



PARKS, RECREATION AND ARTS COMMITTEE OF COUNCIL MEETING RESULTS
February 28, 2022
5:30 p.m.
City Hall Chambers

Chairperson Mastorakos called the meeting to order at 5:32 p.m.

Those in attendance included:

Councilmember Mary Monachella, Ward I
Chairperson Mary Ann Mastorakos, Ward II
Councilmember Dan Hurt, Ward III (arrival after Agenda Item #1)
Councilmember Gary Budoor, Ward IV

Also in attendance were:

Mayor Bob Nation
City Administrator, Michael Geisel
Director of Parks, Recreation & Arts, Tom McCarthy
Executive Assistant, Parks, Recreation & Arts, Ann-Marie Stagoski
Residents representing pickleball and cricket

Agenda Item #1: Approval of Meeting Results

The meeting results of the January 12, 2022 Parks, Recreation & Arts Committee of Council Meeting were submitted for approval. Councilmember Monachella made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Budoor, to approve the meeting results. There being no discussion, the motion was passed by a voice vote of 3 to 0 (Councilmember Hurt not in attendance at the time).

Chairperson Mastorakos allowed residents to speak. Four spoke in favor of pickleball courts in Central Park and one spoke in favor of a cricket pitch.

Deborah Kuming – spoke in favor of pickleball courts at Central Park
Louise Nation – spoke in favor of pickleball courts at Central Park
Ed Fusco – spoke in favor of pickleball courts at Central Park
Jane Brown – spoke in favor of pickleball courts at Central Park
Pogo Ganesh – spoke in favor of building a cricket pitch in Chesterfield

Agenda Item #2: Pickleball Court Location Discussion for Central Park – vote required

Chairperson Mastorakos stated that pickleball courts would be built in Chesterfield and that she had received many emails on the subject. Players who spoke were unanimous in their desire to have them in Central Park. Council strives to represent all 50,000 residents. The Parks Department and

the Parks, Recreation & Arts Advisory Committee both recommend the Central Park location. The Parks staff was tasked to present the committee options.

Director McCarthy stated some of the pluses and minuses at each location -

4 courts at Central Park

6 courts at the CVAC

One of the biggest issues is the funding of the locations.

If at Central Park then it would cost about \$761,890. We have that funding now.

If at CVAC then it would cost about \$1,134,553. We would have to come up with \$835,000 and couldn't use the \$465,000 that is set aside for the development of Central Park so we'd have to come up the \$835,000 out of the Parks Fund or the General Fund if we put them at the CVAC.

He noted that if they are put at Central Park then they could be closed at times because they would be used as a flex space if we have other events such as a Taste of St. Louis or Pedal the cause. They wouldn't be open 24/7. Having the courts in Central Park was included in the Parks Master Plan.

Chairperson Mastorakos recapped the two options presented by the Parks Department.

Councilmember Budoor asked how many places you can play pickleball in Chesterfield and how often they are used. Director McCarthy stated that some subdivisions have converted their tennis courts to pickleball, the YMCA has some courts, there are two make shift courts at CVAC, the apartment complex by City Hall has some that it's residents can use and the mall has some indoor courts which will go away when they tear down the mall. The courts at the CVAC are open for general play. The leagues and clinics have fees. They are quite popular and often used.

Councilmember Hurt brought up an option of having it at the YMCA property where it would be overlooking the lake. He requested a rebuttal from staff about a partnership with the YMCA.

Director McCarthy stated he had a discussion with Greg Davenport who is the Director of the YMCA and Tricia, District Director of the YMCA. The negative concerns included the fact that we wouldn't have courts for 11 weeks during their day camp. They proposed taking their day camps and running them out of the City's pavilions but we use pavilions for our own camps and residents use pavilions during that time. The other issue is the money we have set aside to build these because they are not on the 8 acres we purchased for Central Park. Other issues include:

Major grading issue

No restrooms

They want to coordinate the programming of our courts.

They would have to come up with an alternative for parking that they would lose.

They also didn't want to contribute any money to building the courts.

Councilmember Hurt suggested continuing the discussion of this location with the YMCA and leasing the land so we could control it. They use a temporary canopy to house their summer camp and wouldn't have to use our pavilions. He would like a study to see the legitimacy of doing it and get a cost estimate. Grading would have to be addressed. He felt that City should allow them to operate their camp in the City park.

Councilmember Mastorakos inquired what the Y's responsibility would be in this to which Councilmember Hurt understood that we could lease the property from the Y but we would control it.

