

# GRAIN VALLEY PARK BOARD MINUTES

September 29, 2020

Meeting called to order at 7:01 P.M. by President Brad Welle.

## ROLL CALL:

**PRESENT:** Brad Welle (President), Becky Gray (Secretary), Norm Combs, Jared English, Terry Hill, Chuck Harris, Alderman Jayci Stratton, Shannon Davies (Director)

**ABSENT:** Brian Bray (Vice President), Don Caslavka, Nathan Hays

## CONSENT AGENDA:

- a. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Motion by Norm Combs, and seconded by Jared English to approve the August Minutes. Motion carried.

## TREASURER'S REPORT:

- a. **REVIEW OF ACCOUNTS PAYABLE/EXPENDITURES/REVENUES:** Shannon highlighted and explained the more notable expenditures. The Certificates of Participation Bond (COP) for the community center will be paid off this year. 2020 is the last scheduled payment. There was some discussion about the Park Reserve Fund. The Park Board requested to have Steven Craig, the City's Finance Director attend the next meeting to answer questions regarding this fund within the Parks and Recreation Department's budget.

**CITIZEN COMMENTS:** none

## COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- a. **Veteran's Tribute** – Norm Combs
  - i. Norm reported that the Veteran's Tribute has been completed and that there will be an official transfer in ownership to the Park Board/Parks and Recreation Department at the Dedication Event scheduled for October 21st. Shannon stated that Mike Switzer is looking into a stone, monument-type sign that will be installed at the site reflecting the name. Norm would like to possibly to see some additional things added to the site in the future through continued fundraising.

## OLD BUSINESS:

- a. **Blue Branch Creek Trail Project (Phase 2) Update** – Shannon Davies
  - i. The Request for Proposals (RFP) for the construction and installation of the Pedestrian Bridge was issued a couple of weeks ago and are due on October 2<sup>nd</sup>.
  - ii. Shannon will email the Park Board information about the bidders and bid amounts after the bid deadline.

- iii. Jared English mentioned the possibility of installing lighting where the trail and the school property meet that would more than likely be at the cost of the school district. Brad Welle stated that they do currently have parking lot lighting where the trail joins and there are currently a few cameras in the area. Brad stated that additional security lighting/cameras can be discussed closer to the time of project completion.
  - iv. With the heavy equipment that will be needed for this project, there are areas where they will need to cross-over existing asphalt trail and school parking lots/curbs. Steel plates will be used to minimize any damage but there will more than likely be areas where asphalt/concrete will be damaged and need to be replaced. Shannon stated that he is going to make sure the school district aware of and involved in any discussions involving school district property so that all parties are aware of any impacts ahead of time.
- b. Dillingham Trail Connector Project Update – Shannon Davies**
- i. Shannon stated that the project has been completed however there will be a Final Walk-Thru with Blue Nile Construction to evaluate any final items that may need to be addressed.
  - ii. There was some concern about water on the trail during a rain event. Shannon stated that there should not be any ponding and that trail has a slight grade that is supposed to sheet rain to the west towards the drainage ditch. He stated that the ground on the east side of the trail is higher in many areas so you will see rain sheet across the trail from east to west.
- c. Park Ordinance “Sale of Services/Merchandise” Review – Group Discussion**
- i. Shannon distributed a copy of the revised park “Sale of Services, Merchandise” Ordinance that was approved at the September 14<sup>th</sup> Board of Aldermen meeting.
  - ii. The revised version did include all changes that were requested by the Park Board at the August meeting.
- d. Park Board By-Laws Update – Shannon Davies**
- i. Shannon provided a copy of the updated and finalized Park Board By-Laws, which also included the new changes to the park “Sale of Services, Merchandise” ordinance.
- e. Christina “Kiki” Claphan Memorial – Shannon Davies**
- i. Shannon stated that we are adding an all-inclusive playground to the CIP to replace the outdated playgrounds currently in Armstrong Park. The intent is to name this playground after Kiki. Shannon stated that they are starting to look at potential costs and this project is slated to be installed in 2022.
  - ii. With Kiki’s passing fresh in people’s minds and the interest from the community to support a project such as this, Jared English and Brad Welle

stressed the importance of promoting it now while it is fresh in people's minds.

- iii. This includes putting together a plan for marketing and community buy-in as well as a rendering of what the playground is going to look like and start promoting it now so that support is still there next year and in 2022.
  - iv. Jayci Stratton mentioned that there is still a possibility that part or all of Armstrong Park could be used for new, City buildings in the future and/or expansion of what we have currently.
- f. **2021 Budget Prep** – Shannon Davies
- i. Shannon again distributed a copy of the proposed 2021 Budget for discussion. Shannon asked for everyone to review and come to the next meeting with any questions. Steven Craig, the Finance Director will also be present.
  - ii. Chuck Harris did mention that the Grain Valley Sports League (GVSL) has some funds that they would be interested in using in conjunction with financial support from the Park Board and/or City for improvements to the football field complex.
  - iii. Shannon stated that we did have a discussion about these facilities at this time last year and the Park Board decided not to install a new, restrooms/storage/concessions building but instead invest money into the existing building for the needed repairs.
  - iv. Chuck stated that he will come back to the next meeting with a more detailed description of what improvements GVSL would like to see at that facility.

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

- a. **Nothing new to report.**

#### **DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

##### 1. **Operational Updates**

- a. **Fall, Youth Baseball/Softball** – Shannon stated that the season is in full-swing. All current and mandated restrictions related to COVID-19 have been implemented. There have been some occurrences where teams in both Oak Grove and Independence have had to go under quarantine. This has resulted in one team dropping-out and two other teams not being able to play for 2-weeks so the game schedules thus far have been constantly in-flux. Other than that, we are halfway through the season and our kids are playing despite many other communities cancelling their fall programs.
- b. **COVID-19** – Nothing new to report other than we continue to implement the current restrictions at our facilities as it relates to mandatory facemasks, social distancing, and restrictions on social gatherings. The pandemic has had a negative impact on our revenue stream this year due to cancellations and closures however, we have also

seen a reduction in expenses in several areas as well due to not having to pay seasonal and part-time staff, savings on utilities, reductions in equipment wear and tear, etc.

- c. We are planning on taking our 2020 Park Board photo at the December meeting. The Park Board decided to not order new shirts this year.

**2. City Updates**

- a. The City has started work on a Strategic Plan. Part of this is to understand why the bond initiatives for the new facilities at the Sni-A-Bar Farms property were voted down. Shannon will continue to provide updates on this.
- b. **Household Hazardous Waste Drop-off** – 10/10 at Jackson County Public Works across from Monkey Mountain Park.

**3. Past/Current Programs/Special Events**

- a. Life-Line Screening – 9/9 at the community center
- b. Blue Branch Creek Trail Activity (Grain Valley Clue Game) – currently underway

**4. Upcoming Programs/Special Events**

- a. Fall Karate – 10/6
- b. Mini Munchkins (Preschool Pumpkins) – 10/15

**TOPICS FOR NEXT MEETING:**

- a. Blue Branch Creek Trail (Phase 2) Project
- b. Christina “Kiki” Claphan Memorial
- c. 2021 Budget Prep
- d. Football Facility Improvements

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Motion by Norm Combs, seconded by Terry Hill, to adjourn. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 8:31 P.M.

Next regular meeting will be October 27, 2020.