

CITY OF COLUMBUS
PARK BOARD MEETING
INTERACTIVE MEETING FORMAT
STATUTES SECTION 13D.021
01-30-2024

The 01-30-2024 Park Board meeting for the City of Columbus was called to order at 5:30 p.m. by Chair Brad Norling at the City of Columbus City Hall. Present were Board members Bob Bodene, Kris King, Andrea Messina (5:40), and Steven Ray. City Council Members Ron Hanegraaf, Interim City Administrator Jack Davis, Public Works Director Jim Windingstad, and Recording Secretary Lorie Spangler were also present.

Also present: Genia, Dick and Gene Sjerven- Columbus Lions, Melissa Kohoutek and Lea Genosky- FLAFA Representative (Forest Lake Fast Pitch Assoc), Dannie Cluckey, Jim Fraley, and Michael Gangl.

AGENDA APPROVAL:

Motion by Norling to approve Park Board agenda for 01-30-2024 meeting as presented.

Second by Bodene.

Roll call vote: Norling – aye; Bodene – aye; King- aye; Ray - aye. All in favor, motion carried.

APPROVAL OF PARK BOARD MINUTES:

Motion by Norling to approve the minutes of the 11-30-2023 Park Board meeting.

Second by King.

Roll call vote: Norling – aye; Bodene – aye; King – aye; Ray - aye. All in favor, motion carried.

INTRODUCTION INTERIM CITY ADMINISTRATOR: Norling welcomed Jack Davis to the board meeting. Mr. Davis stated he was heavily involved on the park board in his previous municipality.

DISCUSSION:

Dug Out Covers In the past FLAFA (Forest Lake Athletic Fast Pitch Association) indicated they would be interested in adding dugout covers to each of the fields. President Kohoutek stated they would consider participating in this project; however, they would need to see a proposal and place it in their future 2025 budget. The board discussed different options from canvas sail material to tin roof. Windingstad will reach out to the Forest Lake High School athletic director to get a contact for some pricing. The main objective is sun and foul ball protection. Depending on pricing and FLAFA’s contribution will determine how many fields will be considered in planning for next year’s budget. Kohoutek inquired of the possibility of installing netting on field #1 to prevent balls being lost down the hill. She also asked if field #5 would be available for U8 games, and not just practice. The board approved FLAFA to rent field 5 for U8 games noting there would be minimal possibility of interference with the other fields. Additionally, Kohoutek requested if the city would allow a food truck (shaved ice) during their June tournament. The board replied that they would refer to the city on this matter and get back to them.

Future Park Activities - Genia Sjerven from the Coumbus Lions, shared with the board members that the Lions were interested in hosting quarterly events in the park to reach out to the community to generate awareness of who and what the Lions do in the community, ultimately increasing membership. Genia mentioned a possible winter event would be smores in the park, using portable fire pits, placing them in a location suggested by the city, additionally providing kid's events like face painting and sledding. Norling requested that the Lions give the board a schedule of their events for review and approval in advance. They would need to reserve the picnic shelter and provide the required damage deposit. Genia stated they would advertise their events through social media and their pancake breakfasts.

2024 PROJECT DISCUSSION/MOTIONS

Tree Service Windingstad provided the members with 2 bids for tree services in the park. Approximately 20-25 trees have been marked in the park for maintenance and safety. Raml's Tree Service submitted a bid for \$8,000.00 and Upper Cut Tree Service submitted bill was \$7,600.00. These bids included removal of marked trees, grind stumps, and remove all brush. This project will begin when the ground is more frozen or snow present to minimize any damage to the ground.

Motion by Norling to accept and recommend Upper Cut Tree Service \$7,600.00 bid for tree services in the park.

Second by Ray.

Roll call vote: Norling – aye; Bodene – aye; King – aye; Ray – aye; Messina – abstain. All in favor, motion carried.

Park Lighting Windingstad stated as of today he has not received any updated information from Connexus. Norling suggested that he and any other board member walk the park with Windingstad pointing out the locations of desired light locations and possibility of adding additional lighting to exiting transformers. Windingstad will then meet with the Connexus to point out their desires and get pricing for the options given. Ms. Cluckey is an avid park user and stated she would be willing to make a donation to the lighting project as she uses the park in earlier hours and is in favor of the safety matter.

Tennis Court Repair Presently the tennis courts are marked as multipurpose courts for tennis and pickleball. Mr. Fraley was present to add input on the future tennis court repair project. He stated there is an increase in pickleball play and would like to see one of the tennis courts designed as 2 pickleball courts. There would be additional costs with this option as new nets, fence, and posts would be required. Norling commented that it is important to adapt to the residents' activities, recognizing pickleball interest has increased greatly, however the projected budget of \$13,000 for this project dictates what route is taken, as this project was regarded a crack repair and court resurface. Windingstad stated a short term approach would be crack fill and resurface courts and make one court tennis and one court pickleball adding the required netting. Windingstad will get estimates for crack fill/resurface as initial project, one bid crack fill/resurface adding 1pickleball court (using the one tennis court - just adding new net), and one bid crack fill/resurface adding 2 additional pickleball courts (using one tennis court with nets, fencing and posts). Windingstad will bring these estimates back to the board at the next meeting.

Park Master Plan

Norling stated that the board does not have the resources and the time but will offer input. The board has drafted an initial outline of the master plan but is looking for direction and help. Davis stated he and Windingstad will look at incorporating some of the ideas in the park master plan into a bigger capital improvement plan, bringing these ideas forward to the next meeting for comment and input, along with adding new facilities that they might like to see. Davis added that they would look at priorities of what 2 projects the board would like to handle in 2025 and what two projects hold priority in 2026. An updated site plan with project ideas will be needed and then they could start scheduling projects and moving forward with the master plan.

Public Open Forum:

Gangl commented that the park board is doing a great job with the adding trees, tree trimming and is in favor of adding pickleball courts.

Park Board Members Open Discussion:

Norling would like to see the remaining 35 timbers that are placed in the tennis court parking lot be removed and replaced with the cement curb stops that are present in the main parking lot. This would update and make it look consistent.

Hanegraaf offered the idea for the park board consideration to add holiday lights in the park. Possibly lighting 5-6 trees from October – January. The outlet in the pavilion is set up for 50-amp power. Possibly a Lions event in the park, Tree Lighting. King felt that the board should discuss this at a future meeting to have information to present to the council. Additionally he requested to have the 6 poles in the main parking lot be removed as they no longer serve a practice.

NEXT MEETING:

Next scheduled meeting will be April 16, 2024 at 5:30 p. m.

ADJORN:

Motion made by Norling to adjourn.

Second by King.

Roll call vote: Norling – aye; Bodene – aye; King- aye; Messina – aye; Ray - aye All in favor, motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:10 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted

Lorie A Spangler
Lorie Spangler, Recording Secretary