



DATE: October 2, 2007

TO: Michael G. Herring, City Administrator

FROM: Darren Dunkle, Acting-Director of Parks and Recreation

SUBJECT: Meeting Minutes – 9/28/07 Public Works/Parks Committee

A meeting of the Public Works/Parks Committee took place on Friday, 9/28/07. Those in attendance included Chairperson Mike Casey, Ward 3, Councilmember Barry Flachsbart, Ward 1, Councilmember Lee Erickson, Ward 2, Councilmember Bob Nation, Ward 4, Mayor John Nations, City Administrator Mike Herring, Acting-Director of Parks and Recreation Darren Dunkle, Stacey Morse, Executive Director – Chesterfield Arts, Bud Hirsch, Chairperson – Chesterfield Arts, representatives from Via Partnership (see below), Libbey Malberg, Assistant City Administrator for Community Services/Economic Development and Sarah Cantlon, Intern. Also in attendance were Councilmember Bruce Geiger and one visitor.

The meeting was called to order at 7:30am.

Agenda Item #I: Approval of Minutes - Councilmember Flachsbart motioned and Councilmember Erickson seconded to approve the April 30, 2007 minutes. The motion was approved by a vote of 4-0.

Agenda Item #II: Arts Master Plan – Chairperson Casey introduced Stacey Morse, Executive Director of Chesterfield Arts, as well as Emily Blumenfeld and Meredith McKinley, with Via Partnership. Mr. Herring noted that, about 1 year ago, the Public Works/Parks Committee had directed Ms. Morse and Mr. Herring to prepare a scope of work and a formal recommendation, regarding the preparation of an “Arts Master Plan”. After completion of an “RFP”, Ms. Morse solicited proposals from qualified teams of consultants. She then enlisted the help of Mayor Nations, Chairperson Casey, Councilmember Bruce Geiger, Mr. Herring, Ms. Malberg and Ms. Cantlon, to interview those consulting teams deemed most qualified for this type of work. The result of those interviews was a recommendation, to the Public Works/Parks Committee, that Via Partnership be selected to complete this project, at a total cost of \$35,000.

Ms. Blumenfeld and Ms. McKinley both then summarized their experiences, in developing “Arts Master Plans”, and discussed the “scope of work” that they proposed for this project (see attached). They also discussed the value, in general, of a public art program, in Chesterfield. There followed much discussion. Mayor Nations endorsed the selection of Via Partnership, as did Councilmember Geiger, Mr. Hirsch and Mr. Herring. Ms. Morse clarified that Chesterfield Arts would have on-going involvement with this project and would interact routinely and directly with the consultants. Councilmember Erickson commended Ms. Morse and Mr. Herring for their work and also endorsed the project.

A motion was then made by Councilmember Erickson, seconded by Councilmember Flachsbart, to recommend to City Council a contract with Via Partnership, for the preparation of an “Arts Master Plan” and to authorize use of \$35,000, from General Fund Fund Reserves, to fund this project. The motion was approved by a vote of 4-0.

Agenda Item #III: Maintenance of Chesterfield Parkway Medians – Mr.

Geiger stated that he has received several complaints, from members of the Chesterfield Beautification Committee and others, regarding the lack of maintenance for the medians, located in the southwest and northwest quadrants of the Chesterfield Parkway. He commented that these medians were highly-visible and reflected poorly on the City, in their current condition. Mr. Geiger stated that he would like to have these medians maintained and landscaped to the level of the medians, located in the southeast quadrant of the Parkway, which are currently maintained by the City. Mr. Herring commented that the Chesterfield Parkway medians, located in both the southwest and northwest quadrants, are maintained by St. Louis County. **A motion was then made by Councilmember Flachsbart, seconded by Councilmember Erickson, to direct Staff to develop a proposal for improving this situation, involving these medians and forward same back to this Committee, for discussion. The motion included the expectation that the Beautification Committee would also be involved, with Staff, in the development of any new proposals. The motion was approved by a vote of 4-0. Councilmember Nation commented that, since the Chesterfield Parkway is**

a County road, the County should participate, if the “plan” included additional costs. Mr. Herring noted that he would start by contacting St. Louis County, to share the Committee’s expectation for a higher level of maintenance, with the hope that that would solve this problem.

Agenda Item #IVA: Dog Park – Discussion took place regarding the possible development of a “dog park”. Both Councilmember Nation and Chairperson Casey acknowledged a large volume of recent e-mail, regarding this subject. Mr. Herring stated that Staff has explored all possibilities, and that, unfortunately, land is NOT currently available in any of the City’s parks, with the exception of “Railroad Park”. That location, however, is not feasible, due to the lack of access and being located in a floodway/floodplain. Mr. Herring noted that he and Mr. Dunkle had visited other City-owned “dog parks” and felt comfortable that a “dog park” could be constructed, if land were available, for \$75,000. Creve Coeur recently built a “dog park”, at Conway Road and I-270, for approximately \$63,000. **A motion was then made by Councilmember Flachsbart, seconded by Councilmember Nation, recommending to City Council that, if/when the City acquires additional land for parks, that consideration be given, at that time, for constructing a “dog park”, on that newly-acquired land. The motion was approved by a vote of 4-0. Chairperson Casey then made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Nation, to direct Mr. Herring to formally request that a “dog park” be established by St. Louis County, in Faust Park. The motion was approved by a vote of 4-0. Finally, Chairperson Casey asked that Staff prepare, for the next meeting of this Committee, a drawing of the “Railroad Park”, clearly depicting its location relative to Edison Road and the Monarch-Chesterfield Levee.**

Agenda Item #IVB: Possible Multi-Purpose Trail – Discussion took place regarding the feasibility of developing a trail, as proposed by Sen. Loudon/Mike Reid, from Wilson Road to Baxter Road. Mr. Dunkle stated that this trail was not identified in the list of projects contained within Tier 1, 2 or 3, which Staff developed, with the passage of Proposition “P”. Additionally, due to the topography of the site, having to get easements, etc., such a project would likely be

very costly. Mr. Herring confirmed that no funds existed to cover the cost of this project and, without engineering and detailed cost estimates, as well as the acquisition of all easements; the City could not seek grant funds. **Councilmember Flachsbart made a motion to direct Staff to develop a rough cost estimate for engineering design and to get an estimate of what it would cost to acquire easements and to construct this project. This motion was not seconded. Councilmember Erickson stated that he opposed this proposal, noting that other projects had been identified by Staff and the Parks, Recreation and Arts Citizens Advisory Committee (PRACAC), which had a higher priority and those should be the first ones funded. Councilmember Erickson then made a motion and Mr. Casey seconded the motion to have the PRACAC re-evaluate priorities for the next phase of parks development (Tier 2) and for the PRACAC to consider this project, in that context. He asked that the PRACAC recommendations be added to a future meeting AGENDA of this Committee. The motion was approved by a vote of 4-0.**

Agenda Item # V: Other – Discussion took place regarding the day of the week and time that would work best for all members of the Committee. Following some discussion, it was agreed that either 5:45pm on a Thursday or 7:30am on a Friday would work for everyone.

Agenda Item#VI: Adjourn – The meeting was adjourned at 9am. A future meeting date/time was not selected.