

# City of Columbus Park Advisory Board Meeting

## February 27, 2020

### Call to Order

Sandie Wood called the meeting to order at 4:32 p.m.

Members Present: Sandie Wood, Kris King, Mark Daly and Bob Bodene  
City Planning Technician Ben Gutknecht, Public Works Superintendent Jim Windingstad, and Secretary Lorie Spangler

Also present John Herrick (Forest Lake Athletic Association) and John Young

Absent: Andrea Messina

### Approval of Minutes

Daly made a **motion** to approve the January 23, 2020 minutes. **Second** by Bodene. Motion was approved.

### Agenda Additions or Deletions

Addition: New business-John Herrick -FLAA re: additional field use

### City Planning Technician Report

No report

### New Business

John Herrick (FLAA) came before the board inquiring if they could reserve field #5 (T-ball) for their 8U team (ages 5-8) for practice only. Spangler noted to the group that field #5 has not been reserved for the last 2 summers.

Windingstad stated that in the past the concern has been that field #5 is not a regulation size field and the safety of other players hitting into field #5 and those in #5 hitting towards #4. Herrick stated that the teams that reserve #3 & #4 are 10U & 12 U and typically hit no further than 200 feet and he added that 14U and 16U play at Fenway in Forest Lake.

Windingstad added that if the association understands they are playing on a T-ball intended field and the bases stay in the current location with no altering the baseline or the pitching plate, the City may be able to accommodate their request. He will bring this forward to City Administrator and see if this needs to be brought to the Council for further discussion.

Wood made a **motion** to allow FLAA to reserve #5 tee-ball field for the 8U team for practice only with no modification of field or bases with City administrator or Council's approval.

**Second** by Bodene. Motion carried.

### Old Business

#### • Playground Equipment

Gutknecht presented handouts with potential playground equipment that would fit appropriately in the tot lot area with considering the ASTM (safety zone). The board shared pros and cons of some of the equipment and selected a freestanding play item that includes 6 play events with a canopy ("Voltage" from Burke Company). Approximate cost is \$25,000.00 which includes shipping and installation. Wood commented she would like to consider an additional free-

standing item either a spring rider or pretend play item. The boards' consensus was to contact Little Tykes Company about Harry the Hippo, \$899.00, however shipping and installation prices were not included. Gutknecht will contact both companies to secure prices and installation dates. Windingstad stated that the goal is to place this equipment so that in the future additional piece or two can be added. The Board communicated that having installation complete by the beginning of summer would be preferable.

Daly made a **motion** to select the freestanding play (Voltage from Burke Company) and Harry the Hippo from Little Tykes company based on final pricing and the ability for both pieces to fit in the selected area. **Second** by King. Motion carried. Daly will present this recommendation to the Council at the next meeting March 11, 2020.

Spangler informed the board that she contacted Linwood Township as they installed adult exercise equipment in Boettcher Park in 2014. The cost was approximately \$77,000.00. The Town Clerk felt it was not used very much and Spangler added that it is placed in a grouping next to the playground. The Board felt that in order to have this equipment used more it would be best placed around the walking path to entice walkers to stop and use the equipment. Gutknecht communicated to the group that to purchase this equipment with potential grant funds they would need to provide an up to date park master plan as the current plan does not represent what we actually have. He added that the typically the requirements of a grant process is to inform what you have and what your future goals are. Windingstad stated that there are funds in the budget to update the current plan. Gutknecht will contact Mursko, City Administrator, regarding actual funds in the budget for updating the current park master plan.

#### Roundabout Design

Gutknecht and Windingstad recently met with MnDOT regarding landscape design ideas from other communities and was informed the boards choice of the Eastern White Pine is salt sensitive and suggested other options: Black Hills Spruce, Ponderosa Pine, Red Cedar, and White Spruce. Additionally, they shared that adding boulders actually slow traffic down approaching a roundabout. The board discussed the salt and water sensitivity of each of these trees and chose the black hill spruce and the ponderosa pine. Gutknecht will check prices and water requirements for these choices and then chose which tree goes to each roundabout. Once trees have been selected and planted then boulders will be considered. Wood added that she would like to see some hosta's added in. Gutknecht will get back to the board via email with the information requested.

#### Next Meeting

The next meeting will be July 16 at 5:30 p.m. in the City Hall chambers.

#### Adjourn

Wood made a **motion** to adjourn. **Second** by King. Meeting was adjourned at 6:05 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted

Lorie Spangler, Recording Secretary