Mayor Nation stated that he felt for all the reasons Director McCarthy stated that this was not a viable option. The YMCA used to have use of the property across the street for their summer camps but now that it's under construction they are not able to use that space. He hopes the committee will decide on location quickly. The mayor addressed the concerns on green space and the entrance to Central Park. He stated he would most likely veto the financial aspect if the courts are not put in Central Park and feels it would be a waste of money to put them in the Valley as they wouldn't be used.

Councilmember Monachella stated she has several issues with both locations. She felt we would get more courts for the money by placing them at CVAC. She does not like the aesthetics of the eight foot retaining wall and would prefer it be slid closer to Main Circle Drive. She has constituents who don't want them in Central Park and prefer it quiet.

Councilmember Budoor stated he is opposed to the CVAC location and preferred it at Central Park for better usage.

Councilmember Budoor moved to put the courts somewhere in Central Park. Chairperson Mastorakos seconded the motion.

Councilmember Monachella stated it was a tough choice because the motion doesn't say where it would go. Mayor Nation responded that staff spend months looking into options in Central Park and felt the staff would have identified if there was another location the courts could be placed. He felt we should rely on the engineers and ask staff if grade could be reduced.

Councilmember Monachella moved to amend the motion to move the three courts toward Main Circle Drive. Councilmember Budoor seconded the motion.

Mayor Nation stated that there was a need for four courts and six were originally discussed. Director McCarthy suggested that we take it back to staff with the location closer to Main Circle Drive and look at layout options. Limiting to less than four courts makes hosting clinics and leagues much more challenging. Councilmember Budoor asked if CVAC could be used for clinics to which Director McCarthy stated the courts at the Athletic Complex were not up to Chesterfield standards.

Councilmember Budoor expressed concerns over delays and wanted to finalize something. City Administrator Mike Geisel stated that council wouldn't meet again before May so this would not be delayed. Mayor Nation proposed bringing the staff proposal to full council instead of back to the committee. City Administrator Geisel stated that the motion could go to full council if the committee agrees to it.

There being no further discussion, the amendment passed by a voice vote of 4-0. The motion as amended passed by a voice vote of 4-0.

Councilmember Monachella moved to send staff recommendations to full council. Councilmember Budoor seconded the motion. There being no further discussion, the amendment passed by a voice vote of 4-0.

Agenda Item #3: Creative Arts Alliance Public Art Recommendation

Director McCarthy requested that the committee approve the artwork for the Creative Arts Alliance to lease the art *Popsicles* for two years and move it on to full council. Once there is another Parks Advisory Committee meeting, the location would be recommended and they would come back to the committee with that. 150 pieces of artwork were submitted this year and there are 24 cities participating across Missouri and Kansas as a way to get more artwork out in the public. They do a draft for the selection process.

Councilmember Monachella moved to approve the recommendation. Councilmember Budoor seconded the motion. There being no further discussion the motion passed on a voice vote of 4-0.

Agenda Item #4: Independent Sponsorship for the Amphitheater

Director McCarthy requested the committee's approval for hiring someone to do major sponsorships for the Amphitheater. He explained that Dave Kinsey has experience in this line of work. All decisions would have to come back to committee of council before they would be approved. His rate is 20% on any sponsorships up to \$100,000 and 25% over \$100,000.

Councilmember Monachella was concerned about naming rights for the Amphitheater but was reassured that any naming decisions would come back to council for approval.

Councilmember Monachella moved to approve the recommendation. Councilmember Mastorakos seconded the motion. City Administrator Geisel reminded the committee that they had passed something very similar prior to Covid but because of Covid nothing had been done up to this point. There being no further discussion the motion passed on a voice vote of 4-0.

Agenda Item #5: Unfinished Business

Councilmember Budoor stated that he has been working with Director McCarthy on exploring the option of a cricket pitch. He stated that he has no where to play in Chesterfield and travels to other cities to play.

Chairperson Mastorakos proposed that he work with Director McCarthy on developing a plan. Councilmember Budoor stated that Director McCarthy and Kevin Schuh had been working on gathering information regarding details for such a proposal.

A resident expressed that he would like it put on the next agenda. Mayor Nation explained that there was no information in tonight's packet and didn't want to mislead the residents. His understanding that there is no specific proposal or agreement. There is no assurance from any group that space would be rented.

Agenda Item #6: New Business

No new business.

Agenda Item #7: Adjournment

There being no further business to discuss, Chairperson Mastorakos adjourned the meeting at 6:38 p.m.

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