

PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION
The Lodge Des Peres, Activity Room
June 3, 2021
6:00 P.M.

ROLL CALL

Commissioner Duggan called the meeting to order at 6 p.m.

WARD I — Margaret Amend and Larry Reutter

WARD II — Mary Duggan

WARD III — Marie Ganninger, Darlene Corley and Bill Reeves

Interim Director of Parks & Recreation – Scott Schaefer

Director of Parks & Recreation – Melissa Myers

EXCUSED – Rob O’Blennis
Pat Barrett

AMENDMENT OF AGENDA

None

PETITIONS & COMMENTS

Commissioner Reeves raised general questions about the tree donation program and whether a maximum capacity for new plantings at Des Peres Park should be established given its popularity. Staff advised that our current policy is to accept donations between January and September with plantings to occur in the fall with no consideration for maximum capacity. However, we typically strive for 10 new plantings per year, which is considered a reasonable number based on staffing levels and workload. Staff agreed to reexamine the program and report back on what adjustments should be considered. Incoming Director Melissa Myers entertained the concept of creating a tree adoption program in which existing trees could be assigned to donors therefore mitigating the influx of new trees.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION: Commissioner Reeves motioned to approve the April 8, 2021 minutes.

Commissioner Reutter seconded the motion. Those present voted as follows:

Commissioners Amend, aye; Duggan, aye; Corey, aye; Ganninger, aye.

Motion approved.

ALDERMANIC REPORT

None

INTERIM DIRECTOR'S REPORT

a) Director Vacancy – Appointment of Melissa Myers

Interim Director Scott Schaefer introduced Melissa Myers as the new Director of Parks & Recreation with an official starting date of Monday, June 7th. A quick recap of the recruitment and selection processes was also provided to the Commission.

OLD BUSINESS

a) Strategic Planning – “Reimagining The Lodge”

The strategic planning study titled “Reimagining The Lodge” was provided to the Commission for review and general discussion. Per the Interim Director, the exercise was very productive and the report did a great job establishing an operational and cultural framework for the department in which the new director can reference as guidance while acclimating to the role.

b) Capital Project Updates – Lodge Cedar Siding

Documentation was provided and reviewed regarding the ongoing siding replacement project at The Lodge. A change order has been authorized by the Board of Aldermen to expand the scope of work to include the pool house facades.

NEW BUSINESS

a) Facility Operations Update – St. Louis County Health Department Guidelines

The current guidelines were reviewed. Attendance is up due to the mask mandate being lifted.

b) Park Fund Performance – YTD Financials

Interim Director Schaefer provided a summary and breakdown of financials through the end of April. He reported we are trending in the right direction.

c) Membership Drive Recap – June 1 Membership Totals

A review of the 3-day membership campaign was reported with \$70,307 in total sales. In total, 169 memberships across all categories with roughly 65% of those purchases coming from Des Peres residents. A general discussion focusing on mid-year membership totals also took place.

UPCOMING SPECIAL EVENTS

- Park & Recreation Commission Meeting – August 5, 2021
- Summer Concert Series (June 11th/July 9th/August 12th)

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Commissioner Amend motioned to adjourn at 6:53 p.m. Commissioner Ganninger seconded the motion. Those present voted as follows: Commissioners Reutter, aye; Duggan, aye; Corley, aye; Reeves, aye. Motion approved.