

FENTON PARK AND RECREATION COMMITTEE

Minutes

Virtual

Monday January 10, 2022, 6:30 p.m.

Name	Present	Absent	Name	Present	Absent
Cyndy Paul	()	(x)	Deb Rogers	(x)	()
Mary Heinemann	(x)	()	Eric Robeck	(x)	()
Michael McPeck	(x)	()	Lynn Hughes	(x)	()
Glen Mehrhoff	()	(x)	Robin Huels	(x)	()
Gary Johnson	(x)	()			

I. **Call To Order:** Gary called meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

II. **Pledge of Allegiance**

III. **Approval of Minutes for December 6, 2021 - Park and Recreation Committee Meeting**

Motion made to approve minutes from last meeting. – **Mary Heinemann**

2nd – **Deb Rogers**

(Approved Unanimously)

IV. **Public Comments:**

A. Slideshow presentation by Scott George to show work & planting efforts to consider for winter/spring months.

- Created a tentative flyer for volunteer opportunities to restore natural areas by removing honeysuckle and planting/seeding native plants with dates beginning in March through May. Flyer includes list of materials parks will provide & list of what volunteers should bring.
- There are several areas to seed this winter at Bud Weil; Scott also has some plants to hand plant there. Also, seed Westside Lake Wetland. No-mow zones within wetland (baffles). Preslar Lake, small part of wetland fringe around lake. Scott compiled Wish-list of seeds and plants from two vendors, estimated cost of \$542. Showed slides of locations to seed. He has a collection of seeds he'll bring to plant. We should try to spread seeds before Feb. 1.
- Something to consider for upcoming year at Bud Weil is a controlled burn. There is a burn pile there now in open area near lake. Also, removing the remaining barb wire fence at the top of the hill at Bud Weil to make brush removal easier.
- Deb Rogers volunteered to help Scott spread seed.
- Alderman Huels clarified that if the park board chooses to do this, they need to make recommendation to BOA to spend money on seed and coordinate the plans with Dan Howard so he knows exactly when and where the planting would take place and have the BOA approve the plan.

- Deb Rogers and Dan Howard will schedule a meeting to coordinate a plan to present to the BOA for approval.

V. Old Business: - None

VI. New Business:

- A.** Discussion regarding possible uses and a name for City owned park parcels located at 725 New Smizer Mill Road and 905 Gregory Lane.
- The city owns the property across from Bud Weil Park and it is an official city park. Alderman Huels suggested that the park board should choose a name for the property and add it to the schedule of park reports. Maybe in the future the lake can be cleaned up and the property can be maintained so the residents can enjoy it as an official city park.
 - The park board reviewed the map of the property.
 - Eric Robeck mentioned in addition to beautification and landscaping it may allow vehicles to get close to the top of the hill and set up parking we may be able to stay within Fenton's strict ADA limits for trail grade and potentially allow parking and ADA access to the top of the Fabick Nature Preserve. He agrees it should be added to the monthly park reports and the committee should consider a name other than Beckman.
 - We need to let residents know the property is available to them. It was confirmed that the property will not become deed restricted if it's added to the Fabick property.
 - Deb Rogers asked if creating parking or pathway up to the upper part of the property has been considered
 - Alderman Huels mentioned this discussion was started to name the property and raise awareness to the Fenton residents that it exists.
 - It was agreed that the park should not be named after a person and the decision should be given more thought before it's decided.

Motion made to continue discussion regarding name for City owned park parcels located at 725 New Smizer Mill Road and 905 Gregory Lane. – **Deb Rogers**

2nd – **Mary Heinemann**
(Approved Unanimously)

- B.** Discussion regarding restroom options at Fabick Nature Preserve.
- Alderman Huels encourages the board to visit the property and see the existing trailer restroom and determine if it's worth saving. She mentioned the city already has the building design plans for a small freestanding restroom like the one off the river road that can be used to replace the existing trailer.
 - Eric Robeck mentioned a concern that the existing restroom is far from the lake and the location may not be practical & not get wide usage. It's also very muddy at the bottom of the hill where the trailer is located now. Alderman Huels mentioned it would be too costly to move the location away from existing plumbing and electricity.
 - It was confirmed there are also utilities at the top of the hill where the house used to be. They just need to be located but it may potentially be a location to install a restroom.

- Eric Robeck mentioned the trail passes that area so it may be more convenient for people to stop while on the trail and less muddy than the area at the bottom of the hill where the existing trailer is located.
- Lynn Hughes mentioned a concern that the area up the hill is not accessible by car and families may not want to hike. Mary Heinemann agreed it would be an inconvenience for a family with small children to have to hike up the hill to access a restroom.
- Lynne likes the current location but thinks it should be a new restroom.
- Alderman Huels mentioned this idea began when a fisherman needed a restroom to wash his hands due to an injury.
- She was just thinking of a location that would be convenient between both lakes and by a parking lot so you could drive to it if necessary.
- Gary Johnson likes the location at the top of the hill. It has a lot of trees and shade and could become a gathering area.
- It was suggested that this topic be continued to next month, so the park committee has an opportunity to visit the property and think about possible locations.
- All restrooms are locked at night when the parks are closed. During winter months all restrooms are winterized and closed for the season except for the one at the main pavilion in Fenton City Park.
- The initial idea was to create a unisex bathroom.

