

DATE: November 21, 2003
TO: Michael G. Herring, CA
FROM: Brian McGownd, DDPW\ACE



SUBJECT: Meeting Minutes, PW\Parks 11/19/03

A meeting of the Public Works/Parks Committee began at 5:45 p.m. on Wednesday, November 19, 2003. Councilmembers in attendance were Chairperson Connie Fults (Ward 4), Barry Flachsbart (Ward 1), Bruce Geiger (Ward 2), and Mike Casey (Ward 3). Also in attendance were, Councilmember Durrell (Ward 1), Mike Geisel – Director of Public Works/City Engineer, Brian McGownd - Deputy Director of Public Works\Assistant City Engineer, Bonnie Hubert – Superintendent of Engineering Operations and Darren Dunkle - Superintendent of Parks, Recreation and Arts. Several other people were in attendance. A copy of the attendance list is attached to these minutes.

The meeting was called to order at 5:45 p.m.

*** To be discussed at the 12/1/03 meeting of City Council.**

Agenda Item #1: Councilmember Casey motioned to accept the meeting minutes of the PW\Parks Committee from September 11, 2003, as submitted. Councilmember Flachsbart seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously, 4 – 0.

*** Agenda Item #2a: Mr. Dunkle summarized Staff’s recommendation to offer an “Early Bird Special” for the purchase of season passes to the Family Aquatic Park. He said this would provide for a 10% discount if the passes were purchased between January 2nd and March 31st. He said staff felt this would stimulate the number of passes purchased and reduce the rush immediately prior to pool opening. In response to a question from the Committee, Mr. Dunkle stated that if the Committee agreed to offer this special, staff would use a mailing and the local print media to get this information out to the residents. Chairperson Fults suggested that this information be given to the local schools to be passed out to the students. **Councilmember Casey made a motion to recommend acceptance of Staff’s recommendation regarding offering an “Early Bird Special” for the purchase of season passes to the Aquatic Park, as described in Mr. Dunkle’s memorandum dated November 10, 2003, and to use every reasonable means to disseminate this information to the residents and to forward this issue to City Council for further consideration. Councilmember Geiger seconded the motion, which passed unanimously, 4 – 0.** Mr. Dunkle also summarized Staff’s recommendation regarding increasing the rental rates for the Family Aquatic Park. He said the proposed rates were being increased less than \$30, and would still be competitive with surrounding aquatic facilities. He said this increase would not affect the nights that the pool are used for City sponsored events such as the Drug Abuse Task Force. **Councilmember Casey made a motion to recommend acceptance of Staff’s recommendation regarding the rental rates for the Family Aquatic Park, and to forward this issue to City Council for further consideration. Councilmember Flachsbart seconded the motion, which passed unanimously, 4 – 0.****

*** Agenda Item #2b: Mr. Dunkle gave a brief summary of Staff’s recommendation regarding adjusting the field rental rates and modifying the current rules and regulations at the CVAC. As directed by City Council, Staff surveys competing facilities annually and provides recommendations for rental rates. After a brief discussion, **Councilmember Casey made a motion to recommend acceptance of****

Staff's recommendation regarding adjusting the field rental rates and modifying the current rules and regulations at the CVAC, as outlined in Mr. Dunkle's memorandum dated November 10, 2003, and to forward this issue to City Council for further consideration. Councilmember Geiger seconded the motion, which passed unanimously, 4 – 0.

* **Agenda Item #2c:** Mr. Dunkle stated that as directed by City Council, the PRACAC developed recommendations relative to the preferred funding recommendation for parks. He said the PRACAC had spoken with Ms. Sondra Denk of A.G. Edwards regarding funding options. Mr. Randy Logan of the PRACAC briefly summarized the conclusions that the PRACAC developed with Ms. Denk's input, and as was provided to the Committee in Mr. Dunkle's memorandum to Mike Geisel dated November 12, 2003. Councilmember Flachsbart stated that any potential ballot issue should clearly state what will be done with the new funding source. Discussion ensued regarding the key events timeline that was developed for the Parks Master Plan, other funding mechanisms, local media's reaction to a proposal for a new sales tax, and how much of the funds generated by a new funding mechanism should be earmarked for maintenance and how much for capital improvements and land acquisition. Councilmember Casey thanked the PRACAC for their effort and stated that they had done a good job. **Councilmember Flachsbart motioned to forward this issue to City Council, as a recommendation from the PRACAC. Councilmember Casey seconded the motion, which passed unanimously, 4-0.**

* **Agenda Item #3:** Mr. Geisel summarized his memo regarding construction blasting notification. As directed by the Committee, Staff had prepared a notice that could be sent to area residents prior to any blasting activity. He said that once this policy was adopted by the City, it would be distributed to the HBA, as well as, to all of the locally licensed blasters. Councilmember Geiger asked if Mr. Geisel could revise the notification letter to better explain the vibration standard of 2 inches / second. Mr. Geisel said that he would make this requested revision. **Councilmember Geiger motioned to recommend approval of the policy regarding construction blasting notification, with the requested revision to the proposed letter, and to forward to City Council for further consideration. Councilmember Casey seconded the motion, which passed unanimously, 4-0.**

