

-1-

Recreation Board Meeting
February 8, 2023

Roger Carroll - May I have a motion to open the meeting.

Anne Brennan - So moved

Ally DeAngelo - Second

All in favor - Motion Carried

Roger Carroll - Roll Call

Eric Acton - Present

Tim Bezbatchenko - Present

Ann Brennan - Present

Roger Carroll - Present

Clare Ceballos - Present

Aly DeAngelo - Present

Joanne Pickrell - Absent

School Board Representative

Jessica Saad

City Council Representative

Mayor Kessler

Roger Carroll - May I have a motion to approve the December minutes.

Tim Bezbatchenko - So moved

Clare Ceballos - Second

All in favor - Motion Carried

Roger Carroll - May I have a motion to approve the January minutes.

Clare Ceballos - So moved

Aly DeAngelo - Second

All in favor - Motion Carried

Pool Memberships - Senior Discount Rate

Natalie Mullin - I am recommending a \$10.00 discount to make it \$40.00.

Ann Brennan - Do you want to keep it at \$50.00 from an administrative standpoint?

Natalie Mullin - It doesn't really matter.

Mike Price - Although it is a discount from what they paid last year it will be viewed from a perspective that we have always had a cheaper rate.

Ann Brennan - I move to approve the proposed \$40.00 Senior Citizen rate

Roger Carroll - All in favor - Motion carried.

-2-

Director's Report

OPRA Conference

Mike Price - The staff attended the OPRA Conference last week. Most of the staff attended Sunday thru Tuesday. Kevin Smith who sits on a number of committees and takes the point on our involvement in OPRA stayed thru Wednesday.

It was a good experience where staff participated in classes that covered a variety of topics. And it also provided team building within the staff. The staff is doing an After Action Report and will provide in writing their overall takeaways from the conference. They will provide feedback on improvements to recommend to OPRA for 2024. It will include five action items that they took from the conference and how they plan to implement it in their work. We will also share the information with the staff that did not go .

Jeffrey Mansion Alcohol Framework Update

Mike Price - City Council had the second reading of the resolution to amend the alcohol framework. Jess, I appreciate your leadership on that.

I presented to Council regarding the four amendments we want to make to the framework that the board approved and the rationale for those amendments. I thought we had a good discussion and good questions from Council. Many of the questions that Council had were similar to the questions the board had.

I feel good about where the resolution stands and expect that they will vote at the February 21st Council meeting.

One Council member stated they had only received one comment and that was in support of it.

Roger Carroll - Were there any unexpected questions?

Mike Price - No. Only questions about the impact on adding the number of events on the staff. Lauren Miller who oversees all the mansion rentals will keep track of the demand and where it jumps from. If we see a huge influx of events then we will have some time to adjust staffing needs to support the demand.

We were also asked if we should eliminate the number of events, or the restrictions on the number of events or should we expand the number of events allowed.

I am happy to have discussions and we decided to eliminate because we have not had any issues. This is the framework we have to work within. We will have policies in place that will protect the facility and the community.

We will have policy recommendations to bring to the board at the March meeting that govern how we operate. For instance non-resident rental rate. Adjustments to the rental booking time period. And policy changes that were directly impacted by the framework adjustment.

Year Of the Park Update

Mike Price - Since our last board meeting in which Mayor Kessler presented a number of Year of the Park projects, including potential projects at Jeffrey Park , we have continued to have conversations with Mayor Kessler about Jeffrey Park projects.

-3-

I want to thank Mayor Kessler for keeping an open mind as we worked through due diligence on the projects and allowing for feedback from the Recreation staff in formulating the best path forward.

The four projects we were considering were Sand Volleyball, Rock Wall, Natural Play Area and a Skate Park.

As we laid out the potential location for the Sand Volleyball court it became evident that the size would take up too much of the pool facility. Considering that we are going to go through a different membership process and not knowing how many more members we might be dealing with and the vast amount of space that was a concern that came up in terms of timing. And recognizing the logistics of our programming that use the hard surface of the asphalt , camp and swim team, and triathlon. In terms of the location it just didn't make sense. We are going to shift our efforts for Jeffrey Park and continue to look at locations for sand volleyball.

We realized the goals of the rock wall and in reality were not going to a line. This amenity on a scale that might work for Jeffrey Park was not going to provide the experience for a Middle School age child that we were looking for.

The Natural Play Area is a natural fit for Jeffrey Park. We are discussing location on the north end where the playground is or a separate natural play area where we can separate out different experiences in different parts of the park. A natural play area in a different area makes sense. That it be on the edge of the woods so it feels like it is in a natural environment. One location by the playground along the edge of the woods or along the access road between the pool and the woods or between the tennis courts and the woods to the east.

I do believe we need additional play equipment in the park.

Ann Brennan - Can you tell us what the elements are in a natural play area.

Mike Price - An example I received from Metro Parks was apparatus made out of wood that has ropes. A defined creative space.

