

PARKS COMMISSION
Thursday, March 3, 2016
City Hall ~ Room 24
5:00 p.m.

Attendees: Diane Davison, Cynthia Loebenstein, Craig Lapine, Michael Mertaugh, Carol Hutchins, Meri Lowry, Dory Waxman, Travis Wagner, Councilor Belinda Ray, Sally Deluca, Troy Moon, Melissa Graffam, Ethan Hipple, Ethan Owens, Rick Knowland

Special Meeting – Members of the Land Bank Commission (Tom Jewell, Colleen Tucker, Dick Perry, Doug Roncarati) joined the early session of the meeting to hear a brief overview of the final report from the Trust for Public Land by Wolfe Tone.

There were some concerns from the Parks Commission members of the actual number of parks within the city as some of reports show 63 and another 68; and which number is correct. Wolfe said that there was no real answer as to why. The definition of a “park” varies and staffing would need to help clarify. Wolfe said that the Commission could talk further about that with Doug Roncarati, Troy Moon and himself and see how everyone came to those numbers. For example, a pocket park was not treated like other parks. Seem to be using a conceptual description of a park to try to standardize.

It was reminded to everyone by a commission member that land that is in the Land Bank have no amenities, whereas, parks do. It was also mentioned that regarding the budget process alternatives, leave the Land Bank out of it. Keep it with the Parks and Rec Department.

Michael Mertaugh mentioned that the topic of funding should be continued to discussed with the City Manager and City Councilors. Wolfe Tone agreed and it will be continued to be discussed.

Rick Knowland was concerned about the item on page 13 (and on top of page 14) of putting something in the parks that is not appropriate or does not meet the Master Plan requirements. Wolfe said he will work with Rick on this item.

Citizen Comment Period – Carol Schiller spoke to the Commissioners regarding Longfellow Park. Her speech is attached to the meeting minutes. Sally DeLuca did mention that there will be an ADA assessment study done throughout the city and will help address the issues at Longfellow Park.

Laurie Davis spoke that this is the first that they have heard this. She is asking that the city keep the neighbors and the neighborhood association in the loop of any possibly changes. They are concerned about installing a lot of hardscape (a large patio in the middle of the park) and again would like more communication from the city.

Acceptance of Meeting Minutes – February 2015

A motion was made by Michael Mertaugh accept the meeting minutes. Motion seconded by Travis Wagner. Motion passed 8-0.

Communications- Sally Deluca informed the Commission that she is on the Congress Square Design team. This summer is the 120th anniversary for Riverton Trolley Park.

Troy Moon informed the Commission that they received five (5) vendor proposals for the Deering Oaks Castle. Anne Pringle, Ethan Whipple and Troy interviewed two (2). They are currently in negotiations with Tiqua Restaurant.

Unfinished Business

2016 CIP Discussion – Lincoln Park walkways have been approved in the CIP budget. Also, \$80,000 for design of Amethyst open space.

Sub-committee Updates – Green Space Gathering Subcommittee – They have not met as of yet, but plan to in March. The event will be held on October 6, 2016.

Finance/Fundraising Committee- They have met and had a brain storming session.