

City of Olivette Parks & Recreation Commission

**MINUTES | February 17, 2021**

**MEETING HELD VIA ZOOM**

**1. Roll Call**

Quorum established via Zoom meeting at 7:12 pm

Commissioners Present: Kastner, Heuermann, Lee, Person, Rich and Sandhu

Commissioner Absent: Patterson

Also Present: City Councilmember Weil; and Parks & Recreation Director Tucker Knight, and Assistant Parks & Recreation Director, Don LaChance.

**2. Hearing from Citizens – None**

**3. Communications– None**

**4. Minutes**

On a MOTION by HEUERMANN, SECOND by KASTNER, Minutes of January 20, 2021, APPROVED (6-0)

**5. Parks & Recreation Director Report**

Director Tucker Knight reported on:

a. Prairie Burn

On Thursday, January 21st, Olivette resident & Certified Burn Boss, Gerald Axelbaum, led a prescribed burn of the Stacy Park Prairie. A 10-person crew comprised of Parks & Recreation staff and volunteers managed the burn under the Boss. The communication plan to inform neighbors and residents used was: signs at Stacy Park entrances, Siren GPS Messages, and postings on social media. The burn was permitted through the County of St Louis and coordinated with the City of St Louis.

b. Winter Storm Report

The Olivette Parks crew plays a key role during winter storms, dispersing melt/salt ahead of freezing weather, clearing City owned sidewalks and parking lots, keeping the City Center and Community Center access points open, and serving on the Public Works road plowing rotation. The Parks crew also responds after major wind events clearing brush, fallen trees and other storm debris. This year, the Park Crew has worked four major storm events as of February.

c. Baseball RFP

A Request for Proposals for the youth spring baseball workshop was released on February 3<sup>rd</sup>. The RFP outlines a six-week baseball skills clinic for ages K-5<sup>th</sup> grade. Responses were due Tuesday, February 16<sup>th</sup>.

d. Spring Break Camp

OMG Josh and Circus Kaput return for the ever-popular spring break camp March 22-26. Thirty-five spaces are available, with camp operating in the Community C enter. All St Louis County COVID-19 camp health guidelines will be followed.

e. Summer Camp Plans

Summer Camp registration opened Tuesday, January 16 with eight weeks of the full day Camp O, for children 5 to 12 years old. Contract camps with Mad Science are confirmed, with more contract camps in development.

**6. City Council Report**

Councilmember Weil provided updates on the Olive Crossing mixed use project and requested changes to the TIFF to add residential units to the project. Work is progressing on time for The Oliver, the residential/retail project under construction on the old City Hall site. The former George's gas station adjacent to Veterans Fountain will close with Firestone soon. There are two candidates for one seat. The is a developer proposal to build an apartment complex in the Hilltop neighborhood behind Public Works.

## **7. Park Master Plan Implementation**

- a. The public meetings providing progress reports on the five park renovations and new community center funded by Prop C were well attended, with 55 attendees and 10 panelists on Jan 27, and 49 attendees and 9 panelists on Feb 10.
- b. The updated timeline was shared, projects are all on time. The Warson Park project will break ground on August 1, 2021.
- c. The Micro Website is live, with a page dedicated for each park and the community center. All public meeting recordings and council updates are posted here, along with concept and schematic plans. Construction progress photos will be added after the ground breaking. Staff is investigating options for a live webcam on the Community Center work site.
- d. Current work focus is finalizing concept park plans, the Community Center is in Design Development Phase. The GRG Greenway that will be constructed in coordination with Warson Park is at 70% design completion.
- e. Commissioner Kastner requested removing the proposed vision item of a parking lot off of Warson Rd at Stacy Park. Staff will report back at next meeting regarding options.

## **8. 2021 Draft Parks & Recreation Commission Work Plan**

Chair, Jim Person, presented the updated draft annual work plan. Commissioners are signing up for goals by interest area. Final assignments will be reported at the March meeting. Commissioners will provide progress updates on working groups at the Commission's regular monthly meeting.

## **9. Meeting Date Change**

On a MOTION by RICH, SECOND by HEUERMAN, the September meeting date was rescheduled to September 22. (6-0); removing a conflict with Yom Kippur.

## **10. Future Agenda Items**

- Annual Work Plan
- Memorial Policy
- Park Tree Update/General Park Update- Brian Azcona
- Annual Capitol Project review

## **c. Upcoming Dates of Importance**

- February 27, 2021 Weed Warriors (date changed due to extreme cold weather)
- March 13, 2021 Weed Warriors
- March 17, 2021 PARC Meeting

d. **Adjournment** – On a MOTION by LEE, SECOND by RICH, meeting was ADJOURNED (6-0) at 8:13 pm