

FENTON PARK AND RECREATION COMMITTEE

Minutes

City Hall

Monday June 7, 2021 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) | () | Tye Lydon | (x) | () |
| | | | Tina Sullivan | (x) | () |

Notice is hereby given that the City of Fenton Park and Recreation Committee will hold a meeting on Monday, June 7th, 2021 6:30 p.m. at Fenton City Hall, 625 New Smizer Mill Road, Fenton, Missouri.

- I. Call To Order:**
- II. Pledge of Allegiance**
- III. Approval of Minutes for May 3rd 2021 Park and Recreation Committee Meeting**
- IV. Public Comments –**
- V. New Business:**
 - I. Sunshine Law – City Attorney**

Presentation by City Attorney: regarding the Sunshine Law and the do's and don't of the park and recreation committee when it comes to meetings. Attorney Seele described a meeting as a quorum of the board with any public business is being discussed. The sunshine law adheres to openness and believes the public should be involved with public comment or being able to hear the reasons for why the city would be making a recommendation to do or not to do something. Emails that you have a quorum of the board and are talking about public business in this case having to do with parks that could be considered a meeting that were not advertised to the public for them to participate and listen.
 - II. Park Master Plan Discussion:**

Alderman Huels: I know that there was some discussion that the board was against the park master plan and heard something along those lines. That hasn't been taken to a second vote and is still very much a topic of discussion of the board

Gary Johnson: If it were to be voted down it would have to start over from the beginning?

Alderman Huels: That is correct.

Alderman Maurath: You've heard many on the board talk about the parks storm water task and what its used for. Initially when it was initiated in 1997 it was intended to help with any infrastructure improvements for the storm water issues which we have and continue to have. From 1997 – 2019 there was 69.5 million dollars generated in 22 years. Of that 1.3% has gone to storm water. That leaves a balance of 68.6 million that has gone to the parks. We need to maintain what we have and when you hear everyone talk about when they don't want the master plan, and that's not correct at all. Right now we don't have the where with all to continue as presented but I think as once we work through some things, I think collectively the park committee and the alderman can come up with

some consensus where it will be beneficial for us not like what was done in 2000 where we spent over \$120,000 on a study and it was somewhere around \$800,000 in improvements that that plan was suggesting, with most of that going towards the plantings and so on.

Gary Johnson – Is there a record of how that \$3,000,000 per year is spent?

Alderman Maurath: Yes, we must keep track of that

Deb Rogers – Did that money include what was spent on Fabick and the construction of RiverChase?

Alderman Maurath – oh sure

Deb Rogers: when you mention working together, how does that process look?

Alderman Maurath – The Park committee can't know the different things that the board are working on or working towards. Some of the things like we mentioned with the storm water issue. We now have the United States government agency helping define where our problems are how we resolve some of this stuff, so that some of the business that have never flooded before having been accommodated. The pool issue, many people don't know we have problems with that pool. Just so many things on our table or plate right now and there are other alderman here that could probably attest to the same thing, in my personal mind that the master plan, which we had one before and didn't utilize at all, I want to make sure that doesn't happen.

Eric Robeck: I understand that we have spent 68.5 or so over the past two decades, The reason the master plan called for around 800,000 is only a fraction of what we spent over the last 22 years, so why wasn't that implemented?

Alderman Maurath: Back in 2000 there was a wholesale change in the board of alderman, and a lot of people were concerned about the expenditures of their funds. We had info at the time that the city was 89.6 million in debt. The whole board changed and realized that in order to make our selves solvent again we had to do some things. Eliminated some services, employment, changed programs being offered. In June of 2016 we became debt free. We are in much better shape today, but we have a lot of major issues on the table that we need to work on. In my perspective flooding is number 1, because I think everybody can see. I think its good info for everyone to have.

Eric Robeck: I guess one of my concerns is, I have heard some of the board of alderman express concerns over the cost, my concern is that parks numbers may not be willing to spend that much to maintain the parks. Is there room for us to spend small amounts up to perhaps over the 72,000 on actual park improvements?

