



DATE: September 1, 2009

TO: Michael G. Herring, City Administrator

FROM: Darren Dunkle, Director of Parks and Recreation

SUBJECT: Meeting Minutes – 8/31/09 Parks and Recreation Committee

A meeting of the Parks and Recreation Committee took place on Monday, 8/31/09. Those in attendance included Chairperson Mike Casey, Ward 3, Councilmember Matt Segal, Ward 1, and Councilmember Bruce Geiger, Ward 2. Also in attendance were Mayor John Nations, Councilmember Barry Flachsbart, Ward 1, Councilmember Lee Erickson, Ward 2, Councilmember Connie Fults, Ward 4, City Administrator Mike Herring, Assistant City Administrator for Economic Development and Community Services Libbey Malberg, Director of Planning and Public Works Mike Geisel, Director of Parks and Recreation Darren Dunkle, Assistant Director of Parks and Recreation Steve Jarvis, Superintendent of Recreation Operations Kari Johnson, City Arborist/Urban Forester Mindy Mohrman, Peggy Morgan, Michelle Keesal, Bill Dowdy of the Chesterfield Parks and Recreation Citizen Advisory Committee, and Kay Folsom, Bob Barnes, Carol Barnes, Pat Hutton, Leon Zickrick of the Chesterfield Beautification Committee, and resident Phil Folsom.

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

Agenda Item #1: Approval of Minutes - Councilmember Geiger motioned and Councilmember Segal seconded to approve the August 3, 2009 minutes. The motion was approved by a vote of 3-0.

Agenda Item #3: Proposal – Chesterfield Parkway West Medians – Chairperson Casey recognized City Administrator Mike Herring who provided some background information regarding this project. He first noted that, over a year ago, the Parks and Recreation Committee of City Council voted unanimously to recommend a proposal brought forth by the Beautification Committee and the Parks and Recreation Department, to award a \$20,000 contract to Land Design Services, Inc. (LDS) to provide architectural consulting services related to the “Preliminary Design Development” of Chesterfield Parkway West Medians. This recommendation was

subsequently approved by City Council. Mr. Herring stated that the Beautification Committee had adopted a consensus position that improvements to the Chesterfield Parkway West Medians were a “critical component of the City’s vision to create a unified, attractive and sustainable landscape” for those medians, in order to “enhance the areas most visible by citizens and visitors coming into the heart of Chesterfield”.

Mr. Herring stated, as outlined in their contract, that LDS had worked closely with both the Beautification Committee and Parks Staff to identify opportunities for proposed landscape planting, irrigation and hardscape features which would enhance approximately two miles of existing Chesterfield Parkway West medians, located between Olive and Clarkson Road. The scope of work included an analysis and inventory of the existing Parkway medians, conceptual and preliminary designs, recommended locations for proposed landscaping and other improvements, as well as the provision of detailed costs estimates for construction of all recommended improvements.

Kay Folsom, Chair of the Chesterfield Beautification Committee, stated that early in the process, the Beautification Committee and Parks Staff worked with LDS to create an “Overall Landscape Design Concept”. This concept was to create a clean and impressive landscape image within the City’s Parkway system, since the Committee has learned from past projects, (Olive/Clarkson medians) in which the medians were originally over-designed and planted, and did not coordinate with other landscaped areas. Having the “Overall Landscape Design Concept” in place, the Beautification Committee and Parks Staff worked together with the Planning and Public Works Department and St. Louis County to develop a “Preliminary Design Development Plan”. This “Preliminary Design Development Plan” encompassed the full enhancement of approximately two miles of existing Chesterfield Parkway West medians, which included the removal of all existing trees and bushes; stump removal; irrigation; turf renovation; excavation; bed preparation; top soil; trees; shrubs; grasses; turf grass; and mulch.

Mr. Herring noted that St. Louis County is currently responsible for the upkeep and maintenance of Chesterfield Parkway, including all plant materials located within its right-of-way and, of course, the center medians. With this in mind, any proposal by the City of Chesterfield to modify, alter, remove and/or replant any trees, shrubs, flowers, grass or other materials, would require the approval of St. Louis County. As a result of

his meetings with St. Louis County officials, the County has expressed its FULL SUPPORT for the City to undertake this project. In exchange, the County would require that the City of Chesterfield then be responsible for the upkeep/maintenance of those planted areas. This is, of course, is exactly the same position taken by MoDOT, regarding the center, landscaped medians installed by the City on Olive/Clarkson (Highway 340). Mr. Herring noted that Mr. Dunkle has assured him that his Department is willing and able to assume this responsibility and commented that, when this occurs, Chesterfield residents/businesses will notice a substantial and positive difference in the overall level of maintenance. All costs for the maintenance of these medians have been included in the Five-Year Forecast recently approved by City Council, for the Parks Sales Tax Fund. Mr. Herring also noted that, if this project is approved by the City, St. Louis County has agreed to, at its own expense; remove all existing vegetation currently located within the medians. The value of this “donation” has been estimated by LDS to be \$50,000.

