

RECREATION COMMITTEE

JUNE 10, 2015

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Chairman Rick Rettig. Committee members present were Tom Mackin, Jim Matuszak and Rick Rettig. Also present were Bridgette Kabat, City Administrator and Brody Walters, Planning and Zoning Administrator.

RIVERFRONT PROJECT - UPDATED CONCEPT

Ms. Kabat stated that what is being presented to the Committee is a revised concept for Riverside Park that incorporates the two concepts presented at the last meeting along with the comments and concerns that were expressed at that meeting. She said there had been discussion about presenting multiple concepts, however the Administration feels that this concept takes into account the majority of the comments brought up at the last meeting and due to time and budget constraints, only one concept is being presented. Tim Bockbrader and Rick Butera of the Edge Group showed a site plan and a 3D model of the concept for Riverside Park. Mr. Bockbrader gave a disclaimer that the plan as presented is only a concept. No materials or colors have been identified. He pointed out the upper plaza, which incorporates the Blue Star Memorial, and the lower plaza, both of which provide a view of the river. There are both steps and a ramp that is ADA compliant leading to the lower plaza. The concept also includes casual seating with shade elements along the lower plaza replacing what had been identified as an amphitheater in previous concepts. Mr. Mackin asked about the other memorial. Mr. Bockbrader said that the memorial that is between the two cannons will remain where it is. There was discussion regarding the trees and Mr. Bockbrader said that they looked at it without trees, but the trees help with the scale and they provide a traffic calming effect. He added that they would incorporate whatever existing trees they could, but some would impede the ramp and would have to be removed. Ms. Kabat said that this concept shows a location for the Blue Star Memorial, and although they have met with representatives regarding the memorial, they plan to bring them back in and show them four areas that it could be located and let them choose which one they feel is most appropriate.

Kitty Gibson, Duxbury Lane, asked if trucks to service the large trees in the rear of residents' homes would be permitted to go down the path. Ms. Kabat said that the path will be designed to accommodate public service and safety vehicles, but she does not know the answer regarding private homeowners. Mr. Mackin said that Ms. Gibson's statement contradicts past comments from residents that were concerned about no vehicular traffic being allowed on the path. Mr. Walters said that he does not feel the Administration would be supportive of vehicular traffic as the goal has been to maintain the path for pedestrian traffic. He added that service vehicles could gain access from Green Lane. Ms. Kabat stated that the City currently works with homeowners on a case by case basis to provide access.

Jim Hagen, Avenue Road, suggested that the materials for the serpentine wall match the Fort. Mr. Matuszak agreed with Mr. Hagen's comment. Mr. Bockbrader said that they have to be careful with the materials because it is dirt bearing and using wood concerns him a little, they can look at the materials used at the visitor center at Fort Meigs.

Mr. Rettig said that the conceptual design does a good job of addressing concerns and he said that he too would like to see a tie in with history, not necessarily as rustic as Mr. Hagen suggested, but perhaps through the use of placards.

Ms. Kabat said that the Administration is looking for a recommendation from the Committee to City Council on the concept for Riverside Park so we can move forward with the design work to answer specific questions. She said that the design will have to come back to City Council, through the Committee, before it goes out to bid. She added that this is a concept and there could be changes during the design process based on unknown factors that cannot be foreseen, just as there could be on site during construction.

The Committee agreed 3-0 to recommend approval of the concept as presented for Riverside Park. Mr. Mackin said that although he is comfortable moving forward with the concept, he would prefer that it be in the Messenger Journal so residents have a chance to continue to comment on it prior to a vote by City Council.

OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Mackin said he has received inquiries about what is happening along West River Road. Ms. Kabat said that at this City owned property owned which is referred to as the Davis property, Columbia Gas replaced an existing high pressure gas line. The City has applied for a Wood County Park Grant to replace many of the trees that were removed and Columbia Gas has agreed to pave a parking area for roughly ten cars. The City Engineer has recommended that we wait a year to pave as some settling will occur. Ms. Kabat added that although the zoning would limit any structures being built there, the 2016 budget could include funds for a natural pathway to the river.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:13 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rick Rettig
Chairman, Recreation Committee

Next meeting: Tuesday, July 14, 2015 at 6:00 p.m.