

PUBLIC MEETING NOTES
WEDNESDAY, June 12, 2019 @ 7:00 PM
JAMES J. EAGAN CENTER

Public Hearing to discuss enhancements to Splash Pad at Koch Park

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

Meeting began at 7:10 pm

Cheryl Thompson, Director of Parks and Recreation gave a brief explanation about the planning grant and what ideas the City has for enhancements for the Splash Pad. Former Mayor Schneider requested that this area be improved. Staff has made the recommendation to add a new restroom adjacent to Splash Pad, a new playground for all ages hopefully it will have some features for children with disabilities, and small picnic areas with a table and four seats with a cover. The city can get up to \$525,000.00 for the grant with a 5% match by the city. The restroom would be comparable to the new one that went in at Manion. The restroom will have a family changing area in the back for parents who want to change the kid's cloths before leaving the Splash Pad. The information presented tonight is conceptual and any suggestions will be considered for the completed project. The drawings are showing existing conditions around the soon to be Splash Pad. Any and all suggestions are welcomed and will be considered for including in the final concept.

Ken Keitel from TerraSpec discussed the enhancements to the Splash Pad at Koch Park. Having public discussions is a requirement to receive funding from the Municipal Park Grant Commission. This first meeting is to bring in basic information and get everyone's input on what they would like to see.

There was discussion on rubberized surfacing, training someone for safety inspection of all the playgrounds, what type of playground will be put in, and where restroom will be located by the Park Board and others in attendance.

Kristina suggested some playground items for the older kids. Such as nature structures, a large rock to climb or tree tunnels. Cheryl is trying to split the playground with older at one end and younger at the other end.

Councilmen Andrew Harris suggested a sidewalk or walkway from the back of the park to the Splash Pad. It would make it more accessible for everyone in the park. He also suggested a snow cone stand.

Discussion on fencing around the playground for the safety of the children was discussed.

Lighting and Cameras were suggested. Cheryl will talk to IT on their thoughts of when cameras will be added.

Public Hearing Meeting adjourned at 7:40 PM

PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, JUNE 12, 2019 @ 7:00PM
JAMES J. EAGAN CENTER

Board Members Present: Linda Rose, Walt Kaiser, Rev. Robinson, Monica Wideman and Kristina Curnutt

Not in attendance: Robert Shoemaker and Andre Hill

City Attendance: Cheryl Thompson, Beth Goldstein and Kim Hedgpeth

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

Citizen Participation: Dr. Tony Weiss from Memorial Gardens in Dunegant Park gave update on how the garden is doing. There are milk weeds for monarchs, corn flowers, zinnias asters most of them are perennials, wild flowers, native wild flowers. Last September there were over 100 monarch butterflies plus a dozen other species of other butterflies. He has had a few problems with moles and deer damage but have been very lucky it was minor issues. He appreciates the employee at Dunegant for keeping everything so nice. Fall is the best time to view the butterflies but there are many in the summer months also. Walt requested a list of the flowers Toni has out there.

Ron Veach asked why the Nature Lodge is not open for the Public on Saturday anymore. A lot of people would like to see the deer heads, mounted humming bird, hornets' nest and stuffed owl. Cheryl said when we were open in the past no one came and we were paying a ranger to sit out there. Saturday rentals at the Lodge have increased which would make it virtually impossible for the lodge to be open on a regular basis for viewing.

Kim Hedgpeth was introduced as the new Superintendent of Recreation. Kim gave a brief history of her experience in the field of parks & recreation.

Report from Superintendent:

- St. Ferdinand Lake Project is hopefully coming to conclusion, we are still having problems with the output of the fountain spray, and contractor is coming back tomorrow to do some trouble shooting. A quote went out for stocking of the lake, which will probably take place late in July.

Kristina asked about the signs at St. Ferdinand for feeding the ducks. Cheryl responded that the new administration and councilmen wanted feed the duck signs that have what is good to feed the ducks. The sign looks very nice and colorful. It is good to educate the residents the right things to feed the ducks. We have no way to control population over how many ducks come here so we need do what is best for the ducks. Board members did not agree with feeding the ducks or the signs. They feel the ducks and geese need to be removed or stop feeding them so they will leave.

- The restroom at Manion is completed and site work completion is underway. The old restroom will be torn down in the next two weeks at which time this project should be complete.
- The construction of the Splash Pad should be breaking ground within the next two weeks.
- Bangert Pool opened on Memorial Day weekend and is up and running.
- Camp started this week with 185 registered at JJE and 129 at Koch; our numbers are down this year but from what we are hearing almost all summer camp numbers are down around the area.
- Mission Statement – the staff worked on a mission statement for our department and here is a copy of that. (one is attached) Kim gave a briefing on the Mission Statement.
- Pat Loftus one of our park rangers passed away this morning.
- Update on the community garden in Blackfoot Park

Announcements: None

Communications: None

New Business: Rev. Robinson asked about the t-shirts that we were going to get made for the Park Board. Cheryl stated only 3 people got back with her.

In other municipalities they have all their staff in the brochure with a little bio but ours doesn't have all the staff. Cheryl said they will over time have all staff in the brochure.

Rev. said the Mayor said there would be Councilmen attending all meetings.

Walt asked Councilmen Harris about not having representation from each ward on the board. Andrew said he is working on getting someone from his ward.

Andrew Harris brought up the honey suckle problem. Columbia has a program that teaches volunteers to identify the stumps of these and they give you a sample to spray and they don't come back. Cheryl is working with Great River Greenway for ideas for honeysuckle eradication. Board had discussion on different ideas.

Monica asked about the Ga Ga Ball Pit that a boy scout was going to build. Walt stated it is a work in progress. He did bring plans into Cheryl but still has to raise the funds.

Unfinished Business: Review ideas for 2020 Budget. In report is concrete at Dunegant, and ADA Playground at Manion. Kristina suggested a fence at Bangert close to the drain in the creek. Creating a teen area in the game room it is nice but we need more for the kids to do. Monica is requesting that we do a survey with all the teens in Florissant to see what they want. (Kim has spoken with the kids on what they want and makes no progress. She offers to help them with employment with the City.) Monica has a list of ideas from teens she will send to Kim. Kristina also requested basketball hoops be put back in the parks. A brief discussion by board on basketball hoops in the parks was conducted. Kristina would like a squat rack added to workout room and a Ninja Warrior Course but kid's version. Kristina will email her list to Cheryl.

Adjournment: Walt made a motion to adjourn at 8:30 p.m. and was seconded by Rev Robinson.