

PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION
The Lodge Conference Room
February 4, 2016
6:00 P.M.

ROLL CALL

Commissioner Duff Hufford called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

WARD I — Margaret Amend and Duff Hufford

WARD II — Andrew Theising and Rob O'Blennis

WARD III — Bill Reeves

Director of Parks & Recreation – Brian Schaffer

Alderman – John Pound

Excused: Commissioner Mary Duggan
Commissioner Katie Weinberg
Commissioner Marie Ganninger

AMENDMENT OF AGENDA

The Agenda was amended by Director Schaffer to change the date for approval of minutes to January 7, 2016.

PETITIONS & COMMENTS

- Commissioner Reeves commented that the concrete work looks great at Pioneer Park.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION: Commissioner Reeves motioned to approve the January 2016 minutes. Commissioner Theising seconded the motion. Those present voted as follows: Commissioners Hufford, aye; O'Blennis, aye; Amend, aye. Motion approved.

ALDERMANIC REPORT

- Alderman Pound announced that the city received the report on the white-tailed deer population count. West of 270 was higher than the Department of Conservation recommends, but not as bad as Town & Country. It may not be justified to take further steps at this point, but Alderman Pound will have more information at the next commission meeting.
- Alderman Pound reported that a Regions Bank at the corner of Bopp and Manchester has been proposed. Regions wants to build a 9500 sq ft., 2-story building. The project complies with all ordinances. There was a public hearing at the last Board of Alderman meeting and the only concern was increased traffic. A traffic study is being done. It will be voted on Monday, February 8th.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- Director Schaffer announced that there are two new vending machines in the concession area and away from the gym. They are in a more prominent location now, so hopefully they will get more use. They also have a better variety of items and accept credit cards.
- Director Schaffer reported that we have been having a lot of issues with packages and mail being delivered to 1050 Old Des Peres Road. In the past few weeks, some important packages were delivered to Core Fitness and they were either refused or shipped back or they sat there and no one called us to let us know that they were delivered. One issue is that there is only one street sign that says identifies Old Des Peres Road. We are looking into options for additional street signs to hopefully correct this issue.
- Director Schaffer reported that DJM was hired to do some honeysuckle clearing in Des Peres Park. They removed some honeysuckle on the northern boundary and between the park and the Village Bar. It really opened things up. Ace Hardware also hired DJM to do some honeysuckle removal between their store and Harwood Park.
- Director Schaffer reported that upon arrival of the SOD and front desk staff on the morning of 1/13/16, a woman was found sleeping under the front desk. As the front desk associate started turning on the lights she left through the front doors. The SOD locked everyone down in the offices and called 911. Public Safety was able to locate the woman that has mental health issues. She huddled all night under the desk area. After a review of the video surveillance footage, it was determined that the closing SOD from the night before checked the front doors three times before leaving with the front desk staff leaving the four custodians in the building. Unknown to the SOD and front desk staff, there was one individual left in the locker room. He left through the front doors shortly after the SOD left. Unfortunately one of the front doors does not lock when closed and that is the door the individual left by leaving the building unsecure. Ten minutes after the night custodians left at 12:30 am the woman is seen entering the dark lobby and going behind the front desk where she stayed until morning. The following procedures have been put in place to prevent this from happening again:
 1. Custodians have been instructed to double check the front doors after the SODs leave and again when they leave at 12:30 AM.
 2. GJ & Woody have adjusted all the front doors so they close with more force. The doors will be monitored to see if we start having incidents because they close harder.
 3. All SODs will continue to push on all exterior doors when closing to make sure they are locked...especially the front doors and the doors in the boiler room.
 4. SODs will walk through the building and make sure the public is all out before staff leaves together. They will also radio the night custodians before

leaving to confirm everyone is out since it is very easy to miss someone as you walk around the building.

5. We are adjusting the cameras in the lobby and adding two additional cameras. NOTE: This will not make things safer; just makes it easier to see the front doors on video.
- Director Schaffer reported that a memo was sent out to all part-time staff alerting them that some starting rates were increased starting on their next pay check to try and outpace the rising state minimum wage. A couple of part-time staff commented that everyone's pay should have been raised equally. They are upset that they have been here for a few years and now new employees are making almost as much as they are. One of the part-timers has been emailing me directly with her concerns. It was explained to her that 75% of our budget goes toward paying staff (full-time & part-time) and that our budget would not allow us to give an across the board increase. She was also concerned that part-time staff are only eligible for a \$0.25 increase per year and full-time staff get a percentage increase.
 - Director Schaffer reported an incident in the gymnasium on Martin Luther King Jr. Day where a 9 year old boy punched another boy in the face during a pickup basketball game. The father of the boy that did the punching was very defensive of his son. The video clearly shows that one boy fouled the other boy who turned around and punched him in the face. Neither boy is a member of The Lodge, although the boy that was hit is the son of a member and is a resident of Des Peres. The boy that did the hitting does not live nearby and was suspended for two weeks, although he is not expected to come back anytime soon as his father will not return my calls.
 - Director Schaffer commented that he and Gerald met with representatives from TRANE to go over some comfort and mechanical issues at The Lodge. TRANE is working through some of the issues, but some fixes will require the City to invest some money to replace some of our outdated control systems with new technology. TRANE is putting together a plan with figures for the City to consider in areas with the greatest impact. One of the biggest issues is that The Lodge mostly runs on a Johnson Controls system which is outdated and proprietary. Aaron Cayce is working on setting up an online HVAC work order system for the City that will notify Gerald, Woody and I of any issues. After Gerald and Woody correct the issue, they will notify TRANE of any tweaks they had to make to the system so efficiency can be confirmed. The new UV system has been ordered and is expected to be installed by the end of February.
 - Director Schaffer reported that TRANE says the new public safety engine bay heater is ready to be shipped and should arrive on site in the next week and will be installed.

OLD BUSINESS

a) Pioneer Park Construction Update

Director Schaffer reported that all of the concrete work at Pioneer Park on the basketball court and plaza are complete. Items still on the list to be completed are backfilling around the new concrete, seed/straw the hillside, park monument, new water line and new drinking fountain, install surfacing under new ride on bouncer, paint the courts (early to mid-March), and install basketball and tennis equipment.

b) Park monuments Update

Director Schaffer reported that the Park staff has begun removing the existing park signs at Pioneer and Sugar Creek Parks in preparation for the new monuments (1-Pioneer Park, 2-Des Peres Park, 2-Sugar Creek Park).

NEW BUSINESS

a) Outdoor Pool Leak Detection

Director Schaffer reported that Westport Pools has located two breaks under the lazy river. One of the breaks was located at a "T" in the river drive and another was located on the same pipe about 8' away. A 4' x 4' and 2' x 2' area were cut into the floor of the lazy river to expose the breaks. Westport Pools are working up pricing for the repairs.

b) St. Louis County Municipal Park Grant – Des Peres Park Planning Grant

Director Schaffer announced that we received \$6,400 Municipal Park Grant from St. Louis County for the Des Peres Park master plan and the Sunrise site.

c) 2016 Capital Improvement Project Status

Director Schaffer presented an update on the 2016 Capital Improvement Projects and reviewed with the commission.

UPCOMING SPECIAL EVENTS

Director Schaffer announced the upcoming special events:

- a) Frozen in February Dinner Dance – Saturday, February 6, 5:30 pm
- b) Family Fun Night – Saturday, February 27, 6:00 pm

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Commissioner Theising motioned to adjourn at 6:35 p.m. Commissioner O'Blennis seconded the motion. Those present voted as follows:
Commissioners Hufford, aye; Amend, aye; Reeves, aye. Motion approved.