampi stated that it would be difficult for them to attend meetings for the Senior Task Force since the meetings are in the afternoon. Chairperson Logan stated that he could attend the afternoon Senior Task Force Meetings.

Chairperson McGuinness moved to nominate Councilmember DeCampi as liaison to the Parks, Recreation and Arts Citizens Advisory Committee. The motion was seconded by Councilmember DeCampi and passed by a voice vote of 4 to 0.

Chairperson McGuinness moved to nominate Chairperson Logan as liaison to the Senior Task Force. The motion was seconded by Chairperson Logan and passed by a voice vote of 4 to 0.

Chairperson Logan stated that he may attend some of the meetings for the Parks, Recreation and Arts Citizens Advisory Committee.

Agenda Item #3: Flow Art Installation

Mr. McCarthy stated that 'The Flow' was part of last year's Public Art Competition. After the Call for Art, five artists were selected to present their work before the Parks Selection Committee which consisted of members of the Parks, Recreation and Arts Citizens Advisory Committee and Parks staff. The artists presented their work and the location where they would like their piece placed, if selected. 'The Flow' was selected before the current art placement process was in place.

The artist, Leland Drexler-Russell, had a vision of cattails and the lotus flower signifying Chesterfield's closeness to water. "The Flow" will feature four clusters of aluminum cattail sculptures following the Central Park's creek to a cluster of aluminum lotus' floating in the lake. The aluminum stalks and lily pads with crystal cattails and flowers will glimmer during the day. At night the sculptures will have light glowing from the crystal cattails and the lotus flower. The sculpture will honor the waterways and ecosystems that make Chesterfield and Missouri such a pleasant place to live while adding a little magic to the scene. The goal is to draw people's attention to the incredible ecosystem created by our wetlands. The lotus flowers will be fiber-optic lit floating on a lily pad in the lake at the amphitheater. The lotus flower is about the size of a 6-inch plate and there will be three on a lily pad. There will be four 'pads' and each pad will have five or six pieces of grass and four or five fiber-optic cattails on them. The cattails will be six to seven feet tall. These pieces are attached to the dry ground and do not float in the water. Fiber-optics will go up through the cattails and will light them with various colors. The project will be solar powered. The base of the large flower will have solar panels. There were two options on placement of 'The Flow' but staff thinks Option 2 is the best. Option 2 is located at the east stream walk where children will not be playing and is more difficult to get to. There is a lot of visual appeal in Option 2. One can stand on the bridge and look down at the artwork. The sculpture can't be seen from the amphitheater but can be seen walking around the lake. The artist felt the art piece would be better visually at this end of the lake than the other side by the dam.

Mr. McCarthy stated that the project cost \$18,000.00. Staff will build the concrete pad in-house and work with the artist on the installation.

Councilmember McGuinness moved to forward to City Council for approval the placement of the Flow Art piece as presented with the artist and staff having final authority for placing 'The Flow' in the best location. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Keathley and passed by a voice vote of 4 to 0.

Agenda Item #4: Schoettler Park Option

Tom McCarthy stated that the Schoettler Park Option was brought before the Committee a while ago and tabled. Mr. McCarthy stated that he walked the property with Chairperson Logan and Councilmember Hurt on separate dates and they asked to have it brought back to the Committee for review. The property is located off Schoettler Road just south of Logan University at 1859 Schoettler Road. Currently there is a house, barn and small storage shed on the 9.5 acre property. The house would be torn down and the barn would be updated. The park is in good view from Schoettler Road for safety. The proposed park would have a pavilion with a restroom, a trail is proposed around the property, a playground, 40 parking spaces and a large open green space. The length of the trail is less than 1/3 mile.

Mr. McCarthy stated that if this park option is approved, he would contact Logan University to see if there is an interest with having the park trail connect with the trail at Logan University with the City maintaining the trail.

Councilmember Hurt stated that Ward 3 is the only ward without a City park.

Chairperson Logan stated that the desired site is 9.5 acres and that an additional 3 acres may be available.

Chairperson Logan stated that he would prefer a small playground on the site. There is a large playground at Central Park and one that large is not needed for this site.

Mr. McCarthy stated that there are other options to add to this site, perhaps pickle ball courts.

Councilmember Hurt stated that the pavilion would be nice to be able to rent out since the Central Park pavilion is rented most week-ends.

