



**Memorandum
Parks, Recreation & Arts**

TO: Michael Geisel, City Administrator
FROM: Thomas McCarthy, Director of Parks, Recreation and Arts
DATE: January 25, 2017
RE: Meeting Summary – 01-19-2017 Parks, Recreation and Arts Committee

A meeting of the Parks, Recreation and Arts Committee took place on Thursday, January 19, 2017. Those in attendance included Chairperson Barbara McGuinness, Ward 1; Councilmember Guy Tilman, Ward 2; Councilmember Dan Hurt, Ward 3 and Councilmember Nathan Roach, Ward 4. Also in attendance were Mayor Bob Nation; City Administrator Mike Geisel; Director of Parks, Recreation and Arts Tom McCarthy, and Executive Assistant Kathy Lantz.

Chairperson McGuinness called the meeting to order at 10:04 a.m.

Agenda Item #1: Approval of Minutes

Councilmember Tilman moved to approve the September 6, 2016 meeting summary. The motion was seconded by Chairperson McGuinness and passed by a voice vote of 2 to 0. Councilmember Hurt and Councilmember Roach abstained as they were not in attendance at the September 6 meeting.

Agenda Item #2: Parks, Recreation and Arts Policies 21, 29, 39 and 43

Director of Parks, Recreation and Arts, Tom McCarthy, gave an overview of requested policy changes in the Public Works section of the City's Policy Manual. Parks, Recreation and Arts had previously been a part of Public Works which is why the Parks' policies were in the Public Works section.

PW Policy 21 Parkland Criteria - Mr. McCarthy does not request any changes to this policy which reads as follows:

- A. Minimum size of three acres; less if contiguous to existing public land (e.g. school, park, etc.). Accessibility to a public street, unless an addition to an existing public property with access.
- B. At least twenty-five percent of the area contain grades of not more than four percent. However, when a site's uniqueness lends itself to a special park plan, i.e. trails or passive, it may be acceptable.
- C. Free of controllable environmental contamination.
- D. Any neighboring areas disturbed during construction activity will appropriately restored and ground cover established.

PW Policy 29 Donations for Park Improvements – The current policy states that donations can be either be accepted by Friends of the Parks or City staff. Mr. McCarthy is proposing that this policy be updated and modified to read: ‘Proposed donations of real estate for park purposes should be forwarded to the Director of Parks, Recreation and Arts for review and recommendation. The Director’s recommendation should be forwarded to the Parks, Recreation and Arts Committee of Council for review and recommendation to the full Council.’

PW Policy 39 Park Rules and Regulations – Mr. McCarthy stated that this policy could be eliminated and updated in Parks Ordinance No. 2738 with the new rules and regulations, if approved later on today’s agenda.

Policy 43: City Employee Admission to the Family Aquatic Park – Mr. McCarthy does not request any changes to this policy which reads as follows: ‘Free admission to the Family Aquatic Park will be given to year-round, full-time City employees and Police Reserve Officers. City employees and Police Reserve Officers may purchase a family pass for \$25. Elected officials are excluded from this policy.’

Discussion

Discussion followed concerning PW Policy 29 Donations for Park Improvements. Mr. McCarthy stated that he does not think that Friends of the Park should be accepting donations on behalf of the Parks Department.

Councilmember Tilman stated that donations should come directly to City staff and not a volunteer organization.

Mr. McCarthy stated that Policy 39 could be eliminated because rules and regulations are adopted by ordinance and not policy.

Mr. McCarthy stated that Policy 43 includes free admission to the Family Aquatic Center for year-round, full-time City employees and Police Reserve Officers. Mr. McCarthy stated that currently the City does not have Police Reserve Officers.

City Administrator Geisel did not see a problem with leaving the Police Reserve Officers in this policy.

Councilmember Tilman stated that if the City does get Police Reserve Officers in the future, this is a nice gesture provided by the City for them. Councilmember Hurt agreed.

Chairperson McGuinness asked what the price was a family pool pass.

Mr. McCarthy stated that the price has been raised this year for a family of four from \$170.00 to \$200.00. City employees get in with free admission and their family can purchase a season pass for \$25.00.

