

PARKS & RECREATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

AUGUST 2, 2021

The meeting was called to order at 7:01 p.m. by Vice Chairperson Aaron Findling. Committee members present were Lindsay Buker, Aaron Findling, Randy Fahringer, Will Harbauer, and Tony Wade (5). Rick Gilts arrived at 7:05pm (1). Caleb Christen, Todd France, and Christopher Patrick were absent (3). Also present were Council Representative Deborah Born and Operations Manager, Greg Kuhr.

APPROVAL OF JUNE 7, 2021 MEETING MINUTES

Mr. Findling moved to approve the minutes as amended to include Ms. Buker's emailed park report for Eisenhower. Seconded by Mr. Harbauer. Ayes: Buker, Findling, Fahringer, Harbauer, and Wade (5). Nays: (0).

PARK REPORTS

Rivercrest – Rick Gilts reported:

- Clean restrooms
- Recently manicured
- Thanked DPS for keeping twelve (12) Ash trees alive that abut the parking lot and I-475
- Noted a potential drainage issue

Milestone – Will Harbauer reported:

- Looks great
- More tidy – referenced printed pictures
- Noted overhanging tree branches that are too low for walkers and biker riders
- Encroaching brush
- Tree debris to be picked up
- Weeding and trimming to be done

Riverside – Will Harbauer reported:

- Looks fantastic
- Watched fireworks from the park
- Always in use

Orleans – Randy Fahringer reported:

- Hanging branches have been taken care of
- Asked about paving of the parking lot, and Ms. Born said that she will discuss it further

Municipal – Christopher Patrick not present; emailed report

- I am still getting quite a bit of interest for information about a pool heater. Any information that I can get as to the last attempt at procuring a pool heater for the Muni pool would be greatly appreciated
- I received a lot of complaints about the pool being shut down after 8/5. Is there a way to keep the pool open on weekends until Labor Day next year?

Municipal – continued:

- The chain link fence protective capping on the perimeter fence around Baseball Field 4 is in very bad shape and should probably be replaced for next season
- The blue storage boxes on fields 3 and 4 were unlocked and there was a large amount of debris in them
- There are three small trees between Fields 3 and 4, in front of the batting cages. They are dead. Is there a plan to replace them?
- The Gatorade machine at the Rec Building is inoperable, and Mr. Kuhr noted that the little league takes care of those machines
- There is a very large infestation of Cicada Killers at the west side of the Rec Building. I counted 14 burrows.
- The basketball courts have litter everywhere (pizza boxes, cans, discarded food, etc.) and the chain link fence cap protector is askew on the fence facing the street. I receive a great deal of complaints from people about the basketball courts. Has there ever been talk about removing them?
- The hoop net is missing from the south end basketball hoop
- The garbage cans were all emptied
- There was an abandoned yellow shopping cart in the children's play area
- The fence on the northwest corner of the play area is damaged (frayed metal) and looks very unsafe. Possible cut hazard.
- The main play equipment in the children's play area is in a state of disrepair (missing parts, gouges in slide, severe rust on walking bridge, worn components on the climbing chain ladder). Are there any plans to replace all or part of this equipment?
- The children's play area needs more mulch
- Mr. Findling noted that water collects between the basketball and pickle ball courts, and Mr. Kuhr said that a tile was put in after installation and that the swale has been there to take care of the water

Woodlands – Randy Fahringer reported:

- A lot of people have been utilizing the park
- Noted that there are large tree limbs
- There has been progress on the wood bench
- Metal anchors are rooted out of (2) green benches near the slides, and Mr. Kuhr said that he would look into it
- Asked if the paths will be rescreened and noted the low spots from constant use, and Mr. Kuhr said that they fill it in as needed, and that saturation with the rainfall has been an issue

Eisenhower – Lindsay Buker reported:

- Park has been busy
- Paint on the yellow caterpillar is chipping
- Asked about permanent shade for the picnic tables
- Noted that mulch is needed, and Mr. Kuhr said that it's on their to-do list

