

# Park Advisory Commission

## Meeting Minutes

*Special Meeting*

*February 10, 2022*

*Zoom/City Hall, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor Conference Room*

**Members Present:** Larry Thomas

**Members Present by Zoom:** Ken Kwantes, Andrew Meggitt, Mike Fleishhauer, Sue Arnold, and Susan Wrasmann

**Absent:** None

**Others Present:** Floyd Jernigan and Julie Rodgers

**Others Present by Zoom:** Stan Busch

### 1. Call to Order

- Mr. Kwantes called the meeting to order at 5:02 p.m. Purpose of this meeting is to update details of the Downtown Plaza Fountain and to look at submitted bid proposals for a new playground feature in Buehler Park. The group will discuss and make a selection from submitted bids.

### 2. Approval of Minutes

- Sue Arnold made a motion to approve the Jan. 26, 2022, minutes. Andrew Meggitt seconded approval and the motion passed with no opposition.

### 3. Downtown Plaza Update

- The RDBA Downtown Plaza Fountain Park project was approved at City Council on Monday night. City Council was confident with the information they had received, voting favorably for the project with a 10-1 approval.  
There were no day-to-day operation details given in the packet provided to Council members. CDC says a fountain has to be run as a splash pad unless there is a public barrier/signage. RDBA's presentation did not include a barrier or signage. The fountain will need chemicals, a pump, a filtration system, a disinfection system, and an electronic system to perform multiple daily chemical readings with the ability to regulate chemical levels, as well as a utility building to house these systems, along with electric. The plans submitted to Council had none of these. Parks staff researched other municipalities about their experience with fountains. Kansas City, St. Joe, Maryville and Salem responded. We also collected NRPA posts regarding maintenance of fountains. Problems cited were vandalism with soaping and being used as bathing and bathroom facilities. Several cities had discontinued their fountains due to the above and much greater than expected water usage. All admitted they had underestimated expected water usage due to evaporation and unintended "bather loads." One had to hire a

full-time maintenance staffer. Mr. Jernigan said the key point would be in how Public Works designs this. Should there be a vandalism incident with the water, a system to dump the contaminated water would reduce the need for immediate overnight and weekend maintenance, would save on chemical costs, and would reduce staff costs in overtime hours. This would come at the cost of more water, although it may still be more cost effective to take that approach.

Larry Thomas pointed out that the agenda says RDBA will need to raise \$125,000. The MOU states the term of agreement is only for three years, so RDBA will have to raise the money or it will not happen.

As of this meeting, RDBA was fundraising for the project, which is planned for 2023.

#### **4. Buehler Park Playground**

Mr. Jernigan talked to the group about the new proposed playground structure for Buehler Park. We sent specs in the packets, but not all bid applicants met specs. Hutchinson Miracle and Athco were the only two who met specs for the proposal. Nonetheless, staff noted there are some good features on some of the others that were submitted. Mr. Jernigan presented the top playground structures based on staff's recommendations to the group on easels. The group talked about each playground structure.

Mr. Jernigan reported that there are good features on the Hutchinson playground, but staff would like to swap two of the features from Option C for two from Option A, which would work better for the park's theme. Mr. Jernigan will contact Hutchinson. If they do not have suitable features to replace the ones we do not like, we would contact one of the other companies to see if we can purchase a featured piece from their bid.

Mr. Kwantes asked what the budget was for the playground. Mr. Jernigan said it was \$115,000, but that doesn't include the safety surface, which would add approximately \$10,000. A portion of the money will come from Prop P and some from the Parkland Reserve, from an ordinance that was rewritten three years ago stating we have to use the money for a regional, signature, or other main park within a specified time. All of the playground features were within budget.

#### **5. Adjournment**

Andrew Meggitt made a motion to adjourn. Susan Wrasmann seconded. All were in favor, with no opposition. The meeting adjourned at 5:29 p.m. Next regular Park Board Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, March 23, at 5 p.m.