



PARKS, RECREATION AND ARTS COMMITTEE OF COUNCIL MEETING RESULTS August 10, 2020

Chairperson Ohley called the meeting to order at 5:00 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:

Director of Parks, Recreation & Art, Tom McCarthy
Executive Assistant, Parks, Recreation & Arts, Ann-Marie Stagoski
Chair of Parks, Recreation & Arts Advisory Committee, Mike Whelan
City Administrator, Mike Geisel
Mayor, Bob Nation

Agenda Item #1: Approval of Minutes

The meeting results of the February 19, 2019 Parks, Recreation & Arts Committee of Council Meeting were submitted for approval. Councilmember McGuinness made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Moore to approve the meeting results. There being no discussion, the motion was passed by a voice vote of 4 to 0.

Agenda Item #2: Selection of Vice Chair and Liaison to the Parks, Recreation & Arts Advisory Committee

Chairperson Ohley agreed to be the liaison to the Parks, Recreation & Arts Advisory Committee.

Chairperson Ohley called for a vote on the selection of Michael Moore as Vice Chair to the Parks, Recreation & Arts Committee of Council and it passed by a voice vote of 4-0.

Agenda Item #3: Day Tripper Bus Program

Director McCarthy explained the proposed program. It would be a two-year program that is being worked on with Senator Koenig. Senator Koenig has indicated he would attempt to acquire funding to lease and maintain a transport bus for two years. Five cities have been approached to participate in the program including Chesterfield, Ballwin, Ellisville, Wildwood and Manchester. Participating cities would share in the use of the bus and individual cities would be responsible for the fuel they use, cleaning after use and providing a driver. The bus would be exclusively for senior programs. It would be housed at Ballwin. The senior population is going up in Chesterfield and programs are popular. Currently, day trips require a chartered excursion vehicle.

Chairperson Ohley and Councilmember Moore asked how many seniors are currently taking advantage of programs given the Covid situation and if there was a demand for this type of service. Director McCarthy

explained that the program isn't taking place until funding is acquired in the future. We are currently asking to participate in the program. There was a demand prior to the pandemic. It was also clarified that each city would develop their own programs and promote it to their citizens prior to opening up the programs to other cities. Each city would be required to pay for gas, cleaning after their use, and a driver. The city of Ballwin would house and maintain the schedule for the bus. After the two-year period, the program would be re-evaluated.

Councilmember Keathley moved to approve the request to execute the grant request and participate in the program should the funding become available for the lease and maintenance. Councilmember McGuinness seconded the motion. There being no further discussion, the motion was passed by a voice vote of 4 to 0.

Agenda Item #4: Trails and Connectivity Information from Subcommittee of PRCAC

Director McCarthy stated that a subcommittee had independently formed from the Parks, Recreation & Arts Citizens Advisory Committee to explore trails and connectivity. This subcommittee looked at areas where sidewalks, crosswalks, and ability to get around town could be improved and created a prioritized list. The subcommittee would like to know if there's any way these things could be addressed.

Discussion involved recommending that the subcommittee wait until directed by Council to act. Many items on the list are not actionable items given that they involve other government agencies and involve broad funding implications. The Council is better suited to prioritize funding of the City and can better consider the expenditures associated with additional acquisitions or developments.

Councilmember Ohley moved to table the issue and Councilmember Keathley seconded the motion. The motion was passed by a voice vote of 4 to 0.

Agenda Item #5: Chesterfield Citizens Environmental Advisory Committee to send Flyers to Multi Family Dwelling Units and Subdivision Trustees

Director McCarthy explained that the Citizens Environmental Advisory Committee would like to send flyers to the Multi-Family Dwelling Units because there are often not recycling units on site at these units. Prior agreements have limited us sending flyers to every resident in these units. The CEAC recommended that we send this information to the trustees for them to disseminate. It is also posted on the city website. The committee's goal is to encourage multi-family units to recycle.

Councilmember Moore asked if we could ask Republic Services to include the information they send out. Director McCarthy will look into that.

Councilmember Keathley moved that the flyer be discussed and disseminated at the annual Trustee Symposium, continue its posting online, and if space is available in a future Citizen newsletter, to include it in there. Councilmember McGuinness seconded the motion. There being no further discussion, the motion was passed by a voice vote of 4 to 0.

Agenda Item #6: Parks Full-Time Staff Request

Director McCarthy stated that Logan Park is now under lease and we are responsible for maintaining the 4 acres. Later in the year, we hope to acquire an additional 9 acres. As was included in the materials considered while attempting to acquire this parkland, the additional manpower is essential to the care and maintenance of the properties.

City Administrator Geisel clarified that the when decisions were made to lease Logan Park, it was with the understanding that additional personnel were required. Per City Council policy, requests for additional personnel are first to be brought to the appropriate Standing Committee of Council, then forwarded to the F&A Committee

for consideration in conjunction with the annual budget. Councilmember McGuinness stated that Covid has changed the situation and there are currently personnel on furlough. It was explained that those furloughed were programming personnel and not maintenance personnel. Director McCarthy recommends including the positions in the 2021 budget submission such that the personnel will be hired after the grant has been acquired and park development is under way.

Councilmember Keathley moved that we move forward to F&A without any recommendation. Councilmember McGuinness seconded the motion. Further discussion included the need for the second staff member to help maintain the land being acquired across from the Amphitheater. There being no further discussion, the motion was passed by a voice vote of 4 to 0.

Agenda Item #7: Logan Park – Insurance

Director McCarthy discussed the requirement by Logan University to hold a policy for 5 million dollars on the undeveloped property at Logan Park. Policies were attached for review. Councilmember Moore inquired if we had insurance like this for other parks. Director McCarthy stated that we did but not at this level of coverage.

Councilmember Moore moved to receive and file the information. Councilmember McGuinness seconded the motion. There being no further discussion, the motion was passed by a voice vote of 4 to 0.

Agenda Item #8: Unfinished Business

No unfinished business.

Agenda Item #9: New Business

Councilmember Keathley inquired as to the status of playground openings. Director McCarthy explained that Parks Staff is putting together a proposal to submit to the county, to see if they will allow us to open the playgrounds which would require daily cleaning, additional signage, mask wearing, and social distancing. Councilmember Keathley inquired and it was affirmed that the Parks Department was prepared to open once they received an approval from the county.

City Administrator Geisel explained that the county's current health order prohibits opening the playgrounds, but they will review specific operational plans that allow you to deviate from their larger order. Thus, despite the county's regulations against opening the playground, we are submitting a proposal to open them earlier than others might be allowed to, with more rigorous cleaning and sanitization regimes.

Councilmember Ohley stated that she was approached by the Chamber of Commerce about whether we had any interest in helping them pay for the cost of their fireworks planned in September. Discussion included showing support to businesses in addition to whether financing independent organizations was prudent given that we have furloughed employees and are struggling to fund other things. Councilmember Moore suggested this was not a Parks decision and the discussion should be in F&A.

It was pointed out that Chamber receives substantial in-kind support that we don't provide to others. We close roads, provide barricades, and provide police staff, all at no cost for their events.

Mayor Nation stated he would like to see it brought to F&A for discussion and move toward mending the relationship with the Chamber.

Councilmember Moore motioned to forward this issue to F&A for discussion. Chairperson Ohley seconded the motion. There being no further discussion, the motion was passed by a voice vote of 3 to 1 with Councilmember McGuinness dissenting.

Agenda Item #10: Adjournment

There being no further business to discuss, Chairperson Ohley adjourned the meeting at 5:57 p.m.