

City of Olivette Parks & Recreation Commission

MINUTES | MAY 19, 2021

MEETING HELD VIA ZOOM

1. Roll Call

Quorum established via Zoom meeting at 7:05 pm

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

Commissioner Absent: Rich

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

2. Hearing from Citizens – None

3. Communications– None

4. Special Presentation - Eagle Scout Candidate Trenton Elliot presented a Bat Box Installation Project Proposal for Olivette parks. Mr Elliot outlined the benefits of bats, and how the project tied in with the Parks Master Plan, native habitat restoration, and increasing biodiversity. Commissioners were supportive of the project, and suggested fundraising options to Mr Elliot. The Commission will be updated as the project progresses.

5. Minutes

Tabled to June meeting. No action taken.

6. Parks & Recreation Director Report

Director Tucker Knight reported on:

- a. Storybook Trail Recreation staff created a new Story Book Walks program for City park walking pathways and trails. Stories follow the seasons and will rotate through display at each. The first two stories were A Snowy Day and Bunny's Book Club.
- b. Pavilion & Playground Operations:
 - i. Park Pavilion increased rental frequency has continued as the pandemic restrictions ease. Irv Zeid and Villa Parks are now reservable online. Stacy Pavilion may be booked over the phone or in person. Online reservations are allowed up to a year in advance. If requested booking is within 48 hours of use, renters must contact the Parks & Recreation Office to ensure reservation signs are posted and the pavilion is serviced prior to use. Weekend contract cleaning of reserved pavilions has resumed with Revive Janitorial. Revive will also clean park restrooms following pavilion rentals. Unreserved pavilions will not be cleaned over the weekend, but will be cleaned by Park staff on Fridays and Mondays.
 - ii. Along with picnic table and restroom deep cleaning and painting touch ups, several park swing seats will be replaced this spring. The Villa Park water valve was repaired, and irrigation heads at Stacy and the Community Center were replaced. The water supply line to the Stacy Pond was also repaired. Under the new CDC guidelines Park staff will re-open drinking fountains in all the parks before Memorial Day. Irv Zeid Park is receiving a new ADA compliant drinking fountain funded through CBDG (Community Development Block Grant) funds. Installation is underway and will be completed within the next ten days. Electrical repairs are scheduled for the Villa & Irv Zeid
- c. Personnel Update:
 - i. First round interviews are complete for the vacation Recreation Coordinator position; second round interviews and practical exam will be held the week of May 17.
 - ii. Limited Equipment Operator: a new full-time Limited Equipment Operator has been allocated to the Parks Division. Recruitment for this new position will begin in May

7. City Council Report

- a. The City Council is continuing refinements to their annual goals, and preliminary budget discussions for the next fiscal year.

- b. Sydney Clark is the new Mayor, and Maxine Weil is the Mayor Pro Tem.
- c. The Gateway Project “Olive Crossing” TIFF change request to allow construction of residential housing was approved by the TIFF Commission.
- d. The OPUS proposal to construct a multi-story apartment building in the Hilltop neighborhood is working on resolving right of way issues, and traffic access.

8. Mosquito Control Methods

- a. Following a resident request during the April meeting regarding ceasing fogging for mosquitos in City parks, Jean Ponzi, Green Resources Manager at the Missouri Botanical Garden gave a presentation on mosquitos. The in-depth presentation covered: mosquito life cycle, habitat, infectious disease transmission, effective abatement methods, St Louis County Vector Control process, and public education. Mosquitoes are vectors of infectious disease; the most effective controls are 1. eliminating places for them to breed; 2. Testing the mosquito population for disease; 3. Using larvicide to prevent young mosquitoes reaching adulthood; 4. Educating residents on how to effectively eliminate mosquito breeding sites on their own properties, and effective control methods; 5. Air fogging is the least effective method of control; it kills all flying insects, even beneficial ones, and only works for that moment in time. It does not kill the young emerging as adults as soon as the next day. Fogging is considered effective when a specific disease has been identified in a specific area. Jean Ponzi volunteered to provide additional informational presentations to the City Council and for the public.
- b. Parks & Recreation Director Tucker Knight provided detail of the City’s contract with St Louis County Vector Control. In the last fiscal year, the City received 20 hours of larvicide application, and six hours of fogging, and a half hour of rodent eradication education requested by a resident.
- c. Commissioners requested staff find out more about the larvicide applications, and methods to exclude fogging from City parks, and suggest options for the City Council.

9. Rain Gauge Installation Request

On a MOTION by Heuermann, SECOND by Rich, installation of a rain gauge in Indian Meadows Park funded by University City in a mutually agreed upon location was APPROVED (7-0). The request will be forwarded the City Council for final approval. The rain gauge is solar powered, mounted on a slim light pole, and is part of the University City flood advance warning system. Data collected with by shared with the City of Olivette.

10. Vision Park Project Items

- a. Commissioners reviewed planned park amenities not funded by Prop C, and categorized as Vision items. Using a googlesheet, Commissioners individually ranked each amenity. This will assist staff in creating projects and recommending phasing in the 10 Year Capital Improvement Plan (CIP). Commissioners requested staff add a sum column to the googlesheet.
- b. Commissions reviewed the Park Capital Improvement Projects outside of the Park Master Plan.

11. Commissioner Reports

- a. Volunteer Working Group- volunteer captains (Person/Kastner) have been introduced. Used for volunteer groups form MICDS, Burroughs. Next steps are list of tasks, and job descriptions.
- b. Memorial/Fundraising Working Group (Sandhu/Lee) held initial meetings, and joined work day with Olivette in Bloom.

12. Future Agenda Items

- Annual Work Plan Commissioner Reports-ongoing
- Park Master Plan Implementation- ongoing

13. Upcoming Dates of Importance

May 25	City Council Meeting with Park Project Management Update
June 7	Camp O Begins
June 12-13	City-Wide Garage Sale
June 16	Parks & Recreation Commission Meeting

14. Adjournment – On a MOTION by HEUERMANN, SECOND by LEE meeting was ADJOURNED (7-0) at 9:35 pm