



Parks & Rec Committee Meeting Minutes August 13, 2016

Minutes taken by Kimberly Cameron

Attendees: Kimberly Cameron Darcy Capstick Tricia Whelan Mike Whelan
Bill Dowdy Alan Politte Don Collins Mary Monachella
John Nations Eileen Sellers Laura Schellenberg
John Gruender

Meeting lead by Michelle Keesal
Staff liaison: Tom McCarthy

Visitors:

David Kaplan
Ganesh Krishnamurthy
Alan Keathley
Alex Kaplan
Kelly Unnerstahl

Meeting began at 8:15am

NOTE: Abbreviation below
~ VHP (Veterans Honor Park)
~ RRP (Railroad Park)

1. Minutes

- Approved based on Darcy's changes submitted via email prior to the meeting
- Motion made by Tricia Whelan, Second by Eileen Sellers

2. Council Liaison to PR & A, Tom DeCampi

3. Volunteer sign-up

- Sheet going around, managed by Tricia Whelan
- Several opportunities to get involved.
- Tom mentioned some of the time slots need to be finalized

4. RRP Overview (Tom) - This land was donated by Micelli several years ago

- Michelle said we will go over a Master Plan for the park to determine if this is a task we want to tackle
Tom offered an overview
- 34 acres, Levee trail at the front with a creek along the north side with a low water bridge to enter (Bridge could be \$300-500K)
- Accessibility is the biggest issue
- Parking is 1/4 mile down the road, parking is a challenge
- Water on north and south end of park, between creek and levee
- Installing a major structure will be a large undertaking with Core, etc.
- Bike park was a suggestion made at June meeting with photo of a similar park in Colorado
- All inclusive skateboard park
- Disc Golf, 9 holes
- Bridges and walkways, wetland areas
- Environmental toilet, similar to River's Edge
- No utilities



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Land Development

- Acquisition and Development

Once a property has been acquired, next step is reviewing the Comprehensive Master Plan for Chesterfield

- Needs assessment, citizen interest, land/water/topography
- Utilities, restrictions, time frame, money
- Trails, nature space, sports, neighborhood park, courts, passive vs. active
- Building of the park, maintenance & ongoing support

To develop a parcel, grants will be needed. VHP grant was significant. Next grant opportunity will be a 2018 submission. Grant Max is \$525K.

There are 17 acres between west end of park and parking that are not owned by the city. Tom did not recall who owned that land at the moment. It is property worth evaluating for acquisition as it is not buildable, but could be helpful for the purpose of developing RRP. South end of RRP near the tracks is prone to flooding

Eileen - Do we have some other property that may make more sense? NOT in a pocket, flooded, lack of immediate parking, etc.

Tom ~ There are 2 parks

- Wilson Park, 10 acres, small, flat area (ideal for nature preserve)
- Conway Cemetery, 2 acres, limited parking, no utilities

Michelle - How does our committee participate in this process of developing RRP?

Tom - He will talk with City Administrator about the park idea, conceptual, staff will prepare a budget and number. Then, it will move forward.

Getting the grant requires approval from the city, so we need to make sure city is supporting.

Development in phases...example:

- 1) Access & Elements (walking/bike trails) and a 9 hole disc golf
- 2) Next phase - skate park and pavilion with restrooms

Grant submissions for 2018 are submitted by 8/2017

- This would start in 18 months

John N - When evaluating park development, you review the needs of the community first. What need is being met?

Alan P - He added to this conversation that there is a larger need for pavilions and tables

Tom - The challenge of lack of utilities makes this NOT ideal for pavilions and picnics, in addition to parking

Kimberly C - EMS access. Tom said they are well equipped to pretty much get in anywhere, not an issue

Charrette - Public engagement process - Boards, presentation, inform/engage the community, gather their input

- They define what is needed and wanted by the citizens of Chesterfield

With a new park also comes maintenance (annually and long term) and increase personnel. That cost is going to be taken into consideration during the planning phase.



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5. Staff reports

- Construction
- VHP - concrete ring has been poured for fountain (on schedule & within budget)
- Program Updates
- Family Fun Day 8/6 (about 300 people)
- New art exhibit is starting soon
- Back to school movie night
- Trike ride
- K-9 splash
- Taste of STL 9/16-9/18
- Pedal 9/24-9/25
- Blue Oyster Cult 9/10 with a classic car show (sponsored by K-SHE 95)
- Hairball 9/30
- Taste of Trucktober combined with Backstopalooza in the evening 10/1
- Includes an Eagles tribute band
- Eberwein ~ Dog costume party 10/14
- Turkey Trot on Thanksgiving

6. Old Business

David - Park at Green Trails Elementary

- weekend maintenance only (rest is handled by Parkway Schools)
- Michelle - this has moved forward to Council for review and input to determine the future
- Tom - Council has gone through a big finance review of the city, new budget coming in, new City Administrator....items of big spending are on hold

Darcy - Natl. Wildlife Habitat (in its 12th year), filed their recent report

- National Wildlife Federation; Chesterfield's Certified Community Wildlife Habitat is now in its 12th year of continual NWF Certification based on the filing of a fiscal reporting of metrics achieved.
- 10 states have joined with the National Wildlife Federation, of which MO is one, to cooperate in helping conserve wildlife and biodiversity for the future. Future NWF Certified Habitat Areas will receive this 'co-branded' signage from the NWF and the CFM.
- Tom, Libbey, and Citizens Committee for the Environment (CCE) members are studying recycling in our parks system. They are trying to help improve and maximize recycling opportunities in our parks with standardization, simplification and visual definitions for a potential grant opportunity early next year.
- 10/22 - Invasive Bush Honeysuckle Eradication Event at Chesterfield's NWF Anchor Project sites in Faust Park.
- 11/5 - 20th Annual Chesterfield/MO/America Recycles Event at Central Park/Pool drive-thru.

7. New Business

Out & About ~ new article about Parks and Art coming

Eileen - Are we doing enough to help?

Tom – As the department, staff, community and parks have grown and evolved, we now have a Master Plan. This will be an area that the committee can help along with creating task forces and sub-committees as we move forward.

September meeting date ~ 9/10

Adjourned 9:20am