



PARKS, RECREATION AND ARTS COMMITTEE OF COUNCIL MEETING RESULTS
February 2, 2021
Zoom Meeting

Chairperson Ohley called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

Those in attendance included:

Councilmember Barbara McGuinness, Ward I
Councilmember, Ben Keathley, Ward II
Councilmember, Michael Moore, Ward III
Chairperson, Michelle Ohley, Ward IV

Also in attendance were:

Mayor Bob Nation
Director of Parks, Recreation & Arts, Tom McCarthy
Executive Assistant, Parks, Recreation & Arts, Ann-Marie Stagoski
Councilmember, Dan Hurt, Ward III
Councilmember MaryAnn Mastorakos, Ward II
Councilmember Mary Monachella, Ward I
Director of Public Works/City Engineer, Jim Eckrich
Chair of Parks, Recreation & Arts Advisory Committee, Mike Whelan

Agenda Item #1: Approval of Minutes

The meeting results of the December 1, 2020 Parks, Recreation & Arts Committee of Council Meeting were submitted for approval. Councilmember Moore made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Keithley, to approve the meeting results. There being no discussion, the motion was passed by a voice vote of 4 to 0.

Agenda Item #2: Eberwein Park Trail Update

Director Eckrich summarized the issues with trails at Eberwein Park. He explained that the park was completed in 2011 and has had erosion issues since the beginning, especially after big rains. The initial design of the trails was flawed. Drainage wasn't accounted for and the grade was too steep for an aggregate trail system. The City has tried actions including drainage improvements and recompacting with temporary or no success. The City hired a company to analyze the situation and they offered several options. After review the staff concluded the best option for the park would be to reroute the trail system so some of the steeper areas would no longer be trails. In addition, some sidewalks along Old Baxter Road would be reconstructed. The park includes almost a mile of trails. The sections of the trails to the dog park remain usable.

The cost of the improvements is approximately \$850,000. After discussion staff is recommending that the expense be divided into three phases over three years to alleviate the large expenditure to make the project more workable in the budget. The Parks Department is recommending that Council allocate money for the design of the trails and then ask the engineering company to divide the improvement project into three separate projects that could be completed in phases. Year one would be design of the trails and the Parks department

removing the sections of trail that we are not going to reuse. Then in 2022, 2023 and 2024 the City would allocate approximately \$200,000 per year from the Capital Projects Fund to reconstruct the trail system in the route delineated by the engineering company. While the preference might be to complete the project in one phase, splitting up the project makes it more feasible given the budget constraints.

Councilmember Ohley inquired whether the design should go out to bid. Director Eckrich explained that Missouri law requires that the architectural and engineer services component is based on a qualification-based process and would not go out to bid. We would issue a request for qualifications. A selection committee would choose a firm most qualified and negotiate a fee with the firm and that would be presented to council.

Once the council agreed to proceed as recommended, that the design company would produce three individual bid packages. Those would be publicly bid out. In theory there could be three different companies completing the three construction phases of the project.

Councilmember Moore clarified that there would be one design followed regardless of the number of companies chosen to complete the construction phases.

Councilmember McGuinness thanked the staff for all the photos which helped present the issue in a clearer light and asked Councilmember Moore for his opinion given he utilizes the park almost daily. Councilmember Moore agreed that the trail is in a bad state of repair and it is utilized by many residents for many activities.

Councilmember Keathley wanted to make the point that because people pay for the dog park portion of the park that they have a perception that their funds are being spent towards the entire park and it is in disrepair.

Councilmember McGuinness asked for a history of the park. Director McCarthy stated that it opened in 2011 and it is funded part in house and part by a Municipal Parks Grant which included the requirement to maintain what you use the funds to build. Initially the park was designed by City staff at the time and although it worked well for years, there was a period of multiple heavy rains and it compounded and wearing away of the surface and over the last several years the patches have not been working. Director Eckrich further clarified that although neither he nor Director McCarthy was with the City at the time the park was constructed, the staff at that time was most likely doing what they thought was best with the resources they had at the time. Contracting with a company like Horner and Shifrin who has expertise on engineering trail systems will make the City better able to address the issues.

Councilmember Moore wanted to clarify Councilmember Keathley's point in that the trail is a public amenity. You do not have to be a member of the dog park to use the trail. The \$45 per year fee paid by dog park members allows them access to the fenced dog park area. Councilmember Keathley stated that the perception still exists and that it's mostly dog park members who use the park and because of the fee there is an extra expectation that this park should be taken care of.

There was further discussion on how this project would be funded. Given the parameters of the project, it is an allowable expenditure for the Capital Projects Fund. The life expectancy of the trail would be 30+ years given proper maintenance but even reconstruction would be minimal compared to the initial cost of construction.

At this point, there were technical difficulties and staff worked to resolve those issues.

Following the resolution of the issues, there was a recap of the following:

- Summary of history of park and construction
- Trail system erosion issues
- Actions taken to try to improve trails
- Recommendations of staff (reconstructing and rerouting portions of the trail)
- Trails are public amenities and are not limited to those who use the Dog Park
- Funding/costs/where funding would come from

- Qualifies as a Capital Improvement project
- Some residents believe that in paying the Dog Park fees, they are funding the entire park
- During initial construction, trails were built on too steep a grade
- Life expectancy of reconstruction
- Explanation of why the planning firm does not go out to bid

Councilmember Moore moved to accept the recommendation for a three-phase approach for correcting the trails at Eberwein Park starting with the initial allocation of \$70,000 for the initial design with the recommended consulting company. Councilmember McGuinness seconded the motion. Councilmember McGuinness inquired whether April, who stamped the designs, worked on the project. There being no further discussion, the motion was passed by a voice vote of 4 to 0.

Agenda Item #3: Municipal Planning Grant Update

Director McCarthy stated that we applied for the grant and it was approved. Staff is now working with SWT to set up a schedule for public meetings. Also taken into consideration will be points made in the Master Plan such as parking, green space and large event space.

Agenda Item #4: Logan Park Update

Director McCarthy stated we have signed the addendum to the lease for the additional nine acres for Logan Park. The old ranch house and barn have been removed, seeded and strawed. Thanks to information from Councilmember Mastorakos, an underground pool structure was located and removed so as not to interfere with construction.

Councilmember Hurt inquired about utilities. There was no sewer or gas. It was previously on a septic system. Other utilities will be utilized and a sewer will need to be brought in.

Agenda Item #5: Holiday Tree Update

Director McCarthy has discussed with City Administrator Geisel and Attorney Chris Graville the parameters for the legalities of having a holiday tree event.

Staff will work on a conceptual idea and bring those back to the committee.

Councilmember Keathley inquired as to whether we would utilize a live tree, existing tree, bring in a cut tree or use artificial. Councilmember McGuinness suggested a location for the tree event. The event would not start being publicized before the August brochure so there is some time to plan.

Agenda Item #6: Unfinished Business

No unfinished business.

Agenda Item #6: New Business

No new business.

Agenda Item #6: Adjournment

There being no further business to discuss, Chairperson Ohley adjourned the meeting at 5:02 p.m.