



PARKS, RECREATION & ARTS COMMITTEE OF COUNCIL MEETING RESULTS

April 23, 2019

Chairperson DeCampi called the meeting to order at 5:33 p.m.

Those in attendance included:

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

Also in attendance were:

Mike Whelan, Chairperson, Parks, Recreation & Arts Citizens Advisory Committee;
Councilmember Ben Keathley, Ward 2 (participated through Agenda Item #5);
Director of Parks, Recreation & Arts, Tom McCarthy;
Executive Assistant, Parks, Recreation & Arts, Ann-Marie Stagoski.

Agenda Item #1: Approval of Minutes

The meeting results of the February 11, 2019 Parks, Recreation & Arts Committee of Council Meeting were submitted for approval. Councilmember McGuinness made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Mastorakos, to approve the February 11, 2019 meeting results. A voice vote was taken to approve the meeting results with a 4-0 unanimous affirmative result and the motion was declared passed.

Agenda Item #2: Selection of Vice Chair and Liaison to the Parks, Recreation & Arts Advisory Committee

Councilmember McGuinness moved to appoint Councilmember Dan Hurt as the Vice Chair of Parks, Recreation & Arts Advisory Committee and Mary Ann Mastorakos as the liaison to the Parks, Recreation & Arts Advisory Committee. Councilmember Mastorakos seconded the motion. A voice vote was taken and resulting in a 4-0 unanimous affirmative result to approve the motion.

Agenda Item #3: Policy Recommendation from CCE on New Developments

Director McCarthy discussed a policy proposal from the Citizens Committee for the Environment recommending the new developments in the City of Chesterfield be required to install a National Wildlife Federation Certified 'Native Flora for Butterflies' Garden at least 7'X10' in size and post their plaque. This would be in addition to the already required 30% native, natural greenspace buffer.

Councilmember McGuinness asked if this was for commercial and residential developments. Director McCarthy clarified that it was intended for commercial developments. Councilmember McGuinness felt this was micromanaging and these areas can look weedy. Councilmember DeCampi inquired to what action the CCE Committee was looking for. Director McCarthy stated that they would like it moved on to the PPW

Committee. Councilmember Hurt believed they may be looking for roof top gardens. Councilmember McGuinness felt this idea made more sense. Councilmember Keathley felt the roof top idea was more typical in other areas of the country. Councilmember McGuinness asked how these are maintained. Director McCarthy commented that the garden at the YMCA that was previously installed looks like a weed patch now and CCE needs to contact the YMCA about better maintaining it because these types of areas can look weedy at times and send the wrong message.

Councilmember Hurt proposed the idea of giving a weighted value to the butterfly garden area instead of the already required green space. Councilmember McGuinness felt that the green space gives visual relief to the concrete and asphalt streets and didn't favor diminishing this.

Councilmember Keathley commented that the committee could forward this on to council instead of going to another committee but the PPW committee may be better prepared than this committee on this subject. Because it involves planning code, it needs to end up in that committee in the end.

Councilmember Mastorakos stated it was a good idea but sees how it could end up as a weed patch. She felt that the city was losing garden space and maybe we could recommend or encourage, rather than force it on developers. Councilmember McGuinness questioned whether this would be policy. Director McCarthy stated that this was a proposal developed in his absence and that additional information was needed and he would like to explore the opportunity further. The 7'X10' space described could end up being medians where things could die and then they tend not to be replaced similar to medians in some of the parking lots where trees are planted, they die and then the trees are removed and the area looks unkempt.

Councilmember McGuinness moved to send the idea back to CCE. There was no second. Councilmember DeCampi questioned, given the feedback, if the committee should kill the proposal. Councilmember Hurt felt that the CCE committee was concerned about the urban core of Chesterfield. Councilmember Mastorakos suggested sending it back to CCE with the caveat of addressing the requirement portion and what it looks like when it's not maintained and waiting for a response from CCE on their suggestions.

Councilmember Hurt stated that we would need a list of what could go in the garden area. Councilmember DeCampi inquired about what is the policy recommendation. Director McCarthy read the policy from CCE. Councilmember McGuinness questioned what the 30% in the policy refers to. Director McCarthy stated that the policy would require this 7' X 10' space in addition to the 30% green space already required by the City.

Councilmember DeCampi moved that we move the policy recommendation as stated in the March 29 memorandum on. Councilmember Mastorakos seconded the motion. Councilmember McGuinness stated that we should send it back to CCE. Councilmember DeCampi stated that as recommended he would vote against the policy because he doesn't like the requirement on developers. He loves butterflies and bees, but felt this might do better in our park space.

A voice vote was taken and the motion failed 4-0.

