

**PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD MEETING
AND PUBLIC HEARING
WEDNESDAY, JULY 8, 2020 @ 7:00 PM
JAMES J. EAGAN CENTER**

Board Members Present: Linda Rose, Walt Kaiser, Rev. Robinson, Robert Shoemaker, Monica Wideman, Kristina Curnutt, Jason Steinbruegge and Kim Burns.

Not in attendance:

City Attendance: Cheryl Thompson and Beth Goldstein

Approval of Minutes: Meeting began at 7:40 p.m. All in attendance approved minutes as written.

PUBLIC HEARING

Public Hearing to discuss Playground at Manion Park was opened at 7:02 p.m.

In attendance: Representatives from Parks and Recreation Advisory Board, Mayor Lowery and residents. See attached attendance sheet.

Meeting began at 7:10 pm

Cheryl Thompson-Stimage, Director of Parks and Recreation gave a brief explanation about the grant and what ideas the City has for the new Inclusive Playground at Manion Park. We have a nice brochure that list all the amenities that people can donate to the playground and donation slip on the back. Also, there is a right up on how this playground first came about. There is a video Cheryl will send out to the board that shows the playground details. We will put the grant together in the same design that we talked about a few years ago. The project will cost considerably more than the grant amount that we can receive, thus the city is going to add money so we can complete the playground and we are hoping that donations will help. The grant will be submitted in late August and approved in October or November. We would then hopefully start the project in the Spring 2021.

Jim from Unlimited Play stated that if there were any questions on the playground he can answer them. Jim said we will have many events for raising money for the playground. Hopefully get some set up for the fall. We need to get posters out to make everyone aware of this project. The local business's need to be made aware so they can also get involved Florissant has many business's that love getting involved in community events. If you need for him to come and speak with anyone or any business he would be happy to come out at any time. We will also be getting detailed information out so the community understands what a great thing this playground is. The project is not just for Florissant but for all of North County. North County doesn't have a playground like this so we are planning on our adjoining communities to come and enjoy this playground with all of us. This will bring people to Florissant which will help our community, people will eat at our restaurants, stop at gas stations and various stores. The residents need to understand how great this is for the City. The board was encouraged to get this information out to the community, talk to their neighbors and let them know about the campaign to raise funds for this. We will get posters out and flyers so that everyone is aware of this project. We will be having training sessions where Jim will come in and train people on what all is involved with this. We will do a community build day that residents can come and put in a

screw or hammer in a part on the playground. Jim said his son Jake went to Parker Road School he was put in a wheel chair at age 10 and it was hard for him because he couldn't play with his friends. That's what got Jim involved to get these playgrounds in the communities. Jake has a playground in his name out in Wentzville so please go out to visit that park and all the other inclusive playgrounds and see what these all-inclusive playgrounds are about. This is not just for kids but for grandparents, adult and those with disabilities to get to play with their kids and grandkids on these playgrounds.

Mayor Lowery spoke of how he is in full support of the playground. The City always had a goal to have this type of playground. He has met with Jim many times and he see's the importance of the project for the City. He hopes all of the commissioners are in full support of the importance of having this playground for the city.

This project was started in October 2008. It started as a non-for-profit with Gary Behlmann and a group wanting to build a playground in honor of this daughter Angie. The city needs several letters of support. Chris Kenyan, formerly from this organization, Accessible Play, said he would be happy to submit a letter in support of the municipal grant. Chris will get several additional letters. Jim stated there is a lot of criteria to get this grant through. Cheryl explained we need to work hard to get additional money for the playground. We are counting on our Park Board to get involved in this project since it is a park. Also, it is very important for everyone to submit their Census the city needs a good count for the grant. Any and all suggestions are welcomed and will be considered for including in the final concept.

Walt would like a flag at the western end of the park with a plaque honoring Gary. Is this still in the plans? Cheryl said there is flag but Walt would like a plaque put in. Jim said there are many ways to honor someone.

Jason is concerned this will get abused and torn up. What is our plan to fund this park to keep it maintained? Cheryl said we will continue to raise funds for this. Jason is also concerned with the pandemic next year with the community spirit day. They will need to make sure they are doing all this properly. Also asked if we could get Special School District involved to have another picnic like they did a year ago and have a fundraiser event with it. It would be good to at least get a bucket out for people to begin donating. Councilman Harris helped with that event in the past. Jim commented to let him know about any of these events so he and his company come out and speak at these events.