Mr. Herring stated that after holding countless meetings and working together for over a year, the Beautification Committee and Staff unanimously and enthusiastically recommended the following:

- 1. That City Council authorize/approve the Mayor to enter into an agreement with St. Louis County, that would allow the City to make improvements and provide maintenance to approximately two miles of the existing Chesterfield Parkway West Medians, from I-64/Highway 40 to Olive Boulevard and from I-64 to Fontaine Drive;**
- 2. That City Council approve the “Preliminary Design Development Plan”;**
- 3. That City Council allocate funds from the General Fund – Fund Reserves in an amount not to exceed \$706,000 for the following:**
 - a) An agreement with Land Design Services to prepare construction and bid documents for the full development of the Chesterfield Parkway Medians, and to assist with construction observation;**
 - b) A contract covering the full development/enhancement of approximately two miles of existing Chesterfield Parkway West Medians, located between Olive and Clarkson Road as depicted in the**

“Preliminary Design Development Plan”. This shall include, but not be limited to tree and bush removal; stump/root removal; irrigation; turf renovation; excavation; bed preparation; top soil; trees; shrubs; ornamental grasses; turf grass; perennials; annuals; and mulch.

Ms. Folsom stated that the Beautification Committee is extremely excited about this project and convinced that, upon its completion, it will be a significant source of pride for the City, for years to come.

A motion was made by Councilmember Geiger, seconded by Councilmember Segal, for the Committee to recommend approval of the aforementioned recommendation made by the Beautification Committee and Staff. There followed a substantial amount of discussion, during which Mayor Nations and other members of City Council in attendance stated their support for this project. **The motion was approved unanimously, by a vote of 3-0.**

Agenda Item #2: Proposition “P” Update – Director of Planning and Public Works, Mike Geisel provided a powerpoint presentation which described the progress and current state of “Phase Two” Parks improvements. Mr. Geisel first reminded the Committee that the City has initiated and completed all of the improvements committed to, prior to the passage of Proposition P, in 2004. Subsequently, in September of 2008, Council approved the first issuance of additional bonds, to begin the planning and construction of approximately \$16.5 million in additional improvements, all to be financed with proceeds from the original ½ cent sales tax, passed in November, 2004.

Mr. Geisel explained the progress at Central Park which included construction of the lake and dam, Veteran’s Place Drive, installation of utilities and retaining walls. He further discussed the current planning for the riparian trail, lake fountain, stream walks, linear park, gazebo bridge structure, pedestrian bridges, perimeter lake trail, Amphitheater and concessions. Councilmember Erickson inquired about potential users of the facility and how their needs had been included in the design. Mr. Geisel explained the multiple meetings and communications that Mr. Dunkle and the consulting team has had with various potential users of the amphitheater, both prior to approval of the Phase Two programming and as the design of the amphitheater has progressed.

Mr. Geisel stated that the riparian trail construction has been complicated by increasingly rigid Corps of Engineer's requirements as well as the necessary culvert construction adjacent to the Stonehill Subdivision. The culvert is essential to both the future connection of Lydia Hill as well as to allow the riparian trail to cross the creek channel. Mr. Geisel further stated that Mr. Dunkle would be filing a grant application with the Municipal Parks Grant Commission in the amount of \$400,000 to assist in the funding of the trail.

Mr. Geisel then discussed improvements completed at the Chesterfield Valley Athletic Complex, including road widening and re-surfacing improvements to North Outer 40, a new entrance to the main parking lot, access improvements at Spirit Boulevard, new east parking lot, domestic water service, irrigation and field light pole bases and utilities for the concession building at the "F" athletic fields. Mr. Geisel further explained that the loop road must still be constructed, field lighting, concessions, modifications to concession building D/E and potential paving of the existing gravel parking areas if funding permits are all planned. Councilman Geiger inquired as to the cost to pave the gravel parking lot. Mr. Geisel responded that the paving portion of work is estimated to be approximately \$600,000. Councilmember Fults asked why the segment of the loop access road at the west end of the facility was not paved. Mr. Geisel explained that the entire loop road is planned to be paved in conjunction with Phase Two improvements, but that it required approvals from both the Levee District and the Corps of Engineers. Further, paving at the toe of the levee required installation of a comprehensive under-drain system to ensure levee integrity.

A general discussion followed, with members of the Committee complimenting and thanking Mr. Geisel for his presentation.

Agenda Item #4: Proposal – Eberwein Property Discussion – Councilmember Geiger stated that, with the acquisition of this property, he felt it would now be appropriate to begin planning for how this property could best be used. A considerable amount of discussion by Mayor Nations and various members of Council took place in regards to planning and designing, what to do with the structures, possible dog park, and the need for citizen input.

A motion was then made by Councilmember Geiger, and seconded by Councilmember Segal, for the appropriation of \$10,000 out of the General Fund – Fund Reserves for the purpose of Staff beginning an comprehensive analysis of the Eberwein property, that would include, but not be limited to, site evaluation, evaluation of the condition of structures, and preliminary master planning for the use of this property. The motion also included the involvement of the Parks and Recreation Citizen Advisory Committee and citizen input from those living adjacent to this park, as part of the master planning process. The motion was approved unanimously, by a vote of 3-0.

Agenda Item #5: Next Meeting? – Chairperson Casey stated that the next regular meeting of the Committee is scheduled to take place on Thursday, October 1, 2009, at 5:30 p.m. at City Hall.

Agenda Item #6: Adjournment – The meeting was adjourned at 6:57 p.m.