



Minutes of Parks Committee Meeting
Tuesday, October 10th, 2023
Council Chambers
5:00PM

Those in attendance were:

Judd Hart, Chair
Shane Knight, Vice-Chair
Stephanie Jones, Staff Liaison
Tom Farmer, Mayor
Frank Baptist
Steve Lee
Dana Vanhouse

Steve Brown
Ann Spencer-Cole
Jeff Morrow
Jeff Hamm
Evelyn Reed
Bill Donner

The Parks Committee met on Tuesday, October 10th, 2023, in the Council Chambers and agreed to the following.

Vice-Chairman Knight moved on to the approval of the September 12th, 2023, minutes. Alderwoman Reed made a motion to accept the minutes. Alderman Donner seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Vice-Chairman Knight moved on to Ralph Bunche Park Amphitheater – Vice-Chairman Knight stated that bids for the amphitheater renovation will be opened on Wednesday, October 11th. Pending those responses, the Parks Department will bring those bids back to City Council for review and approval. Jones apologized for the delay but there was only one bid at the time of the original bid opening date, so the engineers recommended that we extend the opening for one week. We are hopeful that the delay will give us a better return from contractors.

Vice-Chairman Knight moved on to Riverside & Bernard Holland Field Work – Vice-Chairman Knight stated that bids will be opened on Tuesday, October 17th for the field work at Riverside and Holland Park. This work includes laser grading, edging, and top-dressing fields. This work is done annually to ensure we have the best quality playing fields. Pending bid response, the Parks Department will bring a selection back for review and approval to the City Council.

Vice-Chairman Knight moved on to Ordinance 28 of 2023 – Vice-Chairman Knight stated that if you go back in time, this Ordinance covers the rules within the parks system, and when it was revised earlier this year, there was some wording that was not clear when covering the enforcement when banning an individual. Parks has met with Chief Hodges to discuss changes

and will work to bring back in November. Jones reported that she has talked to the City Attorney about this to make sure we are staying within the law.

Vice-Chairman Knight moved on to Pickleball Request– Vice-Chairman Knight stated that the pickleball organization is requesting a discounted rate for an event. Jones reported that when it comes to partnering on an event, we like to ensure that it is bringing in tourism dollars and we are partnering for a good reason. Jones said that Ms. Vanhouse is here to speak on behalf of the event. Jones noted that we are doing multiple rentals throughout the year that we budget for so we need to be cautious when discounting. Jones was also upfront with the organization that she cannot approve discounted rates. That is at the Committee's discretion. Ms. Vanhouse stated that her first pickleball tournament was held at the River Center and it was ran very well. She said that is one of the reasons she would like to run this event at River Center. They also like this area because it helps raise awareness for Literacy Action. Ms. Vanhouse does believe that they will have a successful tournament with at least 150 people from all over the state. There was a discussion about their location. Vice-Chairman Knight yielded the floor back to Chairman Hart. Chairman Hart stated that he hopes the Committee puts a lot of thought into what they are voting on. Other organizations have been before this group and asked for discounts but have said no to those. There is a precedent that could open us to other organizations. Chairman Hart stated that he would be voting no to this. There was a suggestion for Ms. Vanhouse to contact A&P Commission.

Jones reported that Lyle Park was awarded Small Project of the Year by the state engineers, and McClelland also received multiple awards from that organization.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned.