

Parks, Recreation & Arts Citizen Advisory Committee Meeting Results

March, 13, 2021

Present via Zoom:

Ward Name Role

I – Laura Schellenberg

I – Gary Stein

I – Ann Book

II – Eileen Sellers

II – Barbara Briggs

III-- Mike Whelan, Chair

III- Kathryn Winterman

IV – Jim Pisoni

IV – Rob Kilo

Tom McCarthy, Parks, Recreation & Arts Director

Darcy Capstick, Emeritus

- 1. Approval of 2/20/21 Meeting Results** – Mike and Tom noted several wording changes needed for accuracy, along with eliminating the duplicate paragraph in Item 1 and retaining it in Item 9. Eileen Sellers motioned for and Darcy Capstick seconded approval of the meeting results with the changes discussed. Approval was unanimous.
- 2. Elections for PRACAC chair, Vice Chair and Secretary** - Elections for PRACAC leadership are normally made at the first meeting of the year. After some discussion about responsibilities and terms of each position, Laura nominated Mike Whelan for President (his 4th and last year, given the 4 year term limit). As there was no other expressed interest in or nominations for the President position, Tom called for a vote, which unanimously elected Mike President. Gary expressed interest in officially serving as Vice Chair, as he has filled in for Mike in the past. No other candidates were offered. Eileen nominated Gary, who was unanimously elected Vice Chair. Jim Pisoni volunteered for Secretary, was formally nominated by Ann. and was unanimously elected Secretary. Mike thanked Gary and Jim for volunteering for the roles.
- 3. Creative Community Alliance/Sculpture Location Selection** – Chesterfield's participation in the Creative Community Alliance enabled us to select the sculpture entitled "Joy" by Sukanya Mani. Tom presented photos of locations suggested in the past for sculptures and asked for other suggestions. Discussion yielded consensus that since the sculpture was not huge (5'3") or heavy, it could be moved around the City, rotating to all the wards over the next 2 years. The order of the installation could be selected for maximum visibility and enjoyment. For example, it could be

installed in front of the Amphitheatre first, during high use summer months; next the Riparian trail in the Fall; then at the new Logan Park after construction is complete, and then Dierberg Park and finally River's Edge. The publicity about the movement of the sculpture will also bring attention to the various trails and parks in Chesterfield. Jim motioned that we recommend periodic rotation to all 4 wards. Kathryn seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

4. **Promotion of Trails and Updates** – Barbara Briggs raised the concern that Central Park is so heavily traveled that it feels crowded. She suggested the need to promote the various trails and parks available to Chesterfield residents. Tom and Mike described a “Tour de Trails” program that could challenge residents to visit all trails. Tom will work with Parks staff on a plan.
5. **Municipal Planning Grant Central Park Schedule** – Tom reported that Chesterfield submitted and received a grant to plan for the future growth and development of the additional eight acres that was recently purchased adjacent to Central Park. The consultant, SWT, will hold a zoom meeting on 3/18 at 6 – 7:30 pm to present their general conceptual ideas and to gather community input and reactions during the Zoom public forum. A survey also will be available to all through Mail Chimp. Tom will send PRACAC members (and perhaps subdivision trustees) an email with the zoom meeting details and encouraged us to share with other Chesterfield residents.
6. **Logan Park Update** – Tom reported that SWT was chosen from 4 consulting firms to provide a plan for park amenities, landscaping, etc. with citizen input. A public forum will be held in the near future. Date, time and Zoom link will be promoted through social media and information forwarded to the Committee so they can participate and encourage other residents to participate.
7. **COVID Update** – Tom reported that Parks Department staff members are still working within the County COVID guidelines. The County's pool guidelines are expected next week. We may be able to open the pool at 50% capacity. The early Amphitheatre events will be limited to 822 tickets out of 4000 seats. In June we have been given the go ahead for 2000 participants and are hoping to have our open program with 4000 guests when the free concerts start by June 26th. The ballfields are open with limited visitor capacity. Tournaments and League play is going on now and we have tournaments scheduled every weekend until August. Job vacancies continue in park maintenance and we are struggling to hire lifeguards currently.
8. **Parks, Recreation & Arts Update** – See 7 above.
9. **Unfinished Business** - Jim asked about the status of the new pre-event space near the amphitheater. Tom reported progress on the plans that will include a gathering area after tickets are taken, which will include food trucks, picnic tables, lighting and maybe even yard games. Rob asked for visual plan, and Tom agreed to provide

them to the committee. Rob also asked about the invasive honeysuckle clean-up project. Tom will provide details. Darcy indicated there will be more opportunities in October which was designated “invasive species month” in Chesterfield.

- 10. New Business for Parks, Recreation & Arts** – Darcy shared a positive announcement: we were awarded a competitive grant opportunity. We won one of five Butterfly Garden Kits from the Butterfly House/MO Botanical Gardens consisting of 32 native nectar and host plants for butterflies coming on the heels of our second Mayors' Monarch Pledge Proclamation of just a few weeks ago. This was made possible due to the critical loss of migrating monarchs, and respective native pollinators.

Rob also asked about the barriers around the playground at Central Park and a sign that indicates cleaning 7 am – 9 am. The barriers imply that the playground is closed. Tom said he will remove the barricades.

Kathryn Winterman asked if we should request the MO Department of Conservation to advise whether we should stock the Central Park lake with more fish. Tom reported that we did not stock the lake recently due to COVID and budget cuts. The Rivers Edge is another option for fishing, although the flooding has disturbed the balance of fish species. This topic could merit attention in the future.

- 11. Adjournment – Next Meeting 4/10/21 at 8:15 AM. Location TBD**
Note: PRACAC members may be asked to gather after the meeting in front of the sculpture, “Dashes,” at City Hall for a photo.