



**KIRKWOOD PARK BOARD
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 2013
KIRKWOOD COMMUNITY CENTER
111 S. GEYER ROAD, ROOM 202
MEETING MINUTES**

In attendance: Alan Hopefl, Steve Coates, Lisa Balbes, Carl Eklund, Rick Bagy, Kirk Hutchison, John Baker, Carol Gilster

Staff: Murray Pounds, Curt Carron

Excused: Tom Riggs

Park Board meeting convened at 7:05 p.m., chaired by Alan Hopefl.

I. CITIZEN COMMENTS

Mike Wilhelm
1345 Cragwold
Kirkwood, MO 63122

Mr. Wilhelm read a letter to the Park Board discussing trespassers on his property coming from Greentree and Emmenegger Parks. He discussed the boundary markers and signage issues.

He said both parks offer little or no boundary markers so park visitors feel free to roam where they please. At Greentree there is a parking lot, shelter and a sign that seems to actually encourage people to enjoy the river outside of the park. The sign shows a trail leading downstream from the park. There is also an existing trail in the park that leads out of the park that is marked "no dumping" and later another that says "no swimming" but nothing about the park boundary. This implies there is no boundary. Not only is this private property but it presents a significant liability for both the property owner as well as the City of Kirkwood.

At the shelter at Greentree the sign that shows the trail also shows the land between the parks as existing Meramec Greenway land. It suggests the park/trail will close the gap between Greentree and Emmenegger. The Meramec Greenway portion of the sign suggests this is already Greenway when it is not. Many of these signs actually display the trail route as if it exists already directly across our land to Emmenegger.

Mr. Wilhelm said he was asking for two things: First, post the borders of the parks definitively and effectively and install a fence at the downstream end of Greentree Park.

The second request is to stop suggesting this is a future trail or greenway. This includes immediately removing any signs, proposals, future plans or commentary about this connection between Greentree and Emmenegger. Whether it's a sign, website information or discussion as a professional representing Kirkwood, it needs to stop.

Mr. Wilhelm enclosed a preliminary plan for posting the parks and how this could be done effectively. The plans were handed out to the Park Board members in attendance. Mr. Wilhelm said he would like the Park Board to vote on this plan and approve the changes at the next Park Board meeting.

Debbie Matush
1455 Cragwold
Kirkwood, MO 63122

Mrs. Matush said she has been in the neighborhood for nineteen years and is in total agreement with Mr. Wilhelm and would like to encourage the Park Board to take the lead. She is depending on the Park Board to make people aware of their private property.

Gwyn Wahlmann
1002 W Adams
Kirkwood, MO 63122

Ms. Wahlmann said the trail was voted down by the Trail Committee. Kirkwood should find another route. GRG and Trailnet should drop it. This monster will not die. There should be a definitive statement that the trail is not going to happen. Kirkwood should spare the park and its neighbors.

Murray Pounds said he will get in contact with Mr. Wilhelm and set up a meeting to discuss his concerns. Alan Hopefl, Steve Coates, Carl Eklund, John Baker and Carol Gilster would like to attend the meeting with Mr. Wilhelm and Murray Pounds.

Murray Pounds-Nothing is imminent.
John Baker-Concerned with signage.
Carol Gilster-GRG promotes the idea and gives misinformation to the public.
Carl Eklund-There is signage and boundary issues.
Murray Pounds-Signs were approved by the previous Park Board.

Murray said these issues will be discussed at the next meeting.

II. APPROVAL OF AUGUST 19, 2013 PARK BOARD MEETING MINUTES

August 19, 2013 amended Park Board Meeting Minutes accepted.

Lisa Balbes-abstain

III. COMMITTEE REPORTS

a) Implementation Committee

This will be under New Business.

IV. OLD BUSINESS

a) Consideration of Projects for submission For Municipal Park Grant Commission of St. Louis County Grant

Murray Pounds – Based on discussion with representatives from communities attending the informational meetings for the grant program Murray said he thinks that several communities are going to adopt the strategy of waiting to submit grant applications until next year in order to request larger grant amounts. This means that next year's grant program will be very competitive. Murray put together a list of potential projects:

- Walker Lake Phase 4, the naturalization of the channel leading from Geyer Road to the lake
- Rehabilitation of the playground at Meacham Park Memorial Park
- The addition of a shelter at picnic site 13 (shown in the master plan on the opposite side of the water tower parking lot)

- Monroe Creek work
- Pool Slide Resurfacing
- Ice Resurfacing Machine

Steve Coates said he likes the idea of a shelter because it could also help with the lighting.