* **Agenda Item #4:** Mr. Geisel updated the Committee on the multiple actions, legislation, and other efforts related to Grading, Erosion, and Siltation Control within the City. He further explained the need to amend the grading ordinance to include specific requirements regarding the type of surety required in conjunction with the issuance of a grading permit. Councilmember Geiger stated that we have made major strides in addressing this issue and believed that the ability to issue Stop Work Orders was a plus. Mr. Geisel pointed out that with three inspectors on staff, and with the large number of developments under construction, site inspections were limited and cautioned the Committee to be realistic in its expectations of the Department's ability to eliminate this problem. The point of all of our initiatives has been to reduce the probability and magnitude of these problems within developments. It would not be reasonable to expect that these problems would be completely eliminated. **Councilmember Flachsbart motioned to recommend approval of the proposed amendment to the grading ordinance regarding surety requirements, and to forward to City Council for further consideration. Councilmember Casey seconded the motion, which passed unanimously, 4-0.**

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* **Agenda Item #5:** Mr. Geisel summarized the need for the ‘Memorandum of Understanding’ with St. Louis County for the proposed relocation of Wild Horse Creek Road between Baxter Road and Chesterfield Airport Road. He stated that once the project was completed, the City would assume responsibility for that portion of existing Chesterfield Airport Road from Baxter Road to its connection with the newly relocated Wild Horse Creek Road. After a brief discussion, **Councilmember Casey motioned to recommend approval of the MOU between the City and St. Louis County regarding the Wild Horse Creek Road relocation, and to forward to City Council for further consideration. Councilmember Flachsbart seconded the motion, which passed unanimously, 4-0.**

* **Agenda Item #6:** Councilmember Casey asked why this issue came to this Committee and not the Public Health and Safety Committee. Mr. Geisel responded by saying that this issue was a direct result of the recent reconstruction of this intersection. He also mentioned that this issue needed to be dealt with in a timely manner, and that it was his understanding that the PH&S Committee was not scheduled to meet in the near future. Councilmember Flachsbart asked if the stop sign to be placed on Old Baxter, at its realigned configuration with Highcroft, was warranted. Mr. Geisel stated that he could not say whether or not warrants are met because an engineering study had not been conducted. However, due to the existing stop sign at the westbound leg of this intersection, the resultant condition was a three-legged intersection with only one leg signed, and it was one of the through legs. He indicated, that in his opinion, this was an unsafe condition and per the authority granted to him by the City Code, stop signs had been installed on a temporary basis until such time as the ordinance authorizing the signs could be approved by City Council. Councilmember Geiger stated that it was his opinion that the signs were necessary at the proposed location. After much discussion on this issue, **Councilmember Flachsbart motioned that if Staff determines that a stop sign on the Old Baxter leg of the new “T” intersection is warranted, then a recommendation of approval for a three way stop intersection should be forwarded to City Council for further consideration, however, if Staff determines that the stop sign is not warranted, then the signs shall remain up on a temporary basis, and this issue should be forwarded to the PH&S Committee for their consideration. Councilmember Casey seconded the motion, which failed 1-3, with Chairperson Fults, Councilmember Casey and Councilmember Geiger voting in opposition. Councilmember Geiger motioned to recommend approval of the Ordinance authorizing a three way stop at Old Baxter and Highcroft, and to forward to City Council for further consideration. Councilmember Casey seconded the motion, which passed 3-1, with Councilmember Flachsbart voting in opposition.** Councilmember Flachsbart expressed concern that the Committee’s action on this issue would open the door for unwarranted stop signs to be installed in other locations throughout the City.

Agenda Item #7: Councilmember Flachsbart advised the Committee about a request from a resident in the Forest Ridge Subdivision requesting the addition of sidewalks along Forest Crest Drive. He said that although the City had no funds available for constructing new sidewalks, he thought it would be appropriate for the City to develop an inventory of the location of sidewalks within the City, and to develop a list of those areas that need sidewalks, and to prioritize the list so that when funds become available, a priority list would be available for consideration. After some discussion, **Councilmember Flachsbart motioned to direct Staff, over time, to develop a list of locations where sidewalks are needed, prioritize the list, and to bring the list back to Committee for review. Councilmember**

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Geiger seconded the motion, which passed unanimously, 4-0.

Agenda Item #8: Chairperson Fults told the Committee that she had received complaints regarding the sidewalk layout at the CVAC, and how people were walking in front of the bleachers on Field A in order to get to the fields located in the northwest corner of the complex, thus obstructing the view of the people sitting in the bleachers. Mr. Dunkle said that he was aware of this situation, and that there was a sidewalk available to get people to the back fields, however, as Chairperson Fults mention, instead of using the sidewalk, people have developed a shortcut by walking in front of the bleachers on Field A. He said that there were no current plans or funding to address this issue. Chairperson Fults said that she understood this, but just wanted to bring this issue to Staff's attention.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:38 p.m.

The next meeting of the PW/Parks Committee will be scheduled at a later date.

cc: Mayor John Nations
Department Heads/Executive Staff