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PARKS, RECREATION AND ARTS COMMITTEE OF COUNCIL MEETING RESULTS
October 27, 2021
City Hall Room 202

Chairperson Mastorakos called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

Those in attendance included:

Councilmember Mary Monachella, Ward I
Chairperson Mary Ann Mastorakos, Ward II
Councilmember, Dan Hurt, Ward III
Councilmember, Gary Budoor, Ward IV

Also in attendance were:

Mayor Bob Nation
Director of Parks, Recreation & Arts, Tom McCarthy
Executive Assistant, Parks, Recreation & Arts, Ann-Marie Stagoski
Mike Whelan, Chair, Parks, Recreation & Arts Citizens Advisory Committee
Bill Houck
Elmer Weis

Agenda Item #1: Approval of Minutes

The meeting results of the July 26, 2021 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 4 to 0.

Agenda Item #2: Central Park Master Plan Approval and Recommendation – vote required

Director McCarthy presented the overall concept for the expansion of Central Park with the acknowledgement that this is a long-term conceptual plan that could change and funding is not available for all elements at this time. It is currently being requested that the committee approve and move on to full council the development of Loop Road, sidewalks and lighting along that road, 6 pickleball courts and parking near pickleball. Survey results (attached) reflecting the desire for additional pickleball courts at Central Park were distributed.

There was discussion on the overall concept, number of trees being planned for installation in this phase and location of pickleball courts. Councilmember Hurt proposed an alternate location of the pickleball courts and discussed moving them to the main Central Park lot near the pool. Concerns over the loss of parking was a big concern. Funding for the pickleball courts has been previously approved through ARPA funds and must be spent in 2022. Some funding for park development has been allocated previously. It would cost approximately \$275,000 to build out the road.

Councilmember Mastorakos moved to accept the conceptual plan as outlined for Central Park to include Parks Circle Dr., lighting and sidewalks along Parks Circle Drive, and pickleball courts (whose location will be determined in the future). Councilmember Budoor seconded the motion.

There was discussion on language and Councilmember Monachella moved to amend the motion to remove the word "include" and add "and start with" as well as amend it to say "sidewalks adjacent to the Loop Road". Councilmember Hurt seconded the motion. The amendment passed 4-0 and the motion passed 4-0.

Agenda Item #3: Municipal Parks Grant, Round 22

Director McCarthy explained that the City received a grant through the Municipal Parks Grant Round 22 for \$525,000 (which is the maximum allowed) to help offset the costs of phase 2 of Logan Park. The City would need to fund an additional \$139,925 to complete all components of phase 2.

Included in the grant were: grading, an 8-foot-wide concrete trail, two pickle ball courts with fencing, retaining wall, storm water retention, three shade structures, native meadow plantings, landscape buffer, trashcans, benches, park sign, seed for turf and additional amenities, design, engineering, permitting fees, bidding and construction.

Councilmember Hurt inquired as to the rock trail near the south end. Director McCarthy explained that that was a swale and the fence was put in as a boundary marker to the end of the park.

Agenda Item #4: Cricket Discussion

Councilmember Budoor passed out literature (attached) and spoke to the climate of cricket in the St. Louis region and is requesting the City of Chesterfield to build pitches. There were questions about the age range of groups which was explained to be 6-16 years as well as if there were grant programs to build them to which Councilmember Budoor was not familiar with any.

Director McCarthy explained that 7-8 years ago the city tried to recruit cricket but the club was in Maryland Heights at the time and didn't want to move. We were also talking with another group in Dardenne Prairie but they seemed to have a good deal at their location and recently hosted a 17-team tournament. Currently tournaments are held at a facility in Wentzville and Dardenne Prairie.

Concerns included field usage and cost of installation which for a 12 X 125 concrete pitch with irrigation costs around \$30,000. Adding lights is over \$100,000 per field. In the past discussions have collapsed when costs of rental have come up. Games vary in time and would be challenging to charge for.

There was a consensus among the committee members to have Director McCarthy continue discussions with cricket groups.

Agenda Item #5: Diwali Discussion

Councilmember Budoor proposed having a Diwali festival hosted by the City. He passed out a flyer (attached) and described the festival. There was enthusiasm for learning more about the celebration however planning an event in a week was very short notice and there were concerns about hosting events for one religion. The idea of a "Day of Unity" was proposed.

Agenda Item #6: Holiday Tree Lighting Update

The event will happen December 4th. The Santa Dash starts at 3:00. It will be about a mile and a half run where participants will get a hat and bells. The Candy Cane Hunt will be at 4:00 and the Tree Lighting starts at 5:30. There will be a toy drive. Participants will be entered into a raffle and the winner will get to flip the switch to light the tree. The live, 18-20-foot tree will be in Parks Circle Drive roundabout. There will also be cookies, coffee, hot chocolate and music.

Agenda Item #5: New Business

Director McCarthy mentioned the Softball Exposure Tournament this past weekend at the CVAC. Highlights were the tournament had 160 teams present and 150 of the teams were from out of town. The synthetic fields were a huge hit and there is another softball tournament scheduled this coming weekend with St. Louis Softball Showcase hosting 65 teams with 50 from out of town.

Agenda Item #6: Adjournment

There being no further business to discuss, Chairperson Mastorakos adjourned the meeting at 7:04 p.m.

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