Chairperson McGuinness stated that \$25.00 seems a little low. There was not any interest from the other Councilmembers to change the price.

Councilmember Tilman moved to approve Parks, Recreation and Arts Policies 21, 29, 39 and 43 with the change to Policy 29 that ‘Proposed donations of real estate for park purposes should be forwarded to the Director of Parks, Recreation and Arts for review and recommendation. The Director’s recommendation should be forwarded to the Parks, Recreation and Arts Committee of Council for review and recommendation to the full Council.’ and that Police Reserve Officers will remain included in Policy 43: City Employee Admission to the Family Aquatic Park. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Hurt and passed by a voice vote of 4 to 0.

Agenda Item #3: Park Rule Changes

Mr. McCarthy reviewed Proposed Park Rule Changes. The changes in red are to be eliminated and the bold words in black are to be added.

Mr. Geisel stated that the only issue that have been brought to staff’s attention is smoking and vaping. These rules are consistent with Council direction that smoking and vaping is prohibited in City parks.

Discussion

Councilmember Hurt stated that he does not have a problem with most of the rule changes but has questions on fishing at Central Park and River’s Edge.

Mr. McCarthy stated that fishing is catch and release at Central Park and catch and keep at River’s Edge. Mr. McCarthy stated that the Missouri Conservation Department does fish studies for the City once a year to monitor the type and size of fish in Central Park. If Central Park gets too many fish and too many large fish, the Parks Department could have a fishing tournament

which would allow people to keep fish that are over a certain size and weight depending on Missouri Conservation Department recommendations on which fish need to be reduced.

Councilmember Hurt asked staff to return to the Committee for direction if the fish population gets too low at River's Edge due to the catch and keep policy.

Mr. McCarthy stated that there are some people who do keep the fish to eat from Central Park.

Councilmember Hurt asked if people who keep the fish are ticketed. He stated that his philosophy would be that repeat offenders get one or two warnings first and then contact Police. Councilmember Hurt is not looking to be hard core about this issue but wants fishing at Central Park to be the way it was set up by Council.

Mr. McCarthy stated that there is a limit of one fishing pole per person in the new recommended rules.

Councilmember Hurt asked for clarification on boats and kayaks at River's Edge.

Mr. McCarthy stated that no motors or solar motors are allowed on boats. Mr. McCarthy stated that boats and kayaks must be carried from the parking lot to the lake. Pull carts can be used to cart them down but no personal cars are allowed to drive them down.

Councilmember Tilman stated that he has not seen any signage stating that public vehicles are not allowed on the drive to River's Edge. He asked what stops people from driving around the gate and back to the lake. Councilman Tilman stated that he thinks it would help to have site-specific verbiage in the Parks Rules concerning no public vehicles to River's Edge.

Councilmember Tilman suggested the following verbiage: 'No public motor vehicles are allowed on any access or trails to River's Edge Park without special permission by the City.'

Mr. Geisel stated that the property is deed restricted and no mechanized boats or vehicles are allowed except for maintenance vehicles.

Councilmember Tilman moved to add the following verbiage to Sec. 22-39. Boating (c) No public motor vehicles are allowed on any access or trails to River's Edge Park without written permission by the City. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Hurt and passed by a voice vote of 4 to 0.

Mayor Nation suggested keeping as few maintenance vehicles as possible back by the lake because each time, if the trail is wet, it gets torn up with mud and ruts.

Mr. McCarthy stated there would again be two Community Gardens this year – Eberwein Park and Chesterfield Parkway. Notices have been sent out for renewal.

Councilmember McGuinness asked if pit bull dogs were allowed at the dog park.

Mr. McCarthy stated that the pit bull issue had been resolved and that no dogs are discriminated against by breed at the dog park. If there is documentation, overly aggressive dogs can be banned from the dog park.

