



DATE: December 14, 2010
TO: Michael G. Herring, City Administrator
FROM: Mike Geisel, Director of Planning & Public Works
SUBJECT: Meeting Minutes – 12/13/10 Parks and Recreation Committee

A meeting of the Parks and Recreation Committee took place on Monday, December 13, 2010. Those in attendance included Chairperson Lee Erickson, Ward 2, Councilmember Barry Flachsbart, Ward 1, Councilmember Randy Logan, Ward 3, and Councilmember Connie Fults, Ward 4. Also in attendance were Councilmember Bruce Geiger, Ward 2, Councilmember Bob Nation, Ward 4, City Administrator Mike Herring, Director of Planning & Public Works Mike Geisel, Assistant Director of Parks & Recreation Steve Jarvis, Superintendent of Recreation Operations Kari Johnson, and Executive Secretary Kathy Lantz.

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

Agenda Item #1: Approval of Minutes - Councilmember Logan made a motion to approve the August 26, 2010 Minutes of the Parks and Recreation Committee Meeting. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Fults and passed by a voice vote of 4-0.

Agenda Item #2 – Family Aquatic Center Pool Management Contract – Kari Johnson, Superintendent of Recreation Operations, gave an overview of the Family Aquatic Center Pool Management contract. Ms. Johnson stated that two years ago, the City altered their approach to the Management and Maintenance Operations of the pool, electing to award contracts to two separate firms. The Management contract was a one (1) year contract with two, one-year options for the 2010 and 2011 seasons. Ms. Johnson stated that, with review and assessment of the past season, the arrangement of separating the maintenance and management operations has shown to improve the overall operations at the Family Aquatic Center. Ms. Johnson stated that the City and Midwest Pool Management have been happy with their working relationship. Ms. Johnson stated that the City will go out to bid on a new contract in June, 2011. **Ms. Johnson recommends exercising the City's third year option under the existing contract with Midwest Pool Management and to authorize a 2011 expenditure not to exceed \$280,000.00.**

Mike Geisel, Director of Planning and Public Works, stated that since the contracts were separated between maintenance and management, the operations have become more consistent.

Councilmember Logan made a motion to exercise the City's third year option under the existing contract with Midwest Pool Management and to authorize 2011 expenditures not to exceed \$280,000.00. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Fults and passed by a voice vote of 4-0.

Agenda Item #3 – Family Aquatic Center Pool Operations and Maintenance Contract –

Steve Jarvis, Assistant Director of Parks and Recreation, gave an overview of the contract for the Family Aquatic Center Maintenance Operations. Mr. Jarvis stated that separating the management and maintenance operations has improved the operations and accountability at the Family Aquatic Center. The Capri Pool & Aquatics contract provides the full range of services associated with the maintenance of the Family Aquatic Center. Previously, City Council had approved a Maintenance contract with Capri Pools & Aquatics for the 2010 pool season, with an option to extend the contract for 2011. Mr. Jarvis stated that the City will go out for bid on a new contract in June, 2011 such that both the Operations and Maintenance contract terms will be coincidental. **Mr. Jarvis recommends that City Council exercise the option to extend the contract for the 2011 season with Capri Pool & Aquatics for professional services related to the maintenance operations of the Family Aquatic Center, in an amount not to exceed \$32,111.00, as provided for in the contract documents.**

Mr. Jarvis stated that separating the two contracts has worked extremely well. Staff has identified maintenance items that needed to be addressed and has been pro-active in getting them taken care of. Capri Pool & Aquatics built the lazy river, slide and the add-on amenities, so they are very familiar with the original construction. Mr. Jarvis stated that Staff has a good working relationship with Capri Pool & Aquatics and that the Management Operations and Maintenance Operations have worked very well together.

Councilmember Fults stated that having two different companies oversee the Management Operations and Maintenance Operations is a great idea.

Mr. Jarvis stated that the contract also establishes maintenance rates on a “Time and Material” basis for the repair of items not covered within the scope and provision of the “Basic Services.” Mr. Jarvis stated that the companies were not called often during the off-hours, but the contract stipulates a two-hour response time. The only down time last year was for hyper-chlorination which was required by the St. Louis County Department of Health and only four hours of operation were lost.

