

PARKS & RECREATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

JUNE 7, 2021

The meeting was called to order at 7:07 p.m. by Vice Chairperson Aaron Findling. Committee members present were Aaron Findling, Randy Fahringer, Todd France, Rick Gilts, Will Harbauer, and Christopher Patrick (6). Quinn Baumgartner, Lindsay Buker, Caleb Christen, and Tony Wade were absent (4). Also present were Council Representative Deborah Born and Deputy Director of Public Service, Ron Isaacson.

APPROVAL OF MAY 3, 2021 MEETING MINUTES

Mr. Harbauer moved to approve the minutes as written. Seconded by Mr. Gilts.
Ayes: (6). Nays: (0).

PARK REPORTS

Deputy Director of Public Service – Ron Isaacson reported:

- All public restrooms and shelters are open
- Cleaning is occurring 7 days a week

Rivercrest – Rick Gilts reported:

- Nice job
- One (1) play toy spring unit is missing, may be broken
- Pine tree on the west side may need removed
- Mr. Isaacson said that they are trying to catch up with the Memorial Day holiday

Milestone – Will Harbauer reported:

- Looks good

Riverside – Will Harbauer reported:

- Looks good
- Crevices in the benches look like they need painted

Orleans – Randy Fahringer said that he will report on going forward

Municipal – Christopher Patrick reported:

- Looks good
- Ball fields are shut down closest to the pool with the recent flooding
- Asked if there has been any correspondence with the pool heater, and Mr. Isaacson said not right now, but that they are working on a deep cleaning at the pool
- Todd France commented about the recent installation of privacy screens at the backstops near the chain link fences, and Mr. Isaacson noted that PBC installed those
- Mr. Isaacson added that the wind screen material at Rotary Park is a better quality

Woodlands – Randy Fahringer reported:

- Visited multiple times
- Johnny Appleseed tree has a huge tree limb that is dangling

Woodlands, continued – Randy Fahringer reported:

- Rear trail has huge puddles, and Mr. Isaacson noted that it is scheduled to be re-screened with fresh stone
- Noticed cones near the driveway, and Mr. Isaacson said that they have raised the pavement and hydro seeded around the busiest portions of the park
- Mr. France asked about the gliders, and Mr. Isaacson said that they have been hard to replace
- Mr. France asked about the art sculptures planned to be installed, and Mr. Harbauer noted that the City has been working with Main ART-ery, and Ms. Born said that she had been in contact with Robin Ballmer regarding the sculptures

Eisenhower – Lindsay Buker emailed report:

- Park looks great, didn't see anything that needed immediate attention

Hood – Aaron Findling reported:

- Looks great, and clean
- Noted the privacy fence

Three Meadows – Tony Wade not present

Bicentennial – Todd France reported:

- Noted that there are big tire tracks in the parking lot off of Mark Lane, and Mr. Isaacson said that they are planning to re-seed that area
- Noted that City dump trucks are driving on the paths too, and Mr. Isaacson said that those trucks are the small rear loaders for refuse

Rotary – Ron Isaacson reported:

- Shade nets have been installed for the season on the east side tennis courts
- Shelter is being used, and the lock system has been changed
- Noted that the playground is a work in progress, and Mr. France said that installation is planned for June 21-23

DISCUSSION ON FT. MEIGS CROSSWALK STUDY

Mr. Findling noted that all 4 options are viable, and that as a cyclist he prefers Locations #1 and #3. He added that crossing at that intersection is a concern. Mr. France said that he prefers Location #2 as it connects directly to the existing path, and added that Location #3 means that pedestrians would still have to cross the main wide drive at Rotary Park. There was a brief discussion about space for an additional path north of the tennis courts. Mr. France referenced Law Director, Kate Sandretto's email regarding the purpose of PRAC as identified in Chapter 280.01, and Ms. Born said that she appreciates PRAC's concerns. The Committee further discussed Location #1 and if it would be appropriate to make a recommendation to the Recreation Committee of Council.

Mr. Harbauer made a recommendation that Location #1 (north of the tennis courts) be deemed as the chosen crosswalk location with a multi-use path that would connect to the inclusive playground, and Mr. France amended the recommendation to move

Location #1 down slightly to the south so that it's in line with the discussed path.
Seconded by Mr. Findling. Ayes: (6). Nays: (0).

REVIEW OF RECREATION COMMITTEE – Deborah Born reported:

- Thanked PRAC for their continued efforts
- Noted that she brought PRAC's recommendation to not pave Orleans Park, and added that PRAC's concerns make sense; she said that she will also be bringing this discussion up at Finance Committee
- Said that she appreciated Mr. France's study of use at Orleans Park
- Shared that Main ART-ery will be installing statues at Woodlands Park, and said that she has received negative feedback from residents

OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Harbauer asked the Committee if they should start to discuss and consider where the next park will be located within the City. He said that he would like more information about the process to bring forward future parks. Mr. Isaacson said that his current crew and seasonal staff are working as hard as they can to keep up with the demands of the current parks. Mr. France said that he agrees with Mr. Harbauer and there was further discussion about future development and infrastructure. Mr. France briefly mentioned the City's masterplan (Land Use Plan) update that is currently being reviewed. Mr. Fahringer said that he is open to several alternatives, and Mr. Gilts noted that there is not currently a City park near HPI. There was a brief discussion about linking current green spaces to the multi-use path. Mr. Isaacson said that they are looking at reducing their mowing, the natural growth that is existing, and that stabilization is key. He added that the remote control mower has provided safety in the maintenance and upkeep of the current parks.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:07 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Heather Alfaro
Recording Secretary

Next meeting: Monday, August 2, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. in City Council Chambers