Councilmember Hurt moved that we put garden space in the 30% already required. Councilmember Mastorakos seconded the motion. Councilmember McGuinness felt it wasn't appropriate to mandate what the developers do with their projects because that was too much government. Councilmember Mastorakos was not in favor the part of the policy that made it mandatory and would like it to go back to CCE. Councilmember Hurt felt that the committee was not trying to ignore the idea but trying to make it better.

A voice vote was taken and the motion failed 3-1 with Councilmember Hurt being the affirmative vote. Director McCarthy will work with staff to put an alternative proposal together which may include habitat in our parks and green space and bring it back to the committee for review.

Agenda Item #4: Creative Arts Alliance Art Sculpture Update

Director McCarthy informed the committee that “Dashes” has been built and showed a picture. He stated that it is 12 feet tall and it will be blue when completed. Director McCarthy stated that he reached out to Amy at Sachs and they are not interested in having the sculpture at the Park Circle Roundabout location. The second choice for placement of the sculpture is next to the three flags in the plaza area in the north side of Central Park. Assistant Director Jarvis is investigating the viability of this area and locating utilities. There are concerns that it may be too small.

The third choice of the committee is to place the sculpture in front of City Hall. Councilmember McGuinness is concerned over sharp edges of the sculpture. Councilmember Mastorakos questioned who owned the green spaces on Chesterfield Parkway. Director McCarthy stated that the county owns the green spaces on the Parkway but the city maintains them. He will look into the possibility of putting them in a median and go back to the Parks Committee with that idea. Councilmember Mastorakos stated that there is already a large amount of art around Central Park. Councilmember Hurt questioned the fade resistant properties of the coating that would go on it. Director McCarthy stated that it is a different process than the pool paint and it would last.

Agenda Item #5: Cricket Pitch Update

Director McCarthy shared information regarding the discussions with Ganesh from the American Cricket Academy and Club on their proposal to build a cricket pitch and rent field space at Chesterfield Valley Athletic Complex. Superintendent Schuh did extensive research and found a temporary pitch material which he acquired. At an April 12th meeting with Ganesh they tested the material.

- On a grass field it wasn't bouncy enough.
- On asphalt it had a good bounce.
- On a dirt, scarified baseball field it had a bounce similar to the asphalt.

Ganesh maintains the position that he wants a permanent pitch and he will continue working with council to get it done. Director McCarthy explained that we don't have space for a permanent pitch. An alternative is to lease them a little space on the 33 acres, they pay to put it in. They pay to lease the property. We would give them one year to figure out if it's going to work. If it's working per the pre-defined measures, we give them a second year. There is no irrigation or bathroom facilities in the 33 acre space. We would look into leasing two acres for the field space with Council approval.

Director McCarthy spoke with John Bales at the Spirit of St. Louis Airport and he has space for the cricket club and would be happy to talk to him about it.

Councilmember DeCampi questioned the length of the pitch and could it be done on a baseball field. Director McCarthy stated that it is 12 feet wide and 125 feet long. Director McCarthy spoke with Ganesh about using baseball fields since they use them at Pond Elementary to run tournaments but he has no interest in that.

Councilmember DeCampi asked if there were extra baseball fields. Director McCarthy stated that we did not have enough and that Chesterfield Baseball and Softball Association (CBSA) wants to put in two more and they have first right of refusal per their contract on baseball and softball field rentals for their leagues.

Councilmember DeCampi clarified that there were two options:
Putting the pitch on the currently undeveloped 33 acres or
Going to the airport to use their space

The airport option would not fall under the City in any way. The Parks Department would just facilitate the connection. Ganesh said he would call John Bales.

Director McCarthy stated that the city has planted grass on parts of the 33 acres in the past. Councilmember McGuinness inquired if the City would need to staff the site during events. Director McCarthy stated that we would enter into a contract for trash removal and other services and that would be dependent on the contract.

Councilmember DeCampi asked how many acres they would need. Director McCarthy stated they would need the equivalent of two full size soccer fields. Councilmember Hurt stated that that was approximately 2 acres. Director McCarthy feels cricket is a good idea and the Parks Department reached out to them 5 years ago but couldn't make it work. He also stated that on the Parks Master Plan surveys, cricket was the last thing on the list of wants in the community besides "other". There was a 1% interest. On the list of the top 28 sports nationally by trend, cricket isn't even on the list. Ganesh has said he would pay for the pitch but would want credit back for the cost of the pitch through rental rates. The Park Department could not give a discount because they would then, by contract, have to give those rates to CBSA at a great loss to the City. The Parks Department would like cricket to be successful but the cricket club will not agree to do a camp here to see if there is even a need.

