

CITY OF COLUMBUS
PARK BOARD MEETING
INTERACTIVE MEETING FORMAT
STATUTES SECTION 13D.021
07-16-2024

The 07-16-2024 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, Andrea Messina, Steven Ray, and Kris King.

City Council Liaison Ron Hanegraaf, Public Works Director Jim Windingstad, City Administrator Jack Davis were also present.

Also present: Jim Fraley

Absent: None.

AGENDA APPROVAL:

Norling added discussing the ash tree situation in the park to the agenda.

Motion by Norling to approve Park Board agenda for 07-16-2024 meeting as amended.

Second by Bodene.

Roll call vote: Bodene – aye; Messina – aye; King -aye; Norling – aye; and Ray – aye.

All in favor, motion carried.

APPROVAL OF PARK BOARD MINUTES:

Motion Norling to approve the minutes of the 04-16-2024 Park Board meeting.

Second by Ray.

Roll call vote: Bodene – aye; Messina – aye; Norling – aye; King – abstain; and Ray – aye.

Motion carried.

PUBLIC OPEN FORUM: No-one present for open forum.

2024 BUDGET DISCUSSION:

Park Lighting: Windingstad provided information noting that the lights on Kettle River Blvd. do not hold transformers that can be tapped into, so additional transformers would have to be placed to add/move lights. Windingstad met with Connexus to go over a plan for the additional lighting on 165th, as of date he has not received a quote. Windingstad will have Spangler send out the quotes via email when he receives them, and an additional meeting can be scheduled to further discuss.

Tennis Court Repair: Windingstad informed the board that last time tennis court maintenance was done it was between \$8,000 - \$9,000. He previously proposed a budget of \$12,000-\$14,000 and the quote came back at \$30,000. Therefore, he suggested not doing any repairs at this time as the next step was to totally redo the courts with pickleball expansion. The board reviewed information from two proposals. The bottom line to redo the courts with pickleball and engineer services would be approximately \$220,00.00. Norling felt the repair cost of \$30,000 would provide a decent downpayment for the new court system. Windingstad stated that this would be an opportunity to place this project in the park master plan giving the possibility to get grant funding. King added that she was concerned with the timeline once a master plan is developed and applying for grants, adding

that it could possibly be 6 years before any progress would be made. Norling added that he felt it is important that we take care of the assets that they do have as to not go backwards for repair costs. Bodene and King commented that they both see residents using the courts regularly. Davis shared the funding accounts available between park dedication and reservation fees, which both areas have seen limited revenue. King added that the cell phone tower is a small source as well. Windingstad reiterated the board's prior conversations of discussing one more repair and then replacement. If the plan was to replace in ten years, repair would be valid, however if the plan was to replace in two years the repair of \$30,000 would not be well spent.

Hanegraaf suggested that the council partake in a conversation regarding funding for the park's future spending and revenue sources. King added that a joint council and park board meeting to discuss these concerns would be beneficial looking for council support. The board agreed to schedule a joint meeting with council on August 14th to discuss the park board budget. Davis presented the board with budget information regarding the revenue side to review and bring forward to the future joint park board city council meeting. Norling would like to look at the existing revenue and consider cleaning up some of the diseased ash trees in the park.

Removal of Parking Lot Timbers: Windingstad provided the Board members with an overview of this proposal. The board felt this was not a pressing matter at this time even though it was not a big expense as they were more concerned not knowing the future of the tennis courts, if there would be expansion into the parking lot area. They chose to table this discussion to the future.

RVS PARK UPDATES;

Ryan stated that a lot of communities are dealing with the emerald ash tree disease. The park has a few trees to identify and take care of. Ryan noted that the bridge area will need some repair regarding the wash out section. Windingstad stated that he is aware of the situation and has diverted the water flow, however they will need to repair the area. Windingstad requested Ryan to provide his 2025 budget numbers to bring forward to the council at budget discussion in September.

2024 PROJECT DISCUSSION:

Park Master Plan: Davis provided the board an outline that will be followed to develop this plan. He requested that two members be appointed to a subcommittee work through some areas to report back to the Board at the regular meetings. Ray and Norling volunteered to be members on this subcommittee with Bodene volunteering as an alternate member.

Motion made by Norling to appoint two representatives from the park board to a subcommittee focusing on the park master plan with an alternate, appointing Ray and Norling as subcommittee members and Bodene as alternate.

Second by Ray.

Roll call vote: Bodene – aye; Messina – aye; Norling – aye; King – aye; and Ray – aye

Davis informed the board the focus of this plan will be the existing amenities of the park through upgrades, discussing new amenities, budget and funding sources. Davis added the potential of trails within the city should be discussed as there will be future street improvements planned with Potomac Street and Lake Drive. The DNR access to Lamprey Pass WMA could theoretically be a

trail, however, this is a wildlife management area where hunting is allowed therefore, the DNR is discouraging any trail use. Davis would still like to have a discussion with the DNR and look at possible grants through the DNR.

Hidden Park: Eagle Scout project is proposed to have trees planted; however, they have not been planted yet. Currently the board chooses to let this remain as is.

Holiday Lights: Norling commented that he would like to see the picnic shelter lite up over the holiday season. Bodene added that starting small and seeing how it is received would be a start. Ray added that lights on the pine trees in the corner of the park on Notre Dame and Kettle River would be a nice welcoming sight, however source of electricity is a challenge.

Dug-Outs: Councilmember Hanegraaf shared that he spoke with FLAFA (Forest Lake Athletic Fastpitch Assn.) President Melissa, and she informed him that she would like to meet and discuss the budget needs for field dugouts. Norling suggested transferring the tennis court budget funds into dugout project funds and if the project does not go forward, those funds can transfer back to another project.

NEXT MEETING:

The next meeting will be joint with the City Council on Wednesday, August 14, 2024, at 5:00 p.m. The next scheduled park board meeting is Tuesday, September 17, 2024, at 5:30 p.m.

ADJORN:

Motion made by Norling to adjourn.

Second by Bodene.

Roll call vote: Bodene – aye; Messina – aye; Norling – aye; King – aye; and Ray – aye.

All in favor, motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:11 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Lorie Spangler, Deputy Clerk