Motion made to continue discussion regarding restroom options at Fabick Nature Preserve. –

Mary Heinemann

2nd – **Lynn Hughes**

(Approved Unanimously)

- C. Discussion regarding plantings around Westside Park and review/findings by the Missouri Department of Conservation.
- Dan Howard and Nikki Finkbiner met with the MDC and arborist. MDC were the ones that recommended those trees be removed when the lake was installed. After touring the facility, they stand by their initial recommendation that due to the root system and lake liner new plantings in that area would not be a good idea and identified some areas for additional cleanup and along the dam.
 - Eric Robeck mentioned to Dan Howard that he noticed his team had removed the tree of heaven and redbud from the outer side of the dam. He has a comment about the recommendation not to plant wild cypress trees around lake margin that is not adjoining the dam. The dam is special engineered with a core that should be protected from roots. It's not the case for the rest of the dam. Eric shared a slideshow regarding the three issues addressed by the MDC: limited space, root structures of trees, liner construction of the lake. He agrees that ruptures to the clay liner by plantings can cause leaks, but he doesn't feel this concern is relevant to this proposal. (Slideshow is attached with his observations.)
 - Dan Howard can provide how much clay and bentonite was brought back in to reestablish the clay liner after all the silt from the original liner was removed. He and Nikki met with the MDC arborist these are his findings. He stated that we are in a partnership with the MDC with the park and lake.
 - Eric will forward his slideshow to Nikki and Dan, so the arborist can review them and possibly come to our next meeting for further discussion.

Motion made to invite arborist, Mark Grueber, MO Dept of Conservation to attend February meeting for further discussion of his recommendation to not plant trees around lake at Westside Park. – **Gary Johnson**
2nd – **Deb Rogers**
(Approved Unanimously)

VII. Park Reports:

Presented by board members:

- **Bud Weil: Rogers** – no significant changes; happy to see funds have been allotted to address some issues with the pavilion on the hill.
- **Meramec Greenway: Johnson** – nothing new to report.
- **Riverside Park: Johnson** – nothing new to report.
- **RiverChase: Paul** – nothing new to report.
- **Westside Park: Robeck** – Invasive tree of heaven and redbud have been removed; water is clear.
- **Fabick Nature Preserve: Robeck** – nothing new to report.
- **Fenton City Park: Hughes** – looks good, nothing new to report.
- **Heroes Memorial: Heinemann** – nothing new to report.
- **Valiant: Heinemann** – nothing new to report.
- **Olde Towne Plaza Park: McPeck** – ongoing construction project.

VIII. Announcements:

Updates from the Parks and Recreation Department Staff:

1. On December 20, 2021, the Board of Aldermen adopted a new Code of Ordinances (Municipal Code) via Ordinance 4185. Of relevance to the Parks and Recreation Committee is Chapter 130, Parks and Recreation Committee, and Chapter 220 Public Parks, attached. A full copy of the Municipal Code is available online at www.fentonmo.org.
2. On December 20, 2021, via Ordinance the Board of Aldermen adopted the 2022 Budget, including the 2022 Capital Plan, attached, which includes Parks projects for 2022. Additionally, the Board approved funding (\$25,000) under the Parks and Stormwater Fund for additional events in the parks. A full copy of the 2022 Budget is available online at www.fentonmo.org under Finance.
3. Based on the approved 2022 Capital Plan, staff will be seeking bids within the next few weeks for a pool audit and a contractor to construct the new pavilion (to replace the storm damaged pavilion on the former UAW property), as the new pavilion is scheduled to be delivered in late spring, early summer. Once the bids are received, they will be forwarded to the Board for review and consideration.
4. On December 20, 2021, the Board of Aldermen, via Ordinance 4184, approved a one- year agreement with the YMCA for aquatic services (lifeguards) for the City's swimming pools. This service was formerly provided by Midwest Pool Management.
5. The Board of Aldermen will hold a Special Meeting on January 20, 2022, at 7:00 p.m. to discuss a partnership with the YMCA for the management of RiverChase. This meeting is open to the public and will be held virtually via Zoom.
6. Below are the numbers provided by MDC regarding the 2021 Managed Deer Hunts in Fabick Nature Preserve:
Oct. 14- 18, 2021: 15 does, 2 antlered bucks; 17 total

Nov. 5- 9, 2021: 13 does, 2 button bucks; 15 total

Dec. 9-16, 2021: 7 does; 7 total

TOTAL HARVEST 2021: 35 does, 2 button bucks, 2 antlered bucks; 39 total deer

The Board will be considering additional managed hunts in 2022 in the Fabick Nature Preserve during their Committee Meeting January 13th.

7. The Board will be re-visiting the Parks Master Plan topic during their January 13th Committee Meeting.

8. The City Attorney will provide annual training for the Parks and Recreation Committee during the regularly scheduled February 7th meeting.

*A recommendation was made to begin February's meeting earlier since there will be a one-hour training with City Attorney.

Updates from the Parks and Recreation Committee Liaison:

Alderman Huels encourages everyone to attend the special meeting on January 20, 2022, at 7:00 p.m. to discuss a partnership with the YMCA for the management of RiverChase. This meeting is open to the public and will be held virtually via Zoom. There will be public comments after the presentation so if you know anyone that has questions or comments about the partnership, please encourage them to attend.

Alderman Huels would like to recognize and thank Alderman Wisbrock, Alderman Heard, Alderman Clauss, and the Mayor for being on the call this evening.

Motion made to begin Monday, February 7, 2022, meeting at 6:00 p.m. – **Mary Heinemann**
2nd – **Deb Rogers**
(Approved unanimously)

Motion made to adjourn meeting – **Mary Heinemann**
2nd – **Gary Johnson**
(Approved unanimously)

Meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, February 7, 2022, at 6:00 p.m.

Motions

Motion made to approve minutes from last meeting. – **Mary Heinemann**

2nd – **Deb Rogers**

(Approved Unanimously)

Motion made to continue discussion regarding name for City owned park parcels located at 725 New Smizer Mill Road and 905 Gregory Lane. – **Deb Rogers**

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