Councilmember Fults made a motion to exercise the option to extend the contract for the 2011 season with Capri Pool & Aquatics for professional services related to the maintenance operations of the Family Aquatic Center, in an amount not to exceed \$32,111.00, as provided for in the contract documents. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Logan and passed by a voice vote of 4-0.

Agenda Item #4 – Swim and Dive Team Recommendation – Kari Johnson gave an overview of the Swim and Dive Team Program. This program is reviewed annually and after extensive review, Staff recommends eliminating support for the 2011 Dive Team. Participation has steadily declined over the last several years, having only 20 divers participate in the last two years. Staff worked diligently on promoting and marketing the program to gain the 20 divers. As for Revenues and Expenses, the expense of the program exceeds the revenue. For 2010, the City brought in \$1,964.00 from the program. After the hourly fees from the dive coach, a lifeguard on stand and a head guard, the expense was \$2,961.65.

There are also a few miscellaneous items purchased such as ribbons and score cards. The current dive coach will not be returning for the 2011 season and Staff has been unable to find another dive coach. Ms. Johnson stated that the City of Manchester is canceling their dive program for 2011. There is more interest in a swim team.

Mr. Geisel stated that the dive team has never been a break-even program.

Councilmember Fults expressed sadness over this recommendation. She has a high school swimmer and is seeing the repercussions at the high school level. Most teams cannot field a dive team because of the lack of training facilities at the younger level. The City has the facilities for a dive team. Subdivision pools do not have dive teams due to the cost of insurance needed for having diving boards.

Ms. Johnson stated that the Municipal League, (comprised of the following teams: Chesterfield, Manchester, Ballwin, Crestwood, Sunset Hills, Webster Groves, Kirkwood, Ellisville, Fenton and Shrewsbury), still have dive programs. Only Chesterfield, Manchester and Ellisville would not have dive teams. Ms. Johnson stated that an additional problem was getting parent volunteers to help with the program.

Ms. Johnson stated that many Chesterfield subdivision pools have swim teams and are very competitive. Ms. Johnson stated that Ballwin has over 200 swimmers on their swim team and a very large dive team. Ballwin has had a team for many more years than Chesterfield. Ms. Johnson stated that any people that wanted to dive would be directed to the other dive teams. Ms. Johnson stated that divers from last year were contacted about the prospect of not having a dive team in 2011.

Mr. Geisel stated that it would be easy to re-start a dive team if enough kids expressed an interest.

Councilmember Logan made a motion to accept Staff's recommendation that the Dive Team be eliminated from the Chesterfield Parks and Recreation Department's program offerings for 2011. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Flachsbart and passed by a voice vote of 4-0.

Agenda Item #5 – Family Aquatic Center Pool Rental Rates -

Mike Geisel stated that this year Staff was challenged to take a look at the pool rental rates. The pool rental rates are high and the intent in previous years was to recover our costs, including pro-rated utilities. Staff stated that the utilities are used anyway and staff tried to identify the amount necessary to only recover the marginal additional costs, for instance, the additional costs for lifeguards and management after hours. The rates are still high due to the fact that there are two (2) pools and you need a certain number of lifeguards per lineal foot of pool, but Staff was able to reduce the hourly rate for residents from \$265.00/hr. to \$175.00/hr. The hourly rate is for 1-300 people as the same number of lifeguards would be needed. The non-resident rate would be down from \$480.00/hr. to \$265.00/hr. The result is a substantial reduction in the hourly rental rates which hopefully will lead to a greater number of rentals this season. It would be much more affordable to rent the pool, for example, for a graduation event. Last year the pool was only rented approximately four (4) times.

While the intent of such rentals is to simply cover our direct additional costs, Staff feels strongly that increasing facility usage by making it more cost effective will result in introducing our facility to a larger segment of citizens. Adjustments have been made to the off-hours rental rates to better reflect the cost compared to the number in attendance. All other fees remain the same as those established for the 2010 season.

Ms. Johnson stated that Staff at the pool make sure the required ratio of swimming adults to children is met at all times.