Councilmember Hurt expressed concern, under Sec. 22-46 Games and activities – the use of drones. The City does not have a regulation on drones and will need a policy with the growing popularity of drones. Unless drones are flown on one's own private property, they should only be flown over public property with public permission. If not over your own private property, you need the permission of the private property owner and be registered with the City. Councilmember Hurt stated that he does not object to drones being used to videotape ballgames. Councilmember Hurt would like some verbiage that if you are registered with the City and have the permission of the Parks Department, you are allowed to send up one drone to videotape. But the City needs to be aware of it and it also needs to be monitored by the Police. It will need to be kept under control. For example, with special events at the amphitheater there will be a security issue with terrorists.

Mr. McCarthy stated that there could be problems flying drones at the CVAC with the close proximity of the airport. We currently have issues with remote-controlled planes flying at the CVAC and the airport will call us to go and take care of it.

Councilmember Hurt added that the FAA does not control anything under 500 feet or nothing can be within 5 miles of the airport.

Mr. Geisel stated that there are drones being flown without the permission and knowledge of the Parks Department.

Councilmember Hurt stated that his concern is with people using drones at the amphitheater with malintent. He stated that he will discuss drones with the Police Department.

Mr. McCarthy stated that the City should have a separate drone policy. Currently, a person needs written approval of the Director of Parks, Recreation and Arts to fly a drone in the new Park rules.

Mr. Geisel stated that the appropriate committee to review the use of drones would be Public Health and Safety.

Councilmember Tilman moved to approve Park Rule Changes, as amended. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Roach and passed by a voice vote of 4 to 0.

Agenda Item #4: Chesterfield Amphitheater Highway Signs

Mr. McCarthy stated that staff had previously been directed to investigate additional trailblazing signage along the highway to direct visitors to the amphitheater. The State's minimum number of amphitheater visitors for 2016 was 250,000 attendees. The fees for highway signs would be \$10,440 for the first year and \$6,000.00 per year thereafter. Two signs would be located at Exit 19A and Exit 19B on Highway 64/40, one with a direction arrow on the exit ramp of 19A and one with a direction arrow on the Parkway.

Discussion

Councilmember Hurt stated that he is not sold on the idea of the signage for outsiders when the amphitheater was originally built for the residents of Chesterfield.

Mr. McCarthy stated that it helps with directions for those attending ticketed events.

Councilmember Tilman stated that he has similar concerns that the amphitheater was built for the residents and suggested not doing the signs this year and see if the signs help with attendance at the ticketed events.

Mr. Geisel stated that the City will not recover the money they pay for the signs from ticketed events. Mr. Geisel stated that the money from the ticketed events enable the City to have the free concerts. Mr. Geisel stated that there are already amphitheater signs on the Parkway.

Councilmember Tilman stated that attendees for Taste of St. Louis and Turkey Trot do not seem to have trouble finding the amphitheater.

Councilmember Roach stated that everyone has a cell phone so directions to the amphitheater are not a problem.

Councilmember Hurt moved to RECEIVE AND FILE the Chesterfield Amphitheater Highway Signs Application. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Tilman and passed by a voice vote of 4 to 0.

Agenda Item #5: Chesterfield Family Aquatic Center Amended Hours

Mr. McCarthy stated that attendance at the Chesterfield Family Aquatic Center during the week the last three weeks of August is very low. Rockwood and Parkway schools now start in mid-August and lifeguards have gone back to college. Mr. McCarthy stated that staff suggests closing the pool Monday through Thursday and be open Friday from 4:00pm-7:30pm and Saturday, Sunday and Labor Day, the pool hours would be 11am – 7:30pm.

Councilmember Hurt moved to approve the Chesterfield Family Aquatic Center Amended Hours as recommended. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Tilman and passed by a voice vote of 4 to 0.

Agenda Item #6: Update on 12 Acre Parcel at 16911 Wildhorse Creek Road

Mr. McCarthy stated that the Committee asked for an update on the 12-acre parcel at 16911 Wildhorse Creek Road for a possible park. Tim Gamma, the property owner, wants \$225,000, full asking price, for the property. The property is dissected by a large creek with many destabilized banks and would not be the best opportunity for a park.

Mayor Nation asked if there had been discussion with Mr. Gamma about using the property for deer hunting.

