



**Memorandum
Parks, Recreation & Arts**

TO: Michael Geisel, City Administrator
FROM: Thomas McCarthy, Director of Parks, Recreation and Arts
DATE: August 2, 2017
RE: Meeting Summary – 08-01-2017 Parks, Recreation and Arts
Committee of Council

A meeting of the Parks, Recreation and Arts Committee of Council took place on Tuesday, August 1, 2017. Those in attendance included Chairperson Randy Logan, Ward 3; Councilmember Barbara McGuinness, Ward 1; and Councilmember Ben Keathley, Ward 2. Also in attendance were Mayor Bob Nation; Councilmember Dan Hurt, Ward 3; Director of Parks, Recreation and Arts Tom McCarthy, Executive Assistant Kathy Lantz and guests Mike Whelan, Chairperson of the Parks, Recreation and Arts Citizens Advisory Committee; Tricia Whelan, At-Large Member of the Parks, Recreation and Arts Citizens Advisory Committee and Tom Grisham.

Chairperson Logan called the meeting to order at 5:49pm.

Agenda Item #1: Approval of Minutes

Councilmember McGuinness moved to approve the June 6, 2017 meeting summary. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Keathley and passed by a voice vote of 3 to 0.

Agenda Item #2: Follow Up on Potential Park Land on Wild Horse Creek Road

Parks, Recreation and Arts Director Tom McCarthy gave an overview of the 12 acre potential park property at 16911 Wild Horse Creek Road. The property is owned by Tim Gamma and backs up to Fienup Farms. Mr. Gamma has stated that the property has been appraised at \$260,000 but he would sell the property to the City for \$90,000 for a park with the condition that it be named Gamma Tree Park after his parents. Mr. McCarthy stated that if the Committee has further interest in this property, they could have an appraisal completed that has the City's interest in mind.

Mr. McCarthy stated that there would be a potential trail access from the Gamma property, through Fienup Farms and back to the City's Railroad Park levee trail. There could be a bike/pedestrian trail here, environmental toilet, nature area, future connecting trail to Railroad Park and a few parking spaces. There would not be a playground or pavilion at this site.

Chairperson Logan stated that this densely-wooded property would not be an active park but could serve as a great trail system. This property backs up to a large section of land that will be developed. Chairperson Logan stated that it would be would City Council's choice to add this property to their park inventory at a \$90,000 price. Mr. McCarthy stated that staff could apply for a Municipal Parks Grant at some point to help pay for the trail, an enviro toilet, and a bridge across the creek.

Councilmember Hurt stated that in the future the City could tie the Fienup trails to the City's main trail system and hook up at Railroad Park.

Mr. McCarthy stated that there would be perhaps 15-20 parking spaces for the trail users.

Councilmember McGuinness expressed concern over naming City parks after people.

Discussion followed concerning the William F. Dierberg Park where the Dierberg family donated money and land for the park. The City purchased land from the Eberwein family for the Eberwein Park.

Councilmember McGuinness asked if Mr. Gamma would donate this property and take a total write-off on the property in order to name the park Gamma Tree Park.

Chairperson Logan stated that this could be forwarded to City Council and could be discussed in Executive Session.

Discussion followed concerning number of votes needed to send recommendations to City Council from the Committee.

Councilmember Keathley stated that this item should be forwarded to City Council so the full Council could be involved in the discussion of naming the park and the selling price.

Mr. McCarthy stated that with a Municipal Parks Grant match, it would cost approximately \$41,650 to complete the park with a sign, gravel trail, bridge over the creek, enviro-toilet, trash cans, dog waste stations, parking area and picnic tables. Most of the work would be done by the Parks Maintenance staff during the winter and as staff had time. Mr. McCarthy stated that a part-time maintenance hours would be needed to maintain the park.

Discussion followed concerning the railroad tracks between Fienup Farms and Railroad Park.

Chairperson Logan stated that if this park ties in later to Railroad Park, the railroad tracks would be dealt with then.

Discussion followed concerning staffing for the park, a Municipal Parks Grant for the park amenities, and more trails was the number one request in the original Parks Master Plan.

Councilmember McGuinness expressed her concerns with being able to obtain a Municipal Parks Grant for the park amenities and naming a park after a commercial enterprise with the City paying for the property.

Mr. McCarthy discussed the process for obtaining Municipal Parks Grants and the various grants that the City has received.

Councilmember Keathley motioned to forward to Executive Session of full City Council the proposal for Potential Park Land on Wild Horse Creek Road. The motion was seconded by Chairperson Logan. The motion passed by a voice vote of 3 to 0 with Chairperson Logan stating that he will make sure that Councilmember McGuinness' concerns are brought up at the City Council Executive Session meeting.

Agenda Item #3: Schoettler Park Option – Additional Information

Tom McCarthy stated that the Schoettler Park Option is located off Schoettler Road just south of Logan University at 1859 Schoettler Road. Currently there is a house, barn and small storage shed on the 9.5 acre property. The City was waiting for an appraisal of this property, and now that we have the appraisal for the owners, it states that the property is worth \$1,510,000.

Discussion followed concerning the various ways that land can be appraised. This property was appraised as a commercial rate and has been on and off the market several times.

Chairperson Logan stated that Ward 3 is the only ward without a City Park but there is nothing that states that there should be a park in every ward. Chairperson Logan stated that the Committee needs to come to an understanding if City Council should pursue and maintain this site for a park. Chairperson Logan stated that this site is suited for a park due to being open and exposed and already has some services (water and electric but the house is on a septic tank) and could be an active playground area, open space and have a pavilion.

Mr. McCarthy suggested that the City should obtain their own appraisal on this site.

Chairperson Logan stated that three (3) playground options were put together by staff for this site and that he would prefer a small playground with swings on the site.

Mr. McCarthy stated option 3 would be a good option for this site which would include a pavilion, sidewalks, gravel walking paths, 2,878 square foot playground (ADA compliant with a mulched playground), prefabricated restroom, 40 parking spaces, lights and security cameras and amenities (trash cans, dog waste stations, benches, signage and drinking fountains).

Mr. McCarthy stated that staff could go after a Municipal Parks Grant in 2019 for \$500,000 and, if received, this park, with the added amenities, would cost about \$130,810, after the purchase of the land.

Mr. McCarthy discussed options for obtaining Municipal Parks Grants.

Councilmember Hurt stated that the pavilion would be nice to be able to rent out since the Central Park pavilion is rented most week-ends.

Councilmember Hurt stated that Logan University property could be shared with this site.

Councilmember McGuinness expressed concerns with money for staffing a full-time maintenance worker for this site.

Mr. McCarthy stated that one full-time maintenance worker could maintain this park and the potential park land on Wild Horse Creek Road.

Mr. McCarthy stated that much of the work required to make this property into a park could be done in-house with Parks Maintenance staff and the Municipal Parks Grant.

Councilmember McGuinness motioned to forward to Executive Session of full City Council the proposal for the Schoettler Park Option for discussion to request an appraisal. Motion dies due to lack of a second.

Discussion followed concerning whether this should go to Executive Session or regular City Council meeting for discussion and vote. This will be discussed with the City Attorney.

Councilmember Keathley motioned to forward to Executive Session of City Council for further discussion of obtaining an appraisal and to discuss purchase price on this property. The motion was seconded by Councilmember McGuinness and passed by a voice vote of 3 to 0.

Agenda Item #4: New Business – None

Agenda Item #5: Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 6:40pm.