



**Memorandum
Parks, Recreation & Arts**

TO: Michael Geisel, City Administrator

FROM: Thomas McCarthy, Director of Parks, Recreation and Arts

DATE: October 25, 2017

RE: Meeting Summary – 10-24-2017 Parks, Recreation and Arts
Committee of Council

A meeting of the Parks, Recreation and Arts Committee of Council took place on Tuesday, October 24, 2017. Those in attendance included Chairperson Randy Logan, Ward 3; Councilmember Barbara McGuinness, Ward 1; and Councilmember Ben Keathley, Ward 2. Also in attendance were Mayor Bob Nation; Assistant City Administrator/Community Services & Economic Development Director Libbey Malberg-Tucker; Director of Parks, Recreation and Arts Tom McCarthy; Executive Director of ITN St. Charles Susan Kallash-Bailey; Co-Chair of the Older Adult Task Force Bonnie Solomon and Executive Assistant Kathy Lantz.

Chairperson Logan called the meeting to order at 5:00pm. Councilmember Tom DeCampi was absent.

Agenda Item #1: Approval of Minutes

Councilmember McGuinness moved to approve the August 1, 2017 meeting summary. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Keathley and passed by a voice vote of 3 to 0.

Chairperson Logan motioned to suspend the rules and move Agenda Item #3, Independent Transportation Network, to the top of the agenda. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Keathley.

Councilmember McGuinness made an amendment to the motion to move Agenda Item #2 Gamma Property to last on the agenda and Agenda Items #4 Sand Volleyball and #5 In-House Ticketed Shows at the Amphitheater up behind Agenda Item #3. The amended motion was seconded by Councilmember Keathley. The amendment to the motion passed by a voice vote of 3 to 0.

Chairman Logan motioned to suspend the rules and move Agenda Item #3 Independent Transportation Network to the top of the agenda. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Keathley. The original motion by Chairman Logan passed by a voice vote of 3 to 0.

Agenda Item #3: Independent Transportation Network

Chairperson Logan gave an overview of this item. He stated that the Senior Task Force had recommended requesting a one-time donation of \$3,000.00 from the City for ITN start-up costs. ITN is an organization that provides transportation service, at a minimal cost, to seniors still living at home. ITN will give Chesterfield seniors the opportunity to have a low cost, safe ride service around the St. Louis County area.

Chairperson Logan stated that ITN St. Charles has decided to move into St. Louis County and change their name to ITN Gateway. Chairperson Logan stated that he has done an independent survey of various City Council members and there are various levels of interest. ITN Gateway has received a grant in the amount of \$32,620 from East-West Gateway and has received free office space. They have received \$4,000 from the City of Wentzville and \$2,500 from the City of Clayton. ITN Gateway needs to purchase a computer and software.

Chairperson Logan stated that this is a different service than taxis or Uber. The rider sits in the front seat.

Councilmember McGuinness stated that this is a private organization and impossible to track the donated dollars. Councilmember McGuinness stated that ITN was discussed at the December 2015 and January 2016 Older Adult Task Force meetings and wrote a letter to ITN St. Charles voicing support of their plan to expand services to West St. Louis County and offering any support and assistance. Councilmember McGuinness expressed concern with a letter written on City letterhead and the subject matter was not sent to a City Council committee for approval.

Councilmember Keathley stated that he shares Councilmember McGuinness' concerns. This is a service that directly competes with other ride-sharing companies within Chesterfield. The City cannot be in the business of funding start-ups.

Executive Director Susan Kallash-Bailey stated that ITN offers a service that no one else does. Costs to seniors for other ride-sharing companies is very expensive compared to ITN. Transportation is needed to the growing senior population. ITN will take seniors grocery shopping and carry their groceries inside and to medical appointments. Other companies do not do this. There is a yearly membership fee and then a very affordable rate for each ride. The yearly membership dues help defray costs.

Bonnie Solomon stated that the City of Clayton, besides money, has provided staff and volunteers. The ITN Steering Committee consists of approximately ten municipalities and works with St. Louis County in their Senior Friendly Program with the full knowledge that this is going to be an unmet need. The Chesterfield Older Adult Task Force thought that the City needed to get involved in this program and that it is a reasonable request and provides a service that no one else does. The Older Adult Task Force had been working with City officials and were not informed they should not have sent a letter on behalf of the City to ITN St. Charles.