Mike Price - The Skate Park is another piece. A Skate Park has been an interest in our community for a decade. We had a Skate Park before we re-did the pool. We had one at City Hall then it moved to Jeffrey where the asphalt area where the basketball court is now.

Finding space has always been the most difficult. We determined that Jeffrey park was not the right location. We have identified a location at Schneider Park. It is a 50 x 100 foot piece of land by the creek between Astor and the Sledding Hill and the Athletic Field. We reached out to a handful of people that have expressed, over the years, an interest in a skate park. They were excited about the area. The next step is reaching out to a design team for the Skate Park. We will work through the design and look at the estimates that come in for the project and then see if we can make it happen.

Mayor Kessler - We have kicked off the design for the Columbia Plaza at Commonwealth with MKSK and Jones Architects. The section of Commonwealth that takes Columbia and softens with a median and puts a sidewalk grade that plateaus that stitches across the middle and ties

-4-

the two sides together. The public workshop is scheduled for March 6 at City Hall. The follies are out for bid, we got approved by ARB. They are the south end structures on Commonwealth East. They will have a restroom inside of it. Commonwealth West there will be mechanicals inside of it. The buildings will be stone with a slate roof and landscaping.

The Pond is set to go to bid and we will see how the bids come in.

We are hoping to engage an engineering firm to help us finalize the Astor Bridge. That is the bike and pedestrian bridge at Schneider Park.

We are awarding the construction contract for the Splash Pad at Schneider Park next to the Shelter House. It is push button activated. We are looking for outdoor Ping Pong and Foosball Tables to pepper out community parks.

Roger Carroll - Is there going to be Exercise Stations in the revised Commonwealth Park Plan?

Mike Price - I think it is still in the Master Plan.

Mayor Kessler - It is in the Master Plan but not in our scope for the year.

Mike Price - Other than the west side that is going to have the Arboretum feature we still haven't attacked the trails that will meander through that and they are on those trails. My thought process is once we attack those trails they will be considered.

Maple Syrup / Jeffrey Woods Festival - Saturday March 4, 2023.

Mike Price - The festival starts at 8:00 a.m. through 2:00 p.m. Registration is required for the Wood Shop and we currently have a waitlist. If you would like to get a bottle of MapSyrup we have a few spots left for that. We have 45 people registered for Maple Syrup

Jeffrey Park Planning Update

Mike Price - We are looking to bring a facilitator on board to help us to get this moving . We have \$40,000.00 in the Park Planning budget for this. I think it is enough to have experts involved and to present a high level goal of how the space is being used or how we want it to be used and measures we want in place. That is a little shift in the process and hopefully it will get this thing moving.

Mayor Kessler - We probably have ten active strategic plans that we are constantly working on. The most successful ones are the ones that have a strong steering committee that have good input and the planners are facilitating the community conversation. So our model here with this is to listen to community feedback, listen to the steering committee getting all this documented and come up with a ten to fifteen page plan that captures all that is important. We are not going to pay for the fluff. We are going to pay for the good stuff.

Ann Brennan - When will the committee actually start to meet?

Mike Price - I would like to get a facilitator on board. We reached out to one firm that works for OPRA as well and they do park planning .

I would also like to reach out to those who have expressed interest in the committee.

-5-

Tim Bezbatchenko - Do you have a vision on how you would like it to be ?

Mike Price - The overall theme is to make sure we identify what is in the park. How we need to carefully manage what is in the park. A Forest Management plan, understanding the assets that we have. Putting together a general maintenance plan to care for those assets Also identify areas for potential. Preservation is a strong aspect.

Ann Brennan - We need to get Forest Management with expertise in the terms of climate change. How do we keep the forest areas thriving for future generations?

Mayor Kessler - I have asked Mike to put out information regarding the steering committee together perhaps to reach new people that might be interested.

Old Business

New Business

Senior Advisory Committee Members - Recreation Board

Mike Price - Senior Advisory Committee was created to work through the transition from the way we provide Senior Services and is an existing committee now and meets a couple times a year. As the city figures out what is happening with this space and as we react to what is happening to this space the group will meet more often. Addressing a temporary senior space and moving to a permanent space . We had Jessica Spark on from the Recreation Board and since she resigned from the board we need to appoint someone to replace her.

Mike Price - It is as needed, not a standing meeting As the Senior Center gets into gear they will meet a little more frequently but probably not more than a couple times a year.

Ann Brennan - I would be happy to volunteer.

Roger Carroll - Last meeting we talked about ordinances, you have heard from legal regarding the park ? The City Attorney was going to get back to you.

Mike Price - I have not had a conversation with him

Ann Brennan - Will the Recreation Board have input regarding the signs?

Mike Price - Yes

Roger Carroll - May I have a motion to adjourn the meeting?

Aly DeAngelo - so moved

Tim Bezbatchenko - second

All in favor - motion carried