



**KIRKWOOD PARK BOARD
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 2014
KIRKWOOD COMMUNITY CENTER
111 S. GEYER ROAD, ROOM 202
MEETING MINUTES**

In attendance: John Baker, Tom Riggs, Kate LeGrand, Kirk Hutchison, Rick Bagy, Wallace Ward, Scott Stream

Staff: Murray Pounds, Peter Laufersweiler

Excused: Steve Coates, Carol Gilster

Park Board meeting convened at 7: 03 p.m., chaired by John Baker.

I. CITIZEN COMMENTS

Gwyn Wahlmann, 1002 W. Adams

The honeysuckle clearing program at Emmenegger is going well. This will be an on-going event every Sunday, September through November at 1:00 p.m.

Ms. Wahlmann had some concerns regarding Emmenegger Park and they are as follows:

- 1. Loud Music**-The soccer park across the river was blasting extremely loud music this past Sunday. Murray Pounds had looked into this problem before and for a time the music was turned down. Now it is as loud as ever again. Hikers have said it is very disturbing. There are people that come to the park to pray in a peaceful atmosphere. The Fenton police told us the soccer park is in an unincorporated area and they have no jurisdiction. Ms. Wahlmann would like the music either turned down or off.
- 2. Remote Control Miniature Cars**-A club of about a dozen remote control miniature auto fans took over the trail parking lot at Emmenegger, running their little cars around. The park sign says "motorized vehicles" are prohibited and I don't know if these toys are considered such, but they are noisy, disruptive, and it seems like a disharmonious use of a nature park. It would be best if that steep gravel area was blocked off from public use, period.
- 3. Bikes**-An Emmenegger neighbor reports the reappearance of bike tracks on the trails. Please install bike racks at Emmenegger entrances and signs regarding the bike ban.
- 4. Dogs**-Rangers walking the trails have helped cut back on the off-leash problem lately. Multitudes come from far and wide to walk their dogs here. It is like a dog park for the region. Many think that

because it is a wooded area they don't have to pick up after their dogs. It is a hazard when you're clearing honeysuckle along the trails.

Quarry Park and Powder Valley are well protected, but Emmenegger, once the acclaimed crown jewel of nature in our region, is being degraded by some visitors and neighbors who have no respect for the park, for other people, or for nature in general.

II. APPROVAL OF AUGUST 18, 2014 MEETING MINUTES

Motion made by Kirk Hutchison to approve the August 18, 2014 Park Board Minutes and seconded by Tom Riggs.

Motion approved. Rick Bagy abstained. Motion passed.

III. COMMITTEE REPORTS

The Implementation Committee met earlier this week to review the public input and emerging concepts for the Fillmore Park planning process. Murray provided the presentation by the consultants during the meeting. The draft of the conceptual plan will be presented to the public on Monday, October 6, 7:00 p.m. at the Nipher Middle School Cafeteria.

Murray presented slides of two different concepts. These concepts had different locations for the pavilion, the playground based on the desire to make the entire site accessible or to group features in an area that can be more easily made accessible. At question still is whether or not a restroom should be included in the plan.

IV. OLD BUSINESS

a) Handball Court Screen Discussion

A handball tournament was held at the Kirkwood Park courts a couple of weeks ago and that event reinforced the idea that having some sort of barrier to contain balls would be useful. Slides were shown of the netting at Forest Park, and chain link system at Bridgeton. Discussion of horizontal or vertical screening was held. A vertical screen would be about 4' taller than the existing walls. A horizontal system would be invisible to those outside the court. Horizontal screening can trap debris.

A motion was made by Rick Bagy for Murray Pounds to explore the cost and feasibility of horizontal screening. Scott Stream seconded the motion.

All approved. Motion passed.

b) Pedestrian/Biking Plan Update

A copy of the draft plan is included in the packet. Board members will have the opportunity to provide comments that can be passed back to Trailnet. The Board can make comments until October 11. Trailnet and the committee that has been working with them will be conducting what is termed an "Early Action" project on Saturday, September 27, 2014.

During the event streets will be closed to automobiles and open for people to play, run, walk, bicycle, throw a Frisbee, make chalk art, and learn about the Pedestrian and bicycle Master Plan. Murray said he is looking for volunteers for this event.