Mayor Nation stated that he had finished his letter for the Chesterfield Citizen newsletter. In his letter he states that revenues are down and there is decreasing retail sales tax revenue. People think that the City receives new revenue with each new development in Chesterfield. This is not true. There is no property tax or personal property tax that comes to the City from these developments. Many people inside and outside the City of Chesterfield think that the City is abundantly rich. This is not the case. Many other municipalities have a much higher per capita revenue than Chesterfield. St. Louis County is the only county in the state that has a pool tax where 20-25% of the revenues generated in Chesterfield are given away to other cities.

Chairperson Logan stated that the City previously has contributed money to non-profits. This would be a service to Chesterfield residents that is expanding nationally. Chairperson Logan agreed that there is no control of the money once it leaves the City but believes that this request should be forwarded on to City Council for consideration.

Chairperson Logan motioned to forward to City Council a recommendation for a \$3,000.00 funding to ITN Gateway for their initial start-up services to provide senior transportation services to the residents of Chesterfield. Motion dies for lack of a second.

Agenda Item #4: Sand Volleyball

Director Tom McCarthy stated that with the decline of field usage by Chesterfield Football, Ascension Soccer and the building of multiple soccer fields in the area, there is a bit of a decline in usage for the multi-sports fields at CVAC. Sand volleyball is a quickly growing sport that is now becoming a collegiate sport and is being played by high school and grade school age kids. Staff believes this is an exceptional growth opportunity. Staff proposes putting in six sand volleyball courts on field B6, a small area not being used very often. The courts would be built by in-house Parks Maintenance staff over the winter and we would start leagues, tournaments and volleyball rentals in the spring of 2018.

Mr. McCarthy stated that maintenance of these courts would be minimal. The cost to build these courts, with lights, will run \$97,000 and \$6,900 for equipment, balls and officials and these amounts have been put into the 2018 budget. The sand volleyball program would be a cash positive venture in two years and would offer another amenity to residents. This proposal was presented to the Parks, Recreation and Arts Citizens Advisory Committee who proposed that this program be referred to the Parks, Recreation and Arts Committee of City Council.

Councilmember Keathley asked how far parking lots would be from the volleyball courts.

Mr. McCarthy stated that there are several parking lots nearby.

Councilmember McGuinness motioned to forward to City Council the recommendation for sand volleyball courts at the Chesterfield Valley Athletic Complex. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Keathley and passed by a voice vote of 3 to 0.

Agenda Item #5: In-House Ticketed Shows at the Amphitheater

Mr. McCarthy stated there is a City understanding on the way the City contracts for talent for the amphitheater. In the last few years, Council has authorized the Superintendent of Arts & Entertainment, Jason Baucom, to work with the artists' agents and sign contracts as long as the appropriation was provided and approved in the annual budget. Mr. McCarthy would like to propose that we formally document and confirm this practice by forwarding the following policy to the Parks, Recreation and Arts Committee of Council for review and approval, and subsequently on to the full Council for approval:

Proposed in-house ticketed event contracts can be negotiated and executed by the Superintendent of Arts and Entertainment with the approval of the Director of Parks, Recreation and Arts as long as the contracted sum(s)

fees for the performance artists contracts are within the fiscal year budgeted amount approved by Council for this purpose.

Mr. McCarthy stated when staff first sought to contract for ticketed shows, we repeatedly lost artist opportunities because it took days or weeks to obtain formal approvals. After successfully negotiating terms with agents and artist representatives, we could not confirm a contract within an hour of contracts being offered. The lack of authorization to execute such contracts resulted in the loss of many highly sought after performance contracts.

Mr. McCarthy stated that although City Council approved the budget and approved the contractual appropriation, he believes it is prudent to ensure there exists a common understanding of the process involved in contracting for performers. Accordingly, he developed the proposed policy which documents Staff's practices in recruiting and contracting for talent. Legal counsel has been consulted to ensure that staff's practices are sound and statutorily compliant.