Three Meadows – Tony Wade reported:

- Asked about progress on the pads for the benches
- Noted that the garbage truck is driving over the sidewalk

Three Meadows – continued:

- Mr. Kuhr added that they can bring in more trash cans
- Showed pictures of the park and noted that the playground that is close to the pond is not fenced in
- Asked about the scope of the dirt piles on the northern end of the park near the highway, and Mr. Kuhr said that they haven't gotten to the low-end project yet, and noted that the extra piles of dirt are not from the City (potential illegal dumping)

Hood – Aaron Findling reported:

- Rode bike there recently
- Noted (1) power line is 6-7 feet off of the ground which is parallel to the path that is a concern, and Mr. Kuhr said that it may be a Toledo Edison line

Bicentennial – Todd France not present; emailed report

- Ground that was torn up adjacent to the Mark Lane parking lot has now been reseeded and grass is growing well there. Parking cones are temporarily protecting this area from further damage.
- The park otherwise looks good - no other issues to report

Rotary – Caleb Christen not present; emailed report

The opening ceremony for the new all-inclusive playground was this morning at 10 o'clock. It went by very smoothly and the kids seemed to really enjoy it. The park still needs a little work done and will be closed this week but should be open again next weekend. Other than that, the park looked great.

- It was very clean and there were a lot of people out walking and playing tennis.
- Todd France emailed: And in case you didn't see - the new inclusive playground at Rotary Park opened this weekend, but will be closed this week for final rubber top-coating. The plan is to have it permanently open by this coming weekend. If you haven't gotten a chance to see it yet, I highly recommend it!

REVIEW OF RECREATION COMMITTEE – Deborah Born reported:

- Thanked PRAC for their continued efforts
- Pleased with the inclusive playground which recently opened
- Said that she has fielded complaints about the restrooms not being open on Saturday's, and Mr. Kuhr said that the restrooms are on a timer lock and that he will double check the status
- Referenced the efforts of Robin Ballmer with MAIN ART-ery at Woodland Park and added that several statues are being installed in August. Mr. Kuhr noted that a dozen concrete pads have been poured for this installation.
- Referenced Orleans Park, and Mr. Fahringer noted (3) steep holes at the main entrance
- Stated that she has spoken with City Council publicly and said that she doesn't understand the need to pave Orleans Park, and added that it's still in the budget. She encouraged PRAC members to contact City Council to let them know their thoughts on paving the parking lot.
- Thanked Rick Giltis for his efforts and support at Rotary Park

-Mr. Wade asked if there has been any consideration given to a walking path around the big pond at Three Meadows Park, and Ms. Born said that she has brought that up many times. There was a brief discussion about a natural walking path.

-There was a brief discussion about the orange “Man in the City” statues

-Mr. Harbauer asked if the Recreation Committee has made a decision about the placement of the path at Rotary Park – based on PRAC’s Recommendation, and Ms. Born said that she will add that to her notes for the next Recreation meeting on Tuesday, August 10, 2021 at 6:30pm

-Mr. Findling asked if there has been any further discussion about a skate park within the City, and Ms. Born said that it has not come before City Council to her knowledge

-Mr. Wade asked about the brown spot between the bridge and Three Meadows Drive, and Mr. Kuhr noted that it is a Watershed District that runs along there. Mr. Wade said that there has been some dumping of old concrete and asphalt there.

REVIEW OF ACTION ITEMS

There was further discussion about a walking path around Three Meadows Pond. Mr. Harbauer made a recommendation that a walking path or multi-use path be installed around the large pond at Three Meadows Park. Seconded by Mr. Findling. Ayes: (6). Nays: (0).

OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Harbauer asked if there had been any update regarding plans for a new City park, or even what the process is to propose a new park. There was a brief discussion about potential green spaces within the City that are currently vacant.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:46 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Heather Alfaro
Recording Secretary

Next meeting: Monday, October 4, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. in City Council Chambers