

PARK AND RECREATION COMMITTEE

May 9, 2012

6:30 p.m.

Harmon Park Pavilion

AGENDA

Introduction of new Chair Laura Wassmer (Ward 4) and Vice Chair Ashley Weaver (Ward 1)

Public Participation

Consent Agenda

1. Minutes from April 11, 2012

Reports

1. Public Works Report
2. Recreation Report
3. Park Events Update
 - a. Weltner Park Rededication
4. Chairperson's Report
 - a. Two vacancies

New Business

Old Business

1. Tour of Community Garden in NW Harmon Park

Information Items

- Next Meeting – September 12th unless otherwise required
- Sales Tax Item discussed at upcoming City Council Committee meeting
- Weltner Park Re-Dedication, Saturday, May 12th at 11.00am

Adjournment

PARK AND RECREATION COMMITTEE

April 11, 2012

Council Chambers

The Park and Recreation Committee met at 7.00pm. Presiding: Diana Ewy Sharp, Chair, Laura Wassmer, Vice-Chair, Diane Mares, Joe Nolke, Peggy Couch, Tim O'Toole, Clarence Munsch, Maggie Swartz, Max Rieper, Jim Bernard Jr. and Kevin Letourneau were in attendance. Staff: Bruce McNabb and Chris Engel. Also present: Nancy Vennard and John Joyce.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Nancy Vennard, 7921 Bristol Ct, spoke on behalf of the community garden group. They have received a \$4700 grant and would like to make some improvements to the site. They will be returning at a later date for the majority of the improvements but would like to install a 24" fence immediately to keep out the rabbits. There was discussion on the need for maintenance inside and outside the fence and ADA accessibility of the garden. Nancy shared they would maintain in the fence line and the fence was easily moveable for ADA access. Peggy recommended the community garden group proceed with installing a fence around the plot. Laura seconded and the motion carried.

John Joyce, 4201 Delmar, believes the Community Center Committee needs to be looking at some type of facility sharing with the City of Mission. Mr. Joyce also asked about the Parks Funding Summary that was in the packet and how those numbers were calculated. Mr. Joyce also has concerns about costs contained in the Parks Master Plan and how those costs and the costs reflected in the Funding Summary correlate with what's being asked for in the potential parks sales tax.

CONSENT AGENDA

The minutes from February 8, 2012 were approved.

REPORTS

Public Works Report

Bruce reported that work in McCrum Park was finishing up and the plan to underground the utility lines has been postponed. Crews have started their normal spring operations of park and fountain maintenance. The fountain in Carroll Plaza and stream in Franklin Park are not working. However, they should be operational this spring.

Recreation Report

Chris reported he is still in need of a few key staff positions the most critical being a Synchro Coach. It was recommended to expand the search into the dance community. Registrants are being informed that if a coach is not found the season will be cancelled. In response to the Crypto outbreak last summer, area recreation managers have created a crypto response plan that will be utilized at area pools. Similar to last year, there will be a Skate Park event on June 21st from 3.00 – 5.00pm that focuses on safety with free helmets given away. The Parks & Recreation Committee is being recognized by the Tree Board on Arbor Day with a planting in Franklin Park on Saturday, April 28 at 10.00am.

Events Update

The Weltner Park rededication is May 12th from 10:00 – noon. The contractor has donated \$1,000 for the event and Dan and Diane have engaged the shops on State Line and many have kindly donated items for the event. There will be kids games, chalk, Frisbees, and Jim Cosgrove will play at 11:00. Diane is still exploring the option of hosting a movie in one of the parks with the remaining park dedication funds.

NEW BUSINESS

JTL Changes

Chris shared that JTL unilaterally decided to change their structure and the new age divisions will require different types of balls and additional court markings. The purchase of additional balls will put the tennis budget over this year. Chris will look into grant opportunities to offset the costs of marking the courts. Our displeasure with the change has been voiced to the League but there is little that can be done short of leaving the league. Chris will investigate other opportunities for the future.