V. NEW BUSINESS

a) Appropriation of Funds for Kirkwood Park Restroom Repair

Since the scope of the work for the repair of the restroom has increased (replacing a third of the exterior walls and half the roof panels) the cost to repair all of this has risen to just under \$218,000.00 Murray requested additional funds to revenue and expense for the additional costs for the repair of Kirkwood Park Restroom #1 be approved by the Board.

The first would be to appropriate an additional \$128,000.00 to revenue account 201-5101-452-7503. This amount represents the additional reimbursement we should expect to receive from our insurance company.

Motion made by Kirk Hutchison to appropriate an additional amount of \$128,000.00 to revenue account 201-0000-392-2000, seconded by Rick Bagy.

All approved. Motion passed.

The second action would be to appropriate a corresponding amount of \$128,000.00 into expense account 201-5101-452-7503, Project PF1508. This allows us to spend these additional funds.

A motion was made by Kirk Hutchison to appropriate a corresponding amount of \$128,000.00 into expense account 201-5101-452-7503, Project PF1508, seconded by Rick Bagy.

All approved. Motion passed.

The third action is for the Board to approve the increased contract amount from its current level of \$88,039.31 to the new amount of \$217,036.70 with Servpro.

A motion made by Rick Bagy to increase the contract amount for the contractor, Servpro, from its current level of \$88,039.31 to the new amount of \$217,36.70, seconded by Scott Stream.

All approved. Motion passed.

b) City of Kirkwood Board and Commission Training Program

A copy of the City of Kirkwood Board and Commission Training Policy is included in the Park Board packet. The City Council believes that it is imperative that all Board and Commission members receive sufficient training. Beginning in 2014, all Board and commission members will be expected to attend at least one training session. A training session on some of the important topics is being offered during the evening of October 29, 2014 at 7:00 p.m. at the Council Chambers. Murray said he would like to get a general idea of how many will be attending. This is a good opportunity. Murray said he would send out a notification regarding the meeting.

c) Maintenance Report

The Maintenance Report is included in the Park Board Packet. This is for the period August 18 through September 21, 2014.

Peter Laufersweiler discussed the Maintenance Report in Curt Carron's absence. The breakdown for the park crew Greentree Festival hours are included in the maintenance report. The park crew had no summer laborers left and one full time member was on light duty from arthroscopic knee surgery.

Included in the Park Board packet is the updated Sugarberry Tree Information. Peter Laufersweiler told the board members in attendance they will replace the Sugarberry Tree, the Arbor Day Tree, on the day of the 50 Trees Event.

Efforts to harvest seed from the tree by the Kirkwood Parks Department were successful in continuing the gene stock of this magnificent tree. Jost Greenhouse and Forest ReLeaf of Missouri were able to produce trees from the seed, and at the 2014 Greentree Festival the Kirkwood Urban Forestry commission distributed the Jost trees free to the public. Approximately 50 trees were given away. Forest ReLeaf will distribute the trees they produced to communities throughout the St. Louis region, and one of the larger trees produced by Forest ReLeaf will be planted near the location of its predecessor in Kirkwood Park for future generations to enjoy!

Slides of moving a tree that was along the Walker Lake inflow swale were shown. The tree was moved from the swale area to the hillside above the swale.

d) Other Matters

John Baker said Carol Gilster sent a letter with some concerns about dogs and bikes at Emmenegger Park.

VI. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- Murray reported to the Park Board he had a request for an overnight stay in Emmenegger Park on the weekend of September 29. There will be a staff member present.
- The Greentree Festival was very successful. Friday night was not as well attended as in previous years due to weather conditions, but on Saturday and Sunday there were large crowds. There were no issues. Everything went smoothly.
- A copy of the draft "Kirkwood Pedestrian and Bicycle Master Plan" is available for the public to review here at the community center through October 11. The plan and comment sheets will be on the front desk counter at the community center.
- The Implementation Committee will meet soon to review the plans for the Greentree Park Prairie Project and Walker Lake Phase 4.

VIII. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS AND REPORTS

Kirk Hutchison said he noticed a fishy smell by the lake. Pete said he would look into it.

John Baker said Operation Clean Stream was a success and a lot of fun.

The next Park Board meeting will be on October 27, 2014 at 7:00 p.m.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Park Board Meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.