Mr. McCarthy stated that when they walked the property there were a couple of deer stands but deer hunting was not discussed.

Mr. Geisel stated that he will check and see if deer hunting is permitted on that site.

Councilmember Hurt moved to RECEIVE AND FILE the information on the 12-Acre Parcel at 16911 Wildhorse Creek Road. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Tilman and passed by a voice vote of 4 to 0.

Agenda Item #7: Discussion on Public Art Placement in the Parks

Chairperson McGuinness stated that she and Councilmember Hurt have received complaints and comments on the latest placing of the Meeting Places art structure located by the dam at Central Park.

Mr. McCarthy stated that there was an art competition and a grant for the creation of the art project.

Chairperson McGuinness stated that Meeting Places is a fun piece of art but it is so far away to see unless you are walking around that area of the lake.

Mr. McCarthy stated that when the City was directed to take over the Arts after Chesterfield Arts, Parks and Recreation staff were also instructed to review the art and placement of art pieces.

Mr. Geisel stated that Council directed Chesterfield Arts to work on the City's behalf because they did not want to make any objective decisions about art. So it was in the Chesterfield Arts Master Plan that they should review, comment and recommend placement. So when brought in-house, the Arts section of Parks was directed to take over the activities that were done previously by Chesterfield Arts.

Councilmember Hurt stated that he does not remember that Chesterfield Arts dictated where any art pieces were to be located.

Mr. Geisel stated that Chesterfield Arts recommended locations for art and Council voted on their locations.

Mr. McCarthy stated that the in-house Arts staff of Parks decided where Meeting Places should be. Several sites were considered but the Regional Arts Council and Missouri Arts Council recommended that Council not get overly involved with picking the art and location placement of the art pieces.

Councilmember Hurt stated that Council should have the final decision on art location since it will be on public property.

Chairperson McGuinness stated that it is the recommendation of the Chesterfield City Council.

Mr. McCarthy stated that Meeting Places is an Arts Department piece and not a public piece like Maura and The Awakening. Mr. McCarthy stated that the City does not have a placement policy for art but was given the direction to review and take care of the arts.

Councilmember Tilman suggested that the Parks, Recreation and Arts Citizens Advisory Committee work with staff to make recommendations on art pieces and their placement and then forward their suggestions to Council.

Mayor Nation asked Mr. McCarthy asked if this is something that the Citizens Advisory Committee could be tasked with.

Mr. McCarthy stated that the Arts and Entertainment staff, Superintendent of Parks Steve Jarvis and himself had aided in choosing the location for Meeting Places.

Mayor Nation stated that when Council made the decision to bring the Arts in-house, it was assumed that the remainder of the \$100,000 funds from the City of Chesterfield to Chesterfield Arts would be available for art competition, paying the artists for their work and promoting a staff person to run the Arts.

Mr. McCarthy stated that one resident from each ward on the Citizens Advisory Committee went through the review process for the current public sculpture, The Flow. They sat in on the reviews and had weighted decisions for what piece of artwork would be commissioned and its location.

Chairperson McGuinness stated that some residents have stated that Meeting Places would be better to have been placed by the swimming pool and not where it currently is.

Councilmember Hurt stated that comments he has received suggested putting Meeting Places in a more commercial area or active area, perhaps by the playground or pool, because of the nature of the piece and not a serene place by the lake where it is currently located.

Mr. McCarthy stated that staff is trying to spread artwork around the City. The artist recommended that The Flow art piece be near Aspire and the waterfall so that, when in the amphitheater and looking across the lake, you see The Flow.

Councilmember Hurt does not object to artwork being placed around the lake but that another piece of art may be more appropriate for the area.

Chairperson McGuinness asked if Meeting Places could be moved and placed in a more active area in Central Park.

Councilmember Hurt suggested asking the Citizens Advisory Committee for their suggestions on placement for Meeting Places.

Mr. McCarthy stated that there already is a lot of artwork in Central Park but also did not want children trying to climb on the art piece.

Resident Michael Kane stated that he has talked to people at the YMCA and has only received one positive response on the location of Meeting Places.