OLD BUSINESS

Sales Tax Discussion

As a follow-up to the sales tax discussions of January, staff has completed some additional research on the current cost of maintaining the parks and recreation elements of the system. Chris reviewed the Parks Funding Summary in the packet. Those numbers are based on the following elements: the cost of wages + benefits for all staff time wage-coded to parks or recreation activities in 2011; the 2012 budgeted amounts for all utilities, commodities and contractual services in the various parks related programs; 2012 Parks CIP Projects; and debt service for the bonds issued in 2000 for the swimming pool improvements. Also included in the summary is the corresponding revenues generated for parks and recreation related offerings. Bruce added that he has tried many methods to arrive at an acceptable number to keep the parks current. The standard Best Practice for determining annual maintenance costs is to take 5% of the total replacement value of all park assets. Based on that formula his best estimation is \$500,000 annually.

The Committee discussed the desire to fund new upgrades related to the Parks Master Plan vs. funding current operations and capital improvements within the parks. It was pointed out that if “maintenance” was included in the wording of the ballot language then future Councils could direct the sales tax revenue completely toward maintaining the parks. Also mentioned was the fact that Parks Master Plan upgrades will lead to an increased cost of maintenance so the two are linked. The Committee agreed that a mechanism was needed to ensure that Parks Master Plan upgrades were appropriately funded as that was the original intent of a sales tax. It was agreed to modify the language of January 11, 2012 to better direct the funds to specific purposes.

Jim Bernard Jr. made a motion to recommend the City Council approve the following ballot language for placement on the November 6, 2012 ballot:

Shall the City of Prairie Village, Kansas, be authorized to impose a new $\frac{3}{8}$ percent (0.375%) city-wide retailers' sales tax with two-thirds of the revenue from such a tax (0.25%) used for park improvements contained within the Parks Master Plan with the remaining one-third of the revenue from such a tax (0.125%) used to pay the costs to maintain, acquire, construct, improve and operate City parks, public green space, municipal pools and city-owned statuary (“Park Projects”), and be authorized to pledge such sales tax for the payment of the principal and interest on bonds issued to pay the cost of such Park Projects, with collection to commence on April 1, 2013 all pursuant to K.S.A. 12-187 et seq. and other applicable state statutory provisions?

Diane Mares seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Parks Prioritization

To further detail what a potential sales tax would be used for, the Committee prioritized the following parks (in order): McCrum; Windsor; Porter; Meadowlake; and Bennett. Diana said the Committee should be mindful that many of the parks were north of 75th Street.

Somerset Trail

Bruce said the public meeting on the proposed trail segment on Somerset had decent attendance and the majority of attendees that lived both adjacent to and in the surrounding neighborhood were in favor of the trail. He directed the committee to the comments included in the packet. He indicated that the addition of the trail on Somerset as opposed to repairing the existing sidewalk would add ~\$125,000 to the total project cost. Diana asked if the Committee would like to make a motion to recommend to Council on the trail. Laura reported an 8' trail wouldn't work on most streets and could negatively impact the trees. She shared that she lives on Roe and doesn't want an 8' trail located there. Diane shared that she lives on Roe and likes trails. There was open discussion of the PVPost survey that indicates that most respondents like trails and the only people that show up in protest are angry neighbors. Diana reported that the individuals she hears from believe sidewalks are sufficient and residents adjacent to existing sidewalks don't see the volumes of people to necessitate the improvement. Clarence questioned if the decision to not follow through on the Parks Master Plan would affect its legitimacy. Laura reported she is not supportive of 8' trails in front yards and would be sharing that opinion with Council. Diana asked if the Committee would like to make a motion to recommend to Council. No motion was made.

Chairpersons Report

Diana shared her gratitude with the Committee for their support and years of commitment. She tasked them with continuing their good work into the future.

The next meeting will be Wednesday, May 9th at a city park.

Adjournment