Carl Eklund asked if the playground at Meacham Park was paid by a grant. Murray said the Meacham Park playground was paid by a grant and it would still be ok to submit an application for rehabilitation of the playground since it has reached the expected ten year life cycle.

Alan Hopefl said it would be nice to complete the channel at Walker Lake.

John Baker asked if the project was in the budget would it be a harder sell.

Steve Coates inquired if the project was a green technology or ecological project would it help towards getting a grant.

Murray Pounds said there would be no points or reward for green technology or ecological projects.

Rick Bagy said would it be better to wait until next year for more money.

Murray Pounds said we have typically received a grant award every other year.

John Baker asked if we applied and don't get the grant will there be a penalty.

Murray said there will not be a penalty if we applied for a grant and didn't get it.

Carl Eklund said he thought it was worth taking a chance and submit a project.

Murray said it would have to be submitted by October 25th and the council will have to approve the project.

Steve Coates asked when we would we find out if we did receive a grant.

Murray said the commission will meet in November and if we did get a project approved, we will receive notice of the award in December. A contract for the grant would be entered into about the 1st of February at which time the work could begin.

A motion was made by Carol Gilster to submit an application to the Municipal Park Grant Commission of St.

Louis County for the Walker Lake Phase 4 project, the naturalization of the channel leading from Geyer Road to the Lake and seconded by Carl Eklund.

All approved. Motion passed.

b) Review of Kirkwood Park Diamond #4 Lighting Project

Murray went over the options regarding the lighting project on diamond #4.

- Having the wiring and controls installed for the two extra lights, but have no lights themselves installed. The cost would be \$1100. This would allow us to determine if additional lights are appropriate, and if that is the determination, the actual light fixtures could be installed at a cost of another \$5000 at a later date. This would allow us to add lights but would increase the cost for the two lights to \$6,100 versus the cost of \$3,700 if done at the time of the full installation.
- Reduce the brightness of the lamps used in the two fixtures. The suppliers said the lamps could be reduced to either 1,000 or 400 watt lamps with the existing system and ballasts. A reduction in wattage from 1,500 watts to 1,000 watts would reduce the light output to about half. Murray said we would probably have the resources to change to different bulbs ourselves if desired. There would be no change in the cost of the two lights if only bulbs are changed out.
- Opt not to add the two fixtures with the thought that if additional light proves to be necessary we could either add something to the poles ourselves, or add additional ground level lighting such as the hook lights or bollards already in use throughout the park. For comparison purposed, the bollard lights around the lake cost roughly \$1,200 apiece installed.

A motion was made by Rick Bagy to add the two lights at a cost of \$3,700 to be done at the time of the full installation. Steve Coates seconded the motion.

An amended motion was made by Rick Bagy to add the two lights at a cost of \$3,700 with the 1,000 wattage lamps utilized in the installation. Kirk Hutchison seconded the motion.

All approved. Motion passed.

V. NEW BUSINESS

a) Approval of Bid From E. Meier Contracting for Amphitheater Drive Paving

A motion was made by Kirk Hutchison to approve the contract with E. Meier Contracting to resurface Amphitheater Drive as called for in Bid 9854 for \$8,978.50, to be charged to account 201-5101-452.75-03, Project PF 1403. Lisa Balbes seconded the motion.

All approved. Motion passed.

b) Discussion of Monroe Creek Low Water Crossing and Future Actions

The Implementation Committee has reviewed the “Kirkwood Park Low-Water Crossing Alternative Analysis Report” at its most recent meeting. The committee determined the best approach among the alternative presented for addressing the low water crossing would be the “Vented Ford (concrete box culvert)” approach. This approach is in the middle in terms of cost (\$69,000) for the three approaches considered. The report also includes a description and cost (\$37,000) for completing some creek bed bio-stabilization upstream of the low water crossing. This was chosen over a much more expensive and complicated solution that would have enclosed the creek entirely to that point.

Murray Pounds reported that inadequate funds are currently budgeted to cover the cost of both elements of the project if desired. Currently \$50,000 is budgeted for implementation of the project which would leave a shortfall of at least \$65,000 based on the cost estimates for the two elements of the project.

