



**KIRKWOOD PARK BOARD
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2014
KIRKWOOD COMMUNITY CENTER
111 S. GEYER ROAD, ROOM 202
MEETING MINUTES**

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

Staff: Murray Pounds, Curt Carron

Excused: Tom Riggs, Rick Bagy, Carol Gilster

Park Board meeting convened at 7:06 p.m., chaired by Alan Hopefl.

Board meeting recessed at 7:07 p.m. to conduct a Public Hearing.

1. PUBLIC HEARING REGARDING PARK FUND BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2014-2015

Murray Pounds stated that a notification announcing the public hearing for the Park Fund Budget for Fiscal Year 2014-2015 was placed in The St. Louis Countian on February 6, 2014 and in the Webster Kirkwood Times on February 7, 2014. The budget was reviewed by the Finance Committee before the first of the year.

Alan Hopefl asked if anyone in attendance had any questions or comments regarding the Fiscal Year 2014-2015 Park Fund Budget.

There were no questions or comments.

The Public Hearing recessed at 7:10 p.m.

Park Board meeting resumed at 7:11 p.m.

II. CITIZEN COMMENTS

Kathy Paulsen
401 Frieda
Kirkwood, MO 63122

Kathy Paulsen told the Park Board members she would like to revisit the cooperative agreement between the Kirkwood School District and the Kirkwood Community Center regarding an indoor pool that was referenced in the 1996 survey. Kathy Paulsen said the big finding of the 1996 survey was 75% of the people wanted to pursue an indoor pool. The indoor pool could be used for competitive water sports and for swimming education classes. She said the rink and pool bonds will expire in 4 years and this would give us an opportunity to do something more unique.

Murray Pounds said this request should be funneled through the City Council.

III. APPROVAL OF JANUARY 27, 2014 PARK BOARD MEETING MINUTES

January 27, 2014 Park Board Minutes approved.

Alan Hopefl said the order of business will be suspended so the Board could consider a request for accommodations for a BioBlitz Event under New Business.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

a) Request for Accommodations for BioBlitz Event

Alan Hopefl introduced George Yatskievych, Ph.D., Curator, Director-Flora of Missouri Project Missouri Botanical Garden, Peggy James Nacke, Director-Special Projects, Academy of Science-St. Louis, and Rich Thoma, President, Webster Groves Nature Study Society to the Park Board.

Peggy James Nacke and George Yatskievych did a presentation with slides of the 2014 Proposed BioBlitz to be held at the Russell E. Emmenegger Nature Park on May 16th & 17th, Kirkwood, Missouri.

The BioBlitz is an exploration and inventory of the biodiversity of urban parks. The Academy of Science has led BioBlitz projects in the major parks in the St. Louis Region.

Led by the Academy of Science-St. Louis, the initial Partnership for proposed for the Kirkwood BioBlitz includes the Missouri Botanical Garden and Webster Groves Nature Society. The BioBlitz will have teams of public volunteers led by biologists and skilled naturalists who would search natural areas, listing as many species as they can find. Academy of Science-St. Louis has catalogued over 1,000 species in St. Louis Urban Parks which include Forest Park, Creve Coeur Park, and Tower Grove Park.

The Kirkwood BioBlitz goals include:

- Discover, count, map and learn about the living creatures in the park.
- Provide a baseline species list.
- Provide an opportunity for the public to do authentic research with a scientist and/or naturalist.
- Highlight the importance of biodiversity in our parks and our own backyard.
- Showcase the biodiversity in Kirkwood.

Peggy James Nacke said security would be provided for the event and the Kirkwood Police Department would be made aware of the event.

The BioBlitz will take place on May 16th and May 17.

Alan Hopefl requested the pavilion rental fees be waived for the BioBlitz event to be held at the Russell E. Emmenegger Nature Park.

Kirk Hutchison made a motion to waive the pavilion rental fees for the BioBlitz event being held on the 16th and 17th of May at the Russell E. Emmenegger Nature Park, seconded by John Baker.

All approved. Motion passed.

IV. COMMITTEE REPORTS

The Implementation Committee meetings minutes are included in the Park Board Packet.

The Implementation Committee met on Friday, January 31, 2014 with Steve Randolph of Horner & Schifrin. The Monroe Creek low water crossing was reviewed.

February 14, 2014 the Implementation Committee met and a review was conducted of the updated site plan for the Greentree Park wetlands and prairie demonstration area. Jay Wohlschlaeger and Chris Sanders, consultants from SWT and Wes Toison, BFA Engineering, attended the meeting.

V. OLD BUSINESS

a) Discussion of Kirkwood Park handball Court Wall Issues

Murray Pounds said he would have some additional renderings available at the March Park Board meeting since Peter Laufersweiler's assistance is important and he is out on paternity leave this week. Murray said he is also waiting for some additional information from Musco Lighting about the relocation of two of the tennis court lights.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

b) Legacy Program Update

The Greentree Legacy Program offers donors the chance to donate funds for a variety of reasons, and the money is used for several purposes. The most common of these are memorial bricks, trees or benches. Murray said his principal concern is getting approval for the pricing structure for the three items listed as well as some stated limitations on how long we would promise to maintain any item provided through donations. A copy of the revised brochure is included in the packet. A copy of a brief report from Katy Nieman showing what other communities are charging for their programs is included in the packet.

Kirkwood Current: \$350 for wood bench, \$675 for metal bench
Kirkwood Proposed: \$1,500 any type, adopt an existing bench for \$500
Trees: Kirkwood current \$200
Kirkwood Proposed: \$250
Bricks: Kirkwood Proposed: \$60

Trees would be guaranteed for a minimum of 5 years and benches 10 years.

The Park Board members said the bricks should be from \$75 to \$100 based on what other places charge for engraved bricks.

It was suggested the benches be guaranteed for 15 years.

The Park Board members said they had no problem with any of the increases and would leave the proposed changes up to the discretion of the Parks & Recreation Department.

c) Maintenance Report

The Monthly Report for February, 2014, covering the period January 27 through February 22, 2014 is included in the Park Board packet.

Topics included in the Maintenance Report:

Snow Call Outs

Diamond 4 Lighting Project

William Eric Laufersweiler

Emmenegger Footbridge

Severe Weather February 20

MPRA Training Session

Curt Carron went over the report with the Park Board members and answered questions.

d) Other Matters

None

VII. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Murray said he would like to discuss the dedication for Central Ridge Phase 4 at the March Park Board meeting.

The Pedestrian/Bike planning process is being handled by the Engineering Department.

A request from the YMCA to conduct a potentially large event in Kirkwood Park with the Downs Syndrome Association was made. Murray said this should not pose a problem since they are planning this event in October.

Murray reported he attended the St. Louis Chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects Award dinner on January 30, 2014 and Planning Design Studio was given an Award of Merit for the Walker Lake Project. The award covered the first three phases of the renewal of Walker Lake.

Election of officers will be completed the April Park Board meeting.

The Fiscal year ends March 31 and the Parks & Recreation Department is in good shape.

VIII. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS AND REPORTS

None

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.