

Parks Advisory Commission Meeting Minutes

*May 8, 2019 • 5:30 p.m.
3rd Floor Conference Room – City Hall*

Members Present: Larry Thomas, Ken Kwantes, Susan Wrasmann, Sue Arnold & Andrew Meggitt.

Others Present: Kristy Rich, Floyd Jernigan, Randy Stoll, Laura Stoll, Sandy King, Steve Hargis, Stan Busch, Gina Root, Chad Davis (RMU) and John Butz

1. Call to Order

- Larry Thomas called the meeting to order at 5:36 p.m.

2. Approval of Minutes

- *A motion was made by Ken Kwantes to approve the minutes of the Jan. 23, 2019 meeting. Susan Wrasmann seconded and the motion carried unanimously.*

3. New Business

- **Pickleball**

Randy and Laura Stoll did a presentation on Pickleball and its national growth. Laura talked about the local growth. They play 3 days a week at the Centre and will soon will go one night a week. They have 18-20 people playing. Central Ozark Pickleball Club. There are 38 members (1 in CO, 1 St. James; some of them live outside of city limits) in the Club. They are asking for an outdoor court since they feel they are putting a strain on the courts at the Centre. They also want to do leagues and tournaments.

- Options – Construction of new courts. They feel they would be beneficial if they were at the southside of the tennis courts at Ber Juan.
- Revitalize underutilized tennis/basketball court at Green Acres. Can get 3 pickleball courts on the current site going north/south.

Mr. Kwantes asked what the status of the Club was for fundraising and paying fees. Mrs. Stoll said they charged a fee for the clinic they had at the Centre. They covered their expenses and gave the rest to the Centre. They would also run tournaments to help raise money.

Mr. Jernigan said they are going to “drop in” and use the tennis courts at Ber Juan a few days a week in the morning. Staff did put in standards and a net in at Green Acres for outdoor use, but the surface needs to be power washed and the cracks fixed. It would cost roughly \$20,000 to put a concrete surface over the existing concrete. There is a fence already at Green Acres. A brand new court would cost a lot more. In the short term the easiest thing would be to power wash and seal it so to give us an idea

of the use and then we could evaluate for the budget. There is a special surface (Pickle Pave) that most outdoor courts use. It's like paint and you paint it on.

- **Tinkergarten**

Gina Root gave a presentation on Tinkergarten. Kid-led, research-based classes. It is a for-profit organization. She is asking for a special permit to do her classes at Green Acres Park. She is currently doing classes at Lions Club but they won't let her advertise that she is doing classes there. Parks developed an MOU with Tinkergarten that would give 20% to the City. Mr. Butz said city council wouldn't need to approve it if this is a pilot program with the Parks & Recreation.

Ms. Rich is working with Gina to develop an outdoor program and Gina would teach it.

A motion was made by Sue Arnold to approve Tinkergarten doing a Pilot program at Green Acres Park. Andrew Meggitt seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

4. Capital year to date with Prop P

Floyd reviewed the budgeted projects for 2018-19 using Prop P funds.

- Board members asked if another batting cage could be put in.

5. Old Business

- **Renick property proposal**

Steve Hargis said the Renicks are planning on giving a 3½-acre tract for the Parkland requirements for the upcoming subdivision of their property. Mossman Lane could be used for the cut through for the trail to get to the Cemetery.

A motion was made by Ken Kwantes to accept the proposal to accept land instead of cash in lieu of parkland for the Renick property. Susan Wrasmann seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

- **Tree City USA**

- Mr. Jernigan reviewed the documentation. In terms of tree maintenance and planting, he said each city entity – Parks, Public Works, and RMU – would continue their operations in this area. The new ordinance encourages tree education by city employees. A possible TRIM grant will help pay for certifications, a tree inventory, equipment, etc. To be a Tree City USA, it will require at least an investment of \$2 per capita by the city for tree care. This would total roughly \$40,000 a year. It has to be work done on City trees (park and street trees, not private property).

- Mr. Kwantes asked who the Community Forest Manager was going to be. Mr. Jernigan said a lot of places don't have one, it is either the Parks Director or the Public Works Director. He added at least 2 council members want an expert in this position and "not some Parks guy." Mr. Kwantes added the Forest Manager is going to be a key person.
- Mr. Thomas asked what the advantages were to being a Tree City USA. Mr. Butz said there are 102 cities in Missouri who are Tree City USA and Council wants to be a part of that. He said we don't always take good care of our trees, we just go in and get the job done. Mr. Butz said the Community Forest Manager is going to have to be someone already with the city who will have to get training. If we keep this under the Parks Advisory Commission, the council would want to add another person to the board that is someone with expertise. He added the council is looking at the Parks Commission to recommend either to keep it under the Parks Board or to create a Tree board. Staff prefers to keep it under the Parks Advisory Commission even though there are a few council members have expressed the possibility of forming a completely different board.
- Chad Davis (RMU) mentioned the city needed to talk with other utility companies (Intercounty, Fidelity, etc) and get them on board, too.
- Ms. Wrasmann would like to see the tree list marked with the native trees and why they would be the better ones to plant.

A motion was made by Andrew Meggitt to recommend to city council to add another member to the Parks Advisory Commission who would be a tree expert. Ken Kwantes seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Andrew Meggitt to recommend to city council that the Parks Advisory Commission would also be the tree board. Ken Kwantes seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

6. Financials

- Mr. Jernigan wanted to tie in the financials with the organizational chart. The only thing different this year is with SplashZone management being done by Marci Fairbanks (interim Centre director) and Kia Soden (Centre aquatics manager). The Centre is billing us the hours they are working at SplashZone.

7. Director's update

- Mr. Jernigan went over just a few key points and spoke in depth about the Frisco train renovation and the need to deter any more vandalism to it.

A motion was made by Ken Kwantes to run the lights at the Frisco train from dusk to dawn and to investigate and put up realistic security camera(s). Sue Arnold seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

- Mr. Jernigan reviewed a Memo of Understanding with the Elk Prairie 4-H Club. Members are doing a native planning off or in front of the trail on Lions Club Drive.

8. Board Election

Sue Arnold made a motion to nominate Ken Kwantes to serve as Chairman of the Parks Advisory Commission. Susan Wrasmann seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Larry Thomas made a motion to nominate Andrew Meggitt to serve as Vice Chairman of the Parks Advisory Commission. Sue Arnold seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

8. Adjournment

- The meeting adjourned at 7:38 p.m.

Kristy Rich, Recreation Manager, prepared the minutes.