Chris asked if there is legacy committee that helps with this? Jim said yes, they would participate in any fundraiser events the city has to make sure that any damage is taken care of. Fundraising for the legacy committee is continued every year. We don't want anything to break and not get repaired.

Monica asked about items getting stolen or damaged. She would also like an electronic version of brochure. Jim said yes, also they have a fly through video and will send it to Cheryl. Also, is there plans for fencing around the playground, currently we have parks that do not have fencing. This is needed for children with special needs. Jim and Cheryl said yes there will be fencing. Are people able to donate to a certain item or is it general fundraising? All the ways to donate are listed on the brochure. She feels this will be a good thing for Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts to be involved in the community. Can citizens volunteer for construction. Jim said we will have one day for everyone in the community to help for a day. It is a community spirit build day.

Kristina has never seen anything like this and didn't see the original design. Is this a new design or the old one? Will anything be updated? Jim said it is similar it still has the flower theme but has been revamped fresh and new inclusive pieces have been added. The size is about the same. She stated that children with special needs also need lots of shade due to going into seizures. Jim said there will be lots of shade we are fully aware of children with these needs.

Walt has the original plan and he needs to see the new one. The Park Board needs the current design as it will be proposed.

Jim will come back and meet with the board on all the details so that they fully understand why we chose what we did for the design. We want all of them knowledgeable of the playground so that they can help get the correct information out to the community.

This first meeting is to bring in basic information and get everyone's input on what they would like to see. Chris K suggested adding a map to the brochure so everyone knows where the park is going to be.

Public Hearing Meeting adjourned at 7:40 PM

Citizen Participation:

Report from Superintendent:

- The centers have re-open under a limited schedule. The proposed schedule is Mon-Fri. 6 – 10 a.m. and 4 – 8 p.m., Sat & Sun 10 a.m. – 3p.m.
- participation is limited to 50% capacity per space.
- Full time staff has been furloughed to a 24-hour work week but starting the week of July 27th will go to 32 hours per week. The city is participating in a work shared program through the Missouri Department of Labor. Staff will be getting \$65 per day for the 5th day. The city is doing everything possible to cut back on expenses due to the fact we have had little to no revenue coming in and it is anticipated that the next quarter of taxes will be greatly reduced.
- All playgrounds to include the splash pad have reopened along with all pavilion rentals. However, the water fountains remain closed.
- The softball and volleyball leagues started this week.
- This year Valley of Flowers has been rescheduled to July 31- August 2nd. The event will only be held at the Knights grounds with nothing at the Eagan Center.
- The aquatic recreation specialist has resigned. At this time, we will not be replaced this position before sometime in the fall.
- The center director at JFK has resigned and we have spent the last couple of days doing interviews for this position. We will be making a recommendation tomorrow to the mayor for his approval to fill this position.
- First concert is this Saturday night at St. Ferdinand at 7 p.m.
- Bids came in for the enhancements to the splash pad and they are being reviewed to make our recommendations.

Monica asked if the water bottle refill station is open. (yes, it is)

Monica asked if there will be any restrictions on crowd control at Valley of Flowers? Access can only enter on Shrine side the entrance at Washington will be closed. Will they limit the number of people they let in? Cheryl stated this is up to Valley of Flowers Office committee. Kristina asked if the city has any input on this event for safety? Cheryl stated this is all done by Valley of Flowers committee.

Jason, asked if the money that would have been spent on Fireworks, was that put back in the budget? Cheryl stated that yes it did most likely will not get spent.

If you would like Census signs pick one up at the front desk.

Kristina asked if they can begin getting donations for the playground? Cheryl said yes, please do so.

Jason, asked if the city can do a GoFundMe for the playground? Cheryl will check on this, however it would be much better done by a Legacy Committee.

Announcements: Walt is looking for nominations for Veteran of the Year. Deadline is September 5, 2020. Must be resident of Florissant and Honorable Discharge. Send to Walt. When you nominate write something saying why they should be Veteran of the Year.

Communications: None

New Business: None

Unfinished Business: None

Adjournment: Walt made a motion to adjourn at 8:05 p.m. and was seconded by Monica.