Mr. McCarthy stated that staff could go after a Municipal Parks Grant for \$500,000 and, if received, this park, with the added amenities, would cost under \$200,000 after the purchase of the land. St. Louis County has assessed this property at \$646,600. The owners of the property are getting a professional appraisal. They are not interested in a tax credit for the property. The park would cost approximately \$1,700,000 without receiving a Municipal Parks Grant.

Chairperson Logan stated that there is money in the Parks Fund-Fund Reserves to purchase this property.

Mr. McCarthy stated that the work required to make this property into a park could be done in-house with Parks and Public Works staff.

Mr. McCarthy suggested waiting for a professional appraisal on this site before making any decisions. The appraisal should take two to three weeks. He stated that this property has been on the market for approximately four years.

Chairperson Logan stated that there was a consensus to postpone a decision on this property until the next Parks, Recreation and Arts Committee meeting and Staff receives the professional appraisal and directed staff to come back with other options for this site including a smaller playground. Chairperson Logan directed staff to find out the structural condition of the barn, rough costs to fix it up for use as Parks maintenance storage and if there is any lead paint on these structures.

Councilmember McGuinness stated that the addition of this park would add one more maintenance worker to the Parks staff.

Agenda Item #5: Wildhorse Creek Road Park Option

Mr. McCarthy stated that staff had looked at this property (16911 Wildhorse Creek Road) several years ago for a potential park. Mr. McCarthy met with the owner, Tim Gamma. The site is 12 acres and would provide a wonderful nature path and a peaceful getaway for bird watching, nature exploration or just walking on a crushed gravel trail. The property is currently listed at \$240,000 and Mr. Gamma is interested in a tax credit and selling the property to the City for \$90,000. One condition by Mr. Gamma is that the park would be named 'Gamma Tree Park.' An appraisal on the property should be available within the next two weeks.

Mr. McCarthy stated that the property has two creeks running near it. Caulks Creek borders the property on the north and west sides and Wilson Creek runs through a section of the southern portion of the property. If Council elects to move forward with the purchase of this property, the property adjoining this site is owned by the Sitadino's and they were be interested in a land swap for a small portion of the property in the northwest corner on the hill for the lower field area off the road easement. There are a lot of deer on the property.

Mr. McCarthy stated that this property could be purchased and then developed over time. The Parks and Public Works Departments could install the parking lot and trail over the winter months as time permits for the next two to three years. Staff could also apply for a grant through the Municipal Parks Grant to receive \$416,506 for park development (park sign, gravel trail, prefabricated enviro toilet, bridge over the creek, trash cans, dog waste stations, benches, picnic table and signage) which would make the final cost of the park to be approximately \$41,650 after the purchase of the property. Over time, a small pavilion could possibly be installed towards the front of the property. Since this would be a passive park, there would be, on average, an additional 5 man hours per week needed for park upkeep.

Councilmember McGuinness stated that she thinks there are enough walking trails in the City now and would rather put resources towards the Schoettler Park option in Ward 3.

Mr. McCarthy stated that the #1 desire by the residents on the Comprehensive Master Plan done several years ago were trails. Staff will be working on a new Comprehensive Master Plan this year.

Councilmember Hurt stated that trails were also #1 on a survey taken by the residents.

Chairperson Logan stated that for not that much money, the City could have this as a passive park. He also stated that if the appraisal for the Schoettler Park option is close to \$1,000,000 then we wait to receive a Municipal Parks Grant to help with the amenities but purchasing the Gamma property for \$90,000 for a 12-acre passive park is not that much money to do both parks.

Chairperson Logan suggested postponing the Wildhorse Creek Road park option until the next Parks, Recreation and Arts Committee meeting after staff receives the professional appraisal.

Councilmember Keathley stated that he thinks the main consideration should be the Schoettler Park option but doesn't see a problem waiting for the appraisal on this site and considering the options.

Mr. McCarthy stated that the City is insured for their parks.

Chairperson Logan stated that there was the concurrence of three members of the Committee (Chairperson Logan, Councilmember Keathley and Councilmember DeCampi) who want to hear more about the Wildhorse Creek Road park option and all four Committee members (Chairperson Logan, Councilmember McGuinness, Councilmember Keathley and Councilmember DeCampi) want to hear about the Schoettler park option.

Agenda Item #6: Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 6:55pm.