Mr. Geisel recommended that the revised Pool Rental Rates be approved by the Parks and Recreation Committee for the upcoming 2011 Aquatic Season and will be published in the upcoming Parks and Recreation brochure.

Councilmember Logan made a motion to approve the recommended revised Pool Rental Rates for the upcoming 2011 Aquatic Season. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Fults and passed by a voice vote of 4-0.

Agenda Item #6 – Proposed 2011 Meeting Calendar -

Chairperson Erickson stated that the Proposed 2011 Meeting calendar is for the fourth Thursday of the month and that every other meeting (January, March, May, July and September) would be tentative.

City Administrator Mike Herring suggested also making the November 24, 2011 (Thanksgiving Day) and December 22, 2011 meeting dates tentative. Mr. Herring stated that there may be changes once the new Mayor and City Council elections are held in April, 2011 but for now the proposed dates would be used.

Chairperson Erickson made a motion to adopt the Proposed 2011 Parks and Recreation Committee of Council Scheduled Meeting Dates (Fourth Thursday). The motion was seconded by Councilmember Flachsbart and passes by a voice vote of 4-0.

Agenda Item #7 – 2011 Central Park Gala Update –

Kari Johnson gave an overview of a few of the tentative activities planned for the 2011 Central Park Gala.

Friday night, May 20, 2011 will be VIP Night, from 7:00 pm -10:00 pm
The Civic Orchestra will play, hors d'oeuvres will be served, there will be speakers, 62 Sports will have a train (which seats 20 people) and deliver the VIP's from little depots to the amphitheater. Lanterns will light the gazebo and walkways.

Saturday events will begin at 10:00 am. which is also Armed Forces Day. The American Legion will present the colors. The Gala Committee is currently looking for a band to play after the presentation

of colors. Entertainment on the platform will include: Little Gyms will perform gymnastics, High Energy will perform, and there will be dance groups, along with other performers.

At 2:30 pm on the platform, Josh Golden, a Chesterfield resident, will perform, followed by Planet Boogie (a local band) and a national act will perform at 7:00 pm.

Mr. Geisel stated that Staff had communicated with both school districts, but high school musical groups will not be performing for the Gala due to graduation and finals.

Entertainment will then move to Veterans Place Drive where there will be a display of vintage cars on the street. The idea is to show what types of events can be performed on the platform and on Veterans Place Drive. The train from 62 Sports will again be running. There will be inflatables, food vendors, Radio Disney, Chesterfield Arts will be providing activities, a scavenger hunt, jugglers, clowns, and balloon artists are some of the activities. The Chesterfield Police Department will host a Safety Fair featuring a K-9 display, swat team, fire trucks, ambulances, Safety Town, water safety, etc.

Mr. Geisel stated that the food vendors would be provided booth space and in return they would provide affordable food, similar to a mini "Taste of Chesterfield" event.

Beginning at 4:00 pm, hot air balloons will provide tethered rides overlooking the area.

Ms. Johnson stated that parking would be at the mall and shuttles would be provided. Parking would also be permitted on the top level of the parking garage at the corner of Lydia Hill.

Ms. Johnson stated that Radio Disney, Pepsi, newspapers and magazines will be promoting the Gala event.

Councilmember Geiger suggested Staff contact Stacey Morse, of Chesterfield Arts, on how they promoted their Awakening grand opening.

Mr. Geisel stated that the cover band for the Grand Opening will not be competing with entertainment that the Chamber of Commerce provides.

Councilmember Logan suggested that Staff contact the Naval Academy Women's Choir to perform.

Councilmember Fults suggested contacting Stages St. Louis kids or Munny kids to perform. Mr. Herring stated that he would have a person to contact.

Agenda Item #8 – Executive Session -

Councilmember Logan made a motion for the Parks and Recreation Committee of City Council to go into Executive Session per RSMo 610.021(2). The motion was seconded by Councilmember Flachsbart.

Mr. Herring called roll: Chairperson Erickson, aye; Councilmember Flachsbart, aye; Councilmember Logan, aye; Councilmember Fults, aye. The motion passed by a roll call vote of 4-0.

The Committee adjourned into Executive Session at 6:06 pm.

The Committee adjourned their meeting at 6:25 pm.