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## **PARKS, RECREATION AND ARTS COMMITTEE OF COUNCIL MEETING RESULTS**

### **September 9, 2019**

Chairperson DeCampi called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

Those in attendance included:

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

Also in attendance were:

Councilmember Mary Monachella, Ward I  
Councilmember Michael Moore, Ward III  
Councilmember Michelle Ohley, Ward IV  
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 July 29, 2019 Parks, Recreation & Arts Committee of Council Meeting were submitted for approval. Chair DeCampi made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Mastorakos to approve the meeting results. Councilmember McGuinness moved to amend Agenda Item #6, seconded by Councilmember Hurt to state that the road being referenced was Veterans Place Dr. The amended motion was passed by a voice vote of 4 to 0.

#### **Agenda Item #2: Terry Grogan Emeritus Status**

Director McCarthy discussed the Parks Advisory Committee's desire to name Terry Grogan to Emeritus status due to his overwhelming support for the Parks but his inability to make the required 50% of the meetings. Naming him emeritus would open up a spot on the committee and enable more participation for residents without losing the many valuable contributions made by Mr. Grogan. It was clarified that those with emeritus status could not be officers. Councilmember McGuinness made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Hurt to move the request to grant emeritus status to Mr. Grogan on to the full council. The motion was passed by a voice vote of 4 to 0.

#### **Agenda Item #3: Staffing Request**

Director of Parks, Recreation and Arts Tom McCarthy made a staffing request of one additional Facility Attendant designated at salary level D to be hired in March 2020 while simultaneously reducing the seasonal staffing request by \$10,000 to partially offset the additional compensation costs. In addition, he requested to promote two Senior Park Maintenance Workers to Park Maintenance Supervisors.

Director McCarthy noted that the Master Plan reflected that we are relying heavily on part time personnel. The delay in hiring this new staff would help decrease costs in next year's budget. The additional facility attendant is required to keep up with the demand created by additional programming, taking over the pool and maintenance

and will help hold down overtime costs incurred by lack of staffing. Additional supervisors will allow for better distribution of workload and more focus on areas they supervise.

Chair DeCampi made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Mastorakos to move the staffing request on to the Finance and Administration Committee. The motion was passed by a voice vote of 4 to 0.

#### **Agenda Item #4: Fee Increases**

Director of Parks, Recreation and Arts Tom McCarthy presented recommendations to raise the annual rates of the Eberwein Dog Park to \$45 per dog and allow up to 100 non-resident dog tags at \$65 per dog to be sold as well. There was discussion on dog park memberships, and rates at other dog parks. The rates have not been increased since the inception of the dog park and memberships have declined as more dog parks have opened, allowing for the inclusion of non-residents.

Councilmember McGuinness made a motion seconded by Councilmember Hurt to forward the recommended fee increases to City Council with a recommendation to approve. The motion passed by a voice vote of 4 to 0.

Director McCarthy recommended increasing the fees of the Community Garden plots to \$40 for a 4 X 8 plot, \$55 for a 8 X 8 plot and \$115 for a 8 X 16 plot. Rates have not increased since the inception of the garden in 2012 and this increase will help cover some of the costs of maintaining the garden.

Councilmember McGuinness made a motion seconded by Councilmember Mastorakos to forward the recommended fee increases to City Council with a recommendation to approve. The motion passed by a voice vote of 4 to 0.

Director McCarthy recommended pricing for the soon to be constructed west pavilion in Central park. Rates would be \$50 per day Monday – Friday and \$100 per day on Saturday, Sunday and holidays. A fee increase for the current East pavilion to \$75 per day Monday – Friday and \$125 per day on Saturday, Sunday and holidays was also proposed. These are increases from \$55 and \$110. There was discussion of comparable rates in neighboring cities and whether the demand was there for two pavilions.

Councilmember McGuinness made a motion seconded by Councilmember Hurt to forward the recommended fee increases and new fees to City Council with a recommendation to approve. The motion passed by a voice vote of 4 to 0.

#### **Agenda Item #5: Cricket Pitch Update**

Director of Parks, Recreation and Arts Tom McCarthy gave an update on discussions regarding the cricket fields noting that he has sent two additional emails to Mr. Ganesh that have not been answered.

There was discussion of rates. It was noted that these rates are based on the size of the field, which is basically the size of two soccer fields, and these would be the costs for renting two soccer fields.

It was noted that Ganesh has offered to pay \$34/hour for practice time. If this rate was accepted, Mr. McCarthy stated that lower rates would have to be given to CBSA and Ascension Soccer based on current contracts which would have very large implication on the field rental revenues.

It should also be stipulated that Ganesh would be responsible for the \$35,200 cost of installing the cricket field and pitch.

It was agreed that Director McCarthy should follow up with the American Cricket Club and report back to the committee at a future meeting.

#### **Agenda Item #6: Unfinished Business**

- Councilmember McGuiness brought up the issue of closing Veterans Place Drive. There is concern that the City has invested millions of dollars in the Central Park area and is concerned about devaluing the assets in the area. She feels it's important to protect the park assets. The City needs a policy of no ingress or egress on Veterans place drive to limit the traffic on the road. It was noted that the street is currently often closed for events such as Turkey Trot, Pedal the Cause, Taste St. Louis, many other walks/runs, and community events. Councilmember Mastorakas made the point that we have been discussing closing Veterans Place Drive and how it would benefit the City for some time.
- There was also discussion that when there are new developments, that the City requires trees be planted and be maintained in perpetuity. Currently it is only required to maintain them for two years.
- Director McCarthy gave an update on the street lights for Veterans Place Dive/Central Park. Director McCarthy stated that he found the appropriate bulb for the fixtures at the cost of \$850 per bulb. There are 10 light bulbs required so he is waiting to see if Ameren will offer any incentives in the future and hoping that other manufacturers will develop this type of bulb at a lower cost.

#### **Agenda Item #7: New Business**

Director McCarthy stated there was a need for a meeting in early October and will plan one as schedules allow.

#### **Agenda Item #8: Adjournment**

There being no further business to discuss, Chairperson DeCampi adjourned the meeting at 6:01 p.m.