

**KIRKWOOD PARK BOARD
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2015
KIRKWOOD COMMUNITY CENTER
111 S. GEYER ROAD, ROOM 202
MEETING MINUTES**

In attendance: John Baker, Tom Riggs, Kate LeGrand, Steve Coates, Kirk Hutchison, Rick Bagy Wallace Ward, Scott Stream and Carol Gilster (via telephone)

Staff: Murray Pounds

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

Board meeting recessed at 7:04 p.m. to conduct a Public Hearing.

1. PUBLIC HEARING REGARDING PARK FUND BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2015-2016

Murray Pounds stated a notification announcing the Public Hearing for the Park Fund Budget for Fiscal Year 2015-2016 was placed in The St. Louis Countian and in the Webster Kirkwood Times. The budget was reviewed by the Finance Committee before the first of the year.

John Baker asked if anyone in attendance had any questions or comments regarding the Fiscal year 2015-2016 Park Fund Budget.

Kirk Hutchison inquired about changes in the budget discussed at the February 19, 2015 Finance Subcommittee Meeting.

Murray presented a new draft budget that reduced the proposed budget deficit from over \$94,000 to just over \$72,000. The following reductions were included to reach this new budget figure:

- Telephone services were reduced by \$16,080 due to cancellation of multiple outdated point to point alarm circuits that are no longer used by the department.
- The Sanitation Department has backed away from providing trash collection services for outlying parks, reducing the landfill and sanitation services account by \$6,450. The park staff will return to previous methods of collecting trash, which would include utilizing the current trash truck. This will reduce our operating costs. The purchase of a 10 yard dumpster included in the 2015-16 capital plan was also deleted.
- Murray also reported property tax collections are running behind last year. There are no obvious reasons for why property collections are behind. The City's Finance Director has contacted St. Louis County see if there is a reason for this situation, or if more tax money is to be distributed.

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

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

I. CITIZEN COMMENTS

Alan Hopefl, 12 Orchard Way

Alan Hopefl discussed the Little Free Library Partnership Proposal submitted by the Kirkwood Parents As Teachers, a Kirkwood School District program for young children in the Meacham Park neighborhood. Alan suggested to the Board the Meacham Park Neighborhood Improvement Association and the Kirkwood Library work together on this project instead of the Parks Department.

Gwyn Wahlmann, 1002 W. Adams

Gwyn Wahlmann discussed the location of the proposed bike rack at Emmenegger Park. Gwyn said she did not like the proposed location of the bike rack lot and said the bike rack should be placed at the entrance to Emmenegger, not the trail parking lot.

II. APPROVAL OF JANUARY 26, 2015 MEETING MINUTES

Motion was made by Scott Stream and seconded by Kirk Hutchison to approve the amended January 26, 2015 Park Board minutes.

Motion approved unanimously, with Tom Riggs and Kate LeGrand abstaining.

III. COMMITTEE REPORTS

a) Finance Committee

A copy of the report from the meeting on February 19 is included in the Park Board packet. The information from the report was discussed during the Public Hearing.

b) Emmenegger Nature Park User Policy Committee

A copy of the report from the meeting on January 28, 2015 is included in the Park Board packet. Wallace Ward went over the report and said they are open to suggestions from the board on how to develop a survey form to gain a better understanding of who is using Emmenegger Park. Game cams were discussed to see if visual evidence can be gathered to show the number of people who allow their animals off leash.

Gwyn Wahlmann said the camera idea is expensive and dogs are detrimental to wildlife. They do not allow dogs in Powder Valley. She would like to see the presence of dogs limited, not banned at Emmenegger Park.

Wallace Ward inquired about the park ranger coverage at Emmenegger Park.

c) Sculpture Committee

The committee met at the Marianist Gallery and observed the sculptures at the site. A presentation of some of the sculptures that may be available was shown. The Board expressed interest in reviewing sculptures that had been previously presented to the Park Board.

Murray said there is going to be a Kirkwood Arts Commission Subcommittee meeting regarding public art on March 10 at 5:00 p.m. and asked if anyone on the Board would like to attend. John Baker offered to attend the meeting.

IV. OLD BUSINESS

a) Donation of Sculpture Pieces

This was discussed under Committee Reports.

V. NEW BUSINESS

a) Meacham Memorial Park Little Library Request

This was discussed under Citizen Comments

A motion was made by Carol Gilster to approve the Partnership Project from the Kirkwood Parents as Teachers for the "Little Free Library" for young children in the Meacham Park neighborhood as described in the proposal and seconded by Scott Stream.

Scott Stream made an amendment to the motion, seconded by Steve Coates that the Parents as Teachers, key community groups and Kirkwood Library work together on the project and have age appropriate literature.

Motion approved unanimously.

b) Transfer of Funds from Full Time Salary Account to Telephone Account

The phone bill for the park operation has been growing dramatically the last couple of years. Future bills are expected to be significantly reduced but amounts previously billed have to be paid. The full time salary account is projected to have a \$27,000 balance at the end of the year and staff proposed to transfer \$7,000 from account 201-5101-452-1101 to account 201-5101-452-5301.

Motion made by Kirk Hutchison to transfer \$7,000 from account 201-5101-452-1101 to account 201-5101-452-5301 and seconded by Scott Stream.

Motion approved unanimously.

b) Other Matters

None

VI. SUPERINTENDENT OF PARKS REPORT

The Maintenance Report for February 2015 for period January 26, 2015 through February 22, 2015 is included in the Park Board packet.

VII. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- The Walker Lake Phase 4 project is going well and at the rate the crew is going they could possibly be finished a month and a half earlier.
- The Pedestrian/Bicycle Master Plan is coming to an end and should be finalized soon.
- The Kirkwood Rotary Club still intends to put a bike rack at the inner parking lot at Emmenegger Nature Park providing a secure structure.
- The survey conducted by the City showed 96% of the people surveyed were very satisfied with the maintenance of the park system. Murray said this is a tribute to the Park Board members and the Parks Department staff.

- The feasibility study will go to the next phase. This will include getting floor plans, cost. There has been discussion on moving the theater by Public Works in the Taylor Fillmore location. This would reduce stress in the Parks.
- Murray reported he has heard nothing more about the proposed bench donation for Emmenegger Park.

VIII. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS AND REPORTS

Wallace Ward thanked Gwyn Wahlmann for all her time and work gathering information on Emmenegger Park.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

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

The next scheduled meeting of the Kirkwood Park Board is March 16, 2015.