Alderman Maurath: I think many of us on the board have felt like before we embark on a new journey, we must maintain what we have.

Lynn Hughes: when there is flooding, does that come out of the park budget, on cleaning that up and repairing the riverside trail?

Alderman Maurath: Any of the monies generated by the sales tax goes to park and storm water, its restricted and can only be used for that.

No motion was made

III. Fenton Community & Farmers' Market:

Tye Lydon: We are really struggling on vendors; I've called 30-40 vendors and I think that a lot of our issue is that our market was closed down last year compared to others. I'm looking for input on ways to improve our market. Changing the date from Saturday to maybe a Wednesday night or Thursday night throughout the week. That way we can capture some of those vendors that are someplace else on Saturdays. Saturdays are probably the most competitive days for Farmers Market. The Olde Towne pavilion is a great spot its just other markets that took the vendors that we had last year, and they kept going back. I didn't know if you guys had any input on potential days for improvement.

Gary Johnson – Is it open to crafts or farmers?

Tye Lydon – Yes, it is

Michael McPeck: Could you sell beer there?

Tye Lydon: I will have to check in on that and get back to you?

Michael McPeck: I've been to plenty of markets and my aunt is a farmer and she went to ours up until last year and now she is Arnold, but as far as stuff to hang out with, maybe a food truck?

Cyndi Paul: Are we advertising at the Sports Complex?

Tye Lydon: Yes, we can start doing that!

Lynn Hughes: What about Sundays?

Tye Lydon: That is a great idea, and we can look into moving forward.

Deb Rogers: There is a real vibrant place on Gravois, but it is set up for community gatherings, and then the facility in Arnold, they have preconstructed booths. I think there are multiple things to do as well as scheduling, alcohol, and entertainment.

IV. Community Volunteering:

Scott George: Presentation was presented to the park committee and is floating ideas around. Discussed mowing schedules and revising mowing times and address the issue that not everything needs to be mowed and trimmed in the parks system. I also have identified some of the fields that are along Fabick lane that are left idle for a good part of the year but would just like to extend that a little further. I have also identified a few areas around Fabick lake. One of the things that might help are signs that you can put up to let people know what you are doing. We can identify certain areas that we would like to see left except for one mowing each year and see how it goes in baby steps. Build the volunteer program more, Bush Honeysuckle removal, plantings around the parks.

Deb Rogers: If we changed the mowing schedule for a lot of those fields to grow naturally is there any type of evidence of overseeding with Missouri native types of seed.

Scott George: Yes, there are a lot of opportunities to overseed

Deb Rogers: I make a motion that at next months meeting we invite the public works director to discuss some options that we may consider towards creating more prairie spaces in the parks system.

Eric Robeck: second

All in favor: 6 yes, 0 no's

Deb Rogers: Moves that we go ahead with the general waiver to for the first step towards developing a city led volunteer program.

Cyndi Paul: Seconds

All in favor: 6 Yes, 0 Nos

VI. Park Reports:

- I. Bud Weil: Rogers: fishing dock structure is in bad shape, beautification type things in the entrance of the park isn't very inviting and stone structure needs attention.
- II. Meramec Greenway: Johnson – southern most part of the trail is still under construction with MSD, boardwalk has neglect in weeds, branches and suckers at bottoms unlike tops,
- III. Riverside Park: Johnson – Maybe relocate the benches
- IV. RiverChase: Paul – As you drive in the entrance needs a little TLC, outside needs some attention
- V. Westside Park: Robeck – Cages are very unsightly, the block wall has begun to crumble
- VI. Fabic Nature Preserve: Robeck
- VII. Fenton City Park: Mehrhoff
- VIII. Heroes Memorial: Heinemann boy scout project was completed, and it looks nice
- IX. Olde Towne Plaza Park & Valiant: Heinemann: Valiant is looking good