Mr. McCarthy stated that there is \$110,000 in the 2018 budget for ticketed events at the amphitheater which would be for three, maybe four, events. There were two ticketed events at the amphitheater this year. After all expenses were paid, the City made \$2,000 from the Kip Moore concert and \$30,000 from the Aaron Lewis concert. Staff would like to have more events like the Aaron Lewis concert but, with bigger talent, staff must be able to move quickly getting contracts signed.

Discussion following whether the \$110,000 was enough for ticketed events.

Chairperson Logan stated that he did want the City to lose talent because they did not have enough money budgeted for ticketed events.

Mr. McCarthy stated that three to four ticketed events in a year were enough for now and we can always increase the budget with Council approval in 2019. Mr. McCarthy stated that slow positive growth is good.

Councilmember McGuinness motioned to forward and recommend to City Council the following policy: Proposed in-house ticketed event contracts can be negotiated and executed by the Superintendent of Arts and Entertainment with the approval of the Director of Parks, Recreation and Arts as long as the contracted sum(s) fees for the performance artists contracts are within the fiscal year budgeted amount approved by Council for this purpose. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Keathley and passed by a voice vote of 3 to 0.

Agenda Item #2: Gamma Property

Mr. McCarthy gave an overview of the 12 acre potential park property at 16911 Wild Horse Creek Road. The property is owned by Tim Gamma and backs up to Fienup Farms. Mr. Gamma has stated that the property has been appraised at \$260,000 but he would sell the property to the City for \$90,000 for a park.

Mr. McCarthy stated that City Council wanted staff to have an environmental assessment and title search done on this property and both came back clear. The next step is to bring this item back to the full City Council to

see what they want to do about the property. There still would be the land swap with the Cittadino's where they would take the top back corner of land so they would have more land around their house and the City would get the land in the middle of the site. Mr. McCarthy stated there could potentially be an old farm dump on the property but, as of now, one has not been found. There is a trail that is 15-20 feet away from Caulks Creek.

Mr. McCarthy stated that staff would submit for a Municipal Parks Grant in 2018, with Council's approval, to help develop this site with a pedestrian/bike trail, environmental toilet, a bridge over the creek and a parking lot with 15-20 parking spaces. There would not be a playground on the site. Staff has not gone after a grant for a couple of years which could give them a good chance at one for the new park next year. The maximum grant amount available is \$525,000.

Mayor Nation stated that he wants to make sure that the easement on the property allows for unrestricted access.

Mr. McCarthy stated that access is needed for maintenance staff to take care of the rear of the site. Mr. McCarthy also stated that he needs to make sure he has the approval of the Cittadino's for the land swap before this goes to City Council. There would be minimal maintenance required for this park. Staff could work on this park when they have time over the winter months.

Councilmember Keathley asked what other outstanding projects Parks has.

Mr. McCarthy stated that there is an entrance problem at Railroad Park and repairs need to be made at River's Edge due to the earlier spring flooding. Mr. McCarthy stated that staff could go after a Municipal Parks Grant for a walkway into Railroad Park later on.

Councilmember McGuinness expressed concern that this item be forwarded to City Council in Executive Session after the 2018 budget is complete.

Chairperson Logan stated that if Council decides to purchase the property on Schoettler Road, next to Logan College, than that property be developed for a park before the Gamma site.

Chairperson Logan motioned to forward to City Council in Executive Session for consideration to make an offer to purchase the Gamma property with making sure that the easement allows for unrestricted access, the Cittadino Family is in agreement with the land swap and the 2018 budget is complete. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Keathley.

Councilmember McGuinness amended the motion to forward to City Council in Executive Session with no recommendation the Gamma property item to City Council after the information is received and the 2018 budget passed. The amended motion was seconded by Chairperson Logan and passed by a voice vote of 3 to 0.

The amended motion to be voted on: **Chairperson Logan motioned to forward to City Council in Executive Session with no recommendation, to make an offer to purchase the Gamma property with making sure that the easement allows for unrestricted access, the Cittadino Family is in agreement with the land swap and the 2018 budget is complete. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Keathley. The motion passed by a voice vote of 3 to 0.**

Agenda Item #7: New Business - None

Agenda Item #8: Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 6:19pm.