Councilmember DeCampi inquired as to how many of the 33 acres are decent enough and what would it take to make them playable. Director McCarthy said he would look into that. Councilmember DeCampi inquired if Tom could get the cost to improve the 2 acres and Director McCarthy said he would look into that if Ganesh was interested in that option.

Councilmember Keathley stated that he has been to the Defiance location where the cricket club currently is located and there are lots of kids there. They have cricket in the Rockwood and Parkway school district Physical Education classes. He felt that the cricket club was looking to move on and improve upon their current location. Director McCarthy stated that the club has been asked to run a camp and see what the numbers are and host a tournament on the baseball fields but they have declined. There is currently no space to install a temporary permanent pitch and games last 2-6 hours, with youth games usually shorter. The Parks Department would like to help but they are unsure what the numbers would be and if this can sustain itself on our current multiport fields.

Councilmember DeCampi suggested talking with Ganesh about the option on the 33 acres and see what he says about the airport area option. Councilmember Mastorakos agrees with that idea. Councilmember DeCampi asked the cost of putting in a permanent pitch. Director McCarthy explained that Parks would need to excavate, add rock, pour concrete and lay carpet. He will get the cost for that.

Councilmember Keathley asked if the CBSA contract extends to new fields on new property. Director McCarthy said that it does apply. Councilmember Keathley asked when that contract expires. Director McCarthy thought the contract expired in 2024 but will check. He will reach out to Ganesh on the Spirit of St. Louis option and the area on the 33 acres.

Councilmember McGuinness inquired if bleachers were needed. Councilmember Keathley stated that they could probably move the bleachers from the Defiance fields to the new fields.

Agenda Item #6: Master Plan Update

Director McCarthy stated that there is a meeting on May 15 at 6:00 in Council Chambers and council is invited. The meeting will be publicized and open to the public. The consultants will discuss:

- Trends
- Best practices
- How survey went
- Citizens' comments

They will then bring the completed Parks, Recreation & Arts Master Plan to council and council will decide on actions are to be adopted.

Councilmember Hurt inquired about the public feedback. Director McCarthy stated that we received approximately 1,400 general surveys and 340 statistical surveys. 300 statistical surveys were needed to make it a valid survey.

Councilmember attendance at meeting was encouraged.

Agenda Item #7: Municipal Parks Grant Update

Director McCarthy stating that we are still waiting for the agreement giving the City the Awakening property before going out to bid on the pavilion and the rubberized surface around the Awakening.

Councilmember McGuinness asked for an ETA on building the project. Director McCarthy stated it may be this fall because it is a package with the Awakening surface and they go together in the grant. Councilmember McGuinness inquired on the budget of the project. The City's portion of the project is in the 2019 budget.

Agenda Item #8: Pool Operation Update

Director McCarthy stated this is the first year we have taken the pool in house. Kelly Snider was hired as Recreation Manager and has hired 45 guards already which is 20 more than they had this time last year. Councilmember McGuinness asked if we created the position to do this. Director McCarthy stated that we created a full time position that was in the 2019 budget. Councilmember DeCampi asked who we used for the pool before this year. Director McCarthy stated that it was Lifeguards Unlimited. He feels the experience will be much better for the residents, having the operations in-house.

Agenda Item #9: Open Positions on the Parks, Recreation & Arts Advisory Committee and the Citizens Committee for the Environment Advisory Committee

Director McCarthy stated that there were openings on two committees:

- PRCAC – 0 openings in Ward I
- 2 openings in Ward II
- 1 opening in Ward III
- 0 openings in Ward IV

The committee meets one Saturday morning a month at 8:15 a.m. Councilmember Mastorakos is in discussion with a citizen about filling an opening in Ward II.

CCE – 3 openings in Ward I
2 openings in Ward II
0 openings in Ward III
0 openings in Ward IV

Agenda Item #10: Unfinished Business

Councilmember McGuinness inquired about the lighting around the pathways in Central Park from the pavilion to the Amphitheater. Director McCarthy stated that the electrician looked at the lights and they would have to cut out a reflector in the current lights and put in another reflector which made it cost prohibitive so he is waiting on the cost of installing a new head on the lights. The posts would remain and the inside guts would remain. He will come back for approval from the committee and full council when he knows the cost.

Councilmember McGuinness inquired about the status of getting a gazebo at the Awakening. Director McCarthy is looking into a competition to design a gazebo (and we would build it) once concept is worked out. He will come back to the committee after the municipal grant pavilion project is complete or sooner.

Agenda Item #11: New Business

No new business.

Agenda Item #12: Adjournment

There being no further business to discuss, Chairperson DeCampi adjourned the meeting at 6:47 p.m.