Murray said he has talked with the engineers and they have indicated it would be possible to continue with the development of bid documents for both elements, but bid only one at a time. They also indicated that constructing each element independent of each other is doable, and it really would not matter which is done first.

The Board considered the following:

- Whether or not to move forward with final design work on both elements.
- Whether or not to bid both elements when plans are completed with the intent to either appropriate more funds or seek funding from other sources such as the City’s public works department, or possibly a Municipal Park grant.
- Move forward with the design, but bid only that which is affordable with the current fund and rebid the remaining element once more funding is secured.

Motion made by John Baker to move forward with the design, but bid only that which is affordable with the current funding and rebid the remaining element once more funding is secure. This would be for Upstream Channel Repair and Bio-stabilization Option for \$37,000 and the Vented Ford-RCP Culvert Option for \$69,000. Steve Coates seconded the motion.

All approved. Motion passed.

a) Maintenance Report

Curt Carron’s Monthly Maintenance Report for August 2013, for period July 16 through August 18 was included in the Park Board packet.

Information was included on:

Central Ridge 4 Greentree Festival

Curt included a detailed task schedule for the 2013 Greentree Festival in the Maintenance Report so everyone could have a better idea of how the Parks Department’s time is spent during the festival preparation.

b) Other Matters

None

VI. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Murray said he had a request from a local Scout group to camp overnight in Fireman's Park. The Fire Department has given their permission.

The Greentree Festival was very successful. There were big crowds, enjoying perfect weather. A wrap up meeting will be held in the near future.

The shuttle buses will be discussed at the Greentree meeting. At one point there was a 45 minute wait to get on a shuttle bus proving the popularity of the service.

Central Ridge Phase 4, week 2 report: The tennis building should be coming down tomorrow. The entire tennis court parking lot will be closed soon for the duration of the construction project. Everyone with Kirkwood Park reservations during this phase of the construction project has been notified about the parking issues. They were told they could possibly park on Adams, the Community Center parking lot or the parking lot on playground drive. Since picnic season is nearing the end this should not be too big of a problem.

The St. Louis County Highway Department is starting to make plans to resurface and improve Adams Avenue along the park property. The department may consider adding sidewalks and adding street marking to improve parking and bicycle use.

Mike Brown is retiring after 33 years of service. His reported retirement date is March 31, 2014.

VII. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS AND REPORTS

Lisa Balbes said she appreciated the recycling bags at Greentree.

Rick Bagy said he had some concerns over the entry point for the car show. Murray said they would talk about it and try to direct people to the car show more effectively.

Kirk Hutchison- the Party in the Park was a great family event.

John Baker reminded everyone of the Emmenegger Nature Walk this Saturday, October 5 at 10:00 a.m. John also said that Pete Laufersweiler is going to have a program on invasive plants, Oct. 2, 2013 at the community center.

Carl Eklund - thanks to the Street Department for the Rosehill paving and bike lane.

Alan Hopefl-October 26th will be the 50 Tree Event from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 pm and there will be a picnic after the plantings. The picnic will be held at the Scout Shelter. This is a nice event.

Steve Coates-We should find out what the whole community of Kirkwood has to say concerning Trail Plans. We as a Park Board need to listen to what the citizens say. We want safe walks to school, sidewalk improvements and bike lanes.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT TO CLOSED SESSION TO DISCUSS REAL ESTATE MATTERS

Motion made by John Baker and seconded by Rick Bagy to adjourn to closed session at 8:35 p.m.

Roll call as follows:

| | | | |
|-----------------|--------------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| Alan Hopefl-yea | Steve Coates-yea | Lisa Balbes-yea | Carl Eklund-yea |
| Rick Bagy-yea | Kirk Hutchison-yea | John Baker-yea | Carol Gilster-yea |

Motion passed 8-0

Motion made by Kirk Hutchison to return to open meeting at 8:45 p.m. and seconded by Lisa Balbes.

Roll call as follows:

| | | | |
|-----------------|--------------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| Alan Hopefl-yea | Steve Coates-yea | Lisa Balbes-yea | Carl Eklund-yea |
| Rick Bagy-yea | Kirk Hutchison-yea | John Baker-yea | Carol Gilster-yea |

Motion passed 8-0

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 8:46 p.m.