

GRAIN VALLEY PARK BOARD
MINUTES
August 15, 2023

Meeting called to order at 7:00 P.M. by Interim President, Norm Combs.

ROLL CALL:

PRESENT: Norm Combs (Interim President), Shawn Brady (Secretary), Chuck Harris, Mike Switzer, Adam Hoover, Mike McCurdy, LaTisha Robinson, Dale Arnold (Alderman Liaison), Shannon Davies (Director)

ABSENT:

CONSENT AGENDA:

- a. **APPROVED ABSENCE:** Becky Gray, Lisa Limberg
- b. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Motion by Shawn Brady, seconded by Chuck Harris to approve the June regular Meeting Minutes. Motion carried.
- c. **CANCELLATION OF NEXT MONTH'S MEETING:** No action

TREASURER'S REPORT:

- a. **REVIEW OF ACCOUNTS PAYABLE/EXPENDITURES/REVENUES:**
Shannon Reviewed Accounts Payable - Pool repair of a valve that was leaking water. Payment to title company for easements needed for future trail construction on Buckner-Tarsney Road. We are mid-year in the fiscal year. Pool is on pace to hit budget. Chuck inquired about the Miscellaneous overage in Revenue. Shannon explained it is due to increased interest in the Parks Fund. Shannon explained the Revenue/Expense report in more detail for the new members.

CITIZEN COMMENTS/PRESENTATIONS:

- a. Hank Moyers with Confluence presented the proposed, new Parks Master Plan.
 - There was a high desire for more trails and parks and connectivity to downtown.
 - Indoor Aquatic facility was the highest rated preference for facilities.
 - Amphitheater was also high on surveys.
 - Additional courts and Athletic Fields were desired.
 - Dog Park ranked high.
 - Farmer's Market ranked high.
 - Multi-Use Paths, Nature Trails were the top vote getters for Trails.
 - Restrooms are needed at more parks.
 - Playground equipment needing upgrades.
 - More variety in amenities at parks was desired.
 - Add amenities like water features in our parks.
 - Overall, by comparison for our community, we need to pursue opportunities to acquire land for parks and amenities. By 2050 we should be shooting for about 300 more acres of park land.

- We have an opportunity to connect to the MetroGreen Regional Greenway Trail network. We just need to complete the connections to the Blue Springs Trail network.
- Feasibility study is recommended.
- Recommendation for ordinance for developers to donate a percentage of land for parkland in future developments.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- a. **Veteran's Tribute** – Norm Combs and Mike Switzer
 - i. The sculptor finally responded to Norm. Pictures of the sculpture are called “Vigilance.” Norm has a quote of \$41,000 for the sculpture. We are about \$21,000 shy of the fundraising goal. Shannon says the Park Board would need to look at a recommendation to the City. A pedestal would be needed for the sculpture as well, which would include additional costs.
- b. **All-Inclusive Playground Update** – Shawn Brady
 - i. Shawn Brady and Mike Switzer met with Shannon Davies in late June, shortly after the playground projects bids were submitted. A total of 4 bids were received. Only one bid came under budget, but it was an incomplete proposal, so it got disqualified. Three of the four bidders quoted KOMPAN play equipment, which is manufactured in Denmark. The LWCF Grant requires USA-made materials. Cunningham Recreation was the only bidder that provided USA-made play equipment. The committee also felt that Cunningham's proposal was more robust, served a wider range of ages, and ultimately provided a bid that more satisfied the desirables. The committee recommended moving forward with the playground proposal submitted by Cunningham Recreation.

OLD BUSINESS:

- a. **Christina “Kiki” Claphan Memorial Playground** – Shannon Davies
 - i. Shannon shared progress on this project. Changes needed to be approved by the State, especially if we are over budget on the project. Those changes have been submitted for approval. Cunningham has a decent lead time to get the equipment manufactured and shipped. Shannon shared that the state does have access to additional funds for projects that are approved and go over budget. We should know soon and can get Cunningham the green light to start the project.
- b. **City Comprehensive Plan and Parks Master Plan** – Shannon Davies
 - i. Hank Moyers with Confluence provided an update to the board.
 - ii. There will be a presentation to the Board of Aldermen on this on September 11th.
 - iii. We are looking at the priorities from the Parks Master Plan to see what we can possibly budget this upcoming year.

- c. **Park Board Member Renewals (3-year term)** – Shannon Davies
 - i. Park Board Member Update - Board is now at 9 members again. Latisha Robinson & Mike McCurdy complete the Board. December is when the Park Board leadership positions will be elected.

NEW BUSINESS:

- a. **Committees for Valley Fair Days and Downtown Spooktacular** – Norm Combs
 - i. Shannon stated that the Downtown Spooktacular event (Friday, 10/27) will most likely stay downtown going forward with the construction of the new police station taking all available parking at Butterfly Trail. Fireworks are being looked at for the event this year. A recommendation was made by the Park Board to consider shutting down Main Street during the event. Mike Switzer (motioned), Shawn Brady (2nd) to close main street for the event.
- b. **Lighting at Butterfly Trail** – Norm Combs
 - i. As part of the police station project, conduit has been run to the Veteran's Tribute. We are budgeting funds in 2024 for the electrical and light fixtures to illuminate the flags so that we no longer have to rely on solar power and the inadequate lighting.
- c. **Interim Vice President** – Norm Combs
 - i. Norm opened nominations for Interim Vice President to be fulfilled until the annual elections in December. LaTisha Robinson was elected.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

- a. **Operational Updates**
 - i. Registration for Fall, Youth Baseball/Softball is coming to a close, and numbers are looking good. The coaches meetings will be next week with games starting after the Fair in September.
 - ii. With school starting-up, today was the last weekday that the pool was open. We are now open only on weekends through the day after Labor Day, which is when we have the dog swim.
 - iii. The bids are in for the electronic LED sign that will replace the existing marquee sign in Armstrong Park. Bid results were shown to the board and the City will review to determine the contract award. This is being funded through American Recovery Program Assistance (ARPA) funds.
- b. **City Updates**
 - i. Cakes with Cops, August 26th, 8-11am, Armstrong Park
 - ii. Annual Fair, September 8-9, Armstrong Park
 - iii. National Night Out on Crime, September 19th, 6-8pm, Armstrong Park
 - iv. Downtown Spooktacular, October 27th, 6-9pm, Downtown GV

c. Past/Current Programs/Special Events

- i. Senior Steppers – Daily
- ii. Bingo Social – Wednesday’s
- iii. SilverSneakers Circuit – Wednesday’s & Friday’s
- iv. Preschool Player’s T-ball – 7/8 – 8/12
- v. Popsicles in the Park – 7/12

d. Upcoming Programs/Special Events

- i. Chess Academy – Classes start September 5th.
- ii. Trail CLUE Game – 9/12 – 10/1
- iii. Dog Paddle Day – 9/5, 6-8pm
- iv. Fall Karate – Classes start October 3rd.

TOPICS FOR NEXT MEETING:

- a. Christina “Kiki” Claphan Memorial Playground
- b. City Comprehensive Plan and Parks Master Plan
- c. 2024 Parks Budget Update

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion by Mike Switzer to adjourn, seconded by Chuck Harris. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 8:23pm.

Next regular meeting: October 17, 2023