

Park Advisory Commission

Meeting Minutes

January 26, 2022

Zoom/City Hall, 3rd Floor Conference Room

Members Present: None

Members Present by Zoom: Ken Kwantes, Larry Thomas, Andrew Meggitt, Mike Fleishhauer, and Susan Wrasmann

Absent: Sue Arnold

Others Present: Floyd Jernigan, Stan Busch, and Julie Rodgers

1. Call to Order

- After technical difficulties with Zoom communications, Mr. Kwantes called the meeting to order at 5:17 p.m. The group conducted an abbreviated meeting partially through Zoom, but were primarily connected through Mr. Jernigan's cell phone.

2. Approval of Minutes

- Larry Thomas made a motion to approve the Nov. 17, 2021, minutes and financials. Mike Fleishhauer seconded approval and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

3. Narrative

- Mr. Jernigan talked to the group about the new proposed playground structure for Buehler Park. According to the Park's Master Plan, Buehler Park was the site of the next playground project. Bid opening is scheduled for Feb. 9.
- The Downtown Plaza "Fountain" Park is still being discussed. City Council heard an hour long presentation of the project begun by RDBA. The proposed location is at 6th & Pine Streets. It is expected to utilize Public Works (construction) and Parks (maintenance and paying for lighting, water, electric, chemicals, and systems for water filtration, quality and disinfection). Operational details are still yet to be determined.
Mr. Jernigan reported to the group about his post on the NRPA site and reaching out to other Missouri cities, asking about fountains. There were a number of postings which listed problems other cities have encountered with public fountains. For fountains in public areas, they must be maintained with much of the same requirements for chemicals, equipment, and regular testing as public bodies of water unless there is signage and a barrier. With those in place, the CDC doesn't require the same standards, which would then significantly lessen labor and maintenance costs. Mike Fleishhauer had questions about a possible barrier. Several cities that responded had low fencing that did help lessen vandalism and public bathing. Those same cities shared their experience with misuse of the structures, as well as maintenance.

Mr. Jernigan said more discussions were expected with city administration and department directors. Mike Fleishhauer asked that the Park Board's reservations with the proposed structure be expressed.

- Tinkergarden has approached us to come back to our parks to run their private youth programming. They have been using Audubon Nature Center. They are considering holding classes on Saturdays. As was the case with the last proposal, Tinkergarden organizers were informed they needed to make a presentation to the Park Advisory Commission and that a new memorandum of understanding would need to be approved.

4. Commission comments

The group will meet again for a special meeting to discuss further details on the proposed downtown fountain and to discuss the bid opening for the new Buehler Park play structure. The group will meet on Thursday, Feb. 10, at 5 p.m.

For Park Board Meetings, Mr. Jernigan said those who want to come in person, should do so.

Those who want to participate through Zoom for the meeting are welcome to do that.

The next regular Park Board Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, March 23, at 5 p.m.

5. Adjournment

- Mr. Thomas made a motion to adjourn. Susan Wrasmann seconded. The meeting adjourned at 5:35 p.m.