Councilmember Roach left the meeting at 11:05am.

Councilmember Tilman moved that, going forward, the location of public art be recommended to staff by the Parks, Recreation and Arts Citizens Advisory Committee. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Hurt and passed by a voice vote of 3 to 0. (Councilmember Roach left the meeting at 11:05am.)

Mr. McCarthy stated that Meeting Places could be placed on the February 11, 2017 Parks, Recreation and Arts Citizens Advisory Committee meeting agenda for their input. Mr. McCarthy stated that the agenda had already been set for this Saturday's (January 21) Advisory Committee meeting.

Councilmember Hurt asked Mr. McCarthy to show the Meeting Places art piece to the Citizens Advisory Committee at the Saturday, January 21 meeting and come back to their Saturday, February 11 meeting with comments.

Agenda Item #8:

New Business - Chesterfield Area History Portrayals in the Pathway on the Parkway

Chairperson McGuinness stated that former Councilmember Alan Politte gave her some books, from 2006, on how to make the sidewalk on Chesterfield Parkway more artsy.

Mr. McCarthy stated that the plan was to create a series of portrayals of the history of Chesterfield through an art form in locations on the Pathway on the Parkway that would be available for the pleasure and education of those utilizing the Pathway (sidewalk) on the Chesterfield Parkway.

Mr. McCarthy stated that he likes the idea but the sidewalks do not belong to the City and the main question would be if the sidewalk would then be ADA compliant since the texture of the sidewalk would be changed.

Mr. Geisel stated that the concept was that inlays would be created and buried in vaults or cast inlays in the sidewalks. However, the sidewalks are not on City right-of-way. The right-of-way on the Parkway behind the curb is 18" wide. There is an easement for sidewalk to sidewalk purposes only. More easements may be possible but is a problem to do so. Sidewalks do not have a foundation so they move. Anything inlaid or placed in a vault is likely to be damaged from weather.

Councilmember Hurt asked if the inlays could be placed on small pads next to or attached to the sidewalk.

Mr. Geisel stated that interpretative signage and possibly kiosks could be used but again it would require independent easements.

Mr. McCarthy stated that he has discussed this with his Arts staff and Recreation Specialist for Arts and Entertainment, Sukanya Mani, is looking for grant opportunities for this project.

Mr. Geisel stated that a part of the Arts Master Plan states that all large developments are required to have an art piece and so if downtown Chesterfield is developed, it will need an art piece and this could be incorporated for that.

Councilmember Hurt moved to direct staff to pursue the concept of artwork along the sidewalk on Chesterfield Parkway. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Tilman and passed by a voice vote of 3 to 0.

New Business - Doorack Property

Chairperson McGuinness stated that the City has another 2 1/2 years remaining on the lease of the Doorack property (16659 and 16671 Old Chesterfield Road). She asked if the Parks, Recreation and Arts Citizens Advisory Committee could make a recommendation on uses for the Doorack property.

Councilmember Tilman moved to ask staff, if they had access to the Doorack property, to make a recommendation on how they would use the property and present the plan to the

Committee. The motion was seconded by Chairperson McGuinness and passed by a voice vote of 3 to 0.

New Business - Replenishing the Parks Fund-Fund Reserves

Chairperson McGuinness stated that there is \$400,000 left in the Parks Fund-Fund Reserves after the land purchase approved at the January 18, 2017 City Council meeting. She stated that the account is made up of excess funds. The City gets approximately \$7,000,000 from sales tax and approximately \$2,000,000 to run the Parks Department from various funds. What is not used will go into the Parks Fund-Fund Reserves account. Chairperson McGuinness asked how long it could take to get \$2,000,000 back into the Parks Fund-Fund Reserves.

Mr. Geisel stated that revenues will be used and it will probably take 5 years once the new Dome facility comes on-line. Mr. Geisel stated that it is a matter of what is budgeted annually for Parks and what is not used that can be returned to the Parks Fund-Fund Reserves versus the revenues. Last year, after budget cuts, approximately \$200,000 was returned to the Park Fund-Fund Reserves.

The meeting adjourned at 11:22a.m.