

SAINT CHARLES PARKS & RECREATION BOARD MINUTES
MEETING HELD
December 6, 2023

The meeting was **Called to Order** by President Ryan at 6:01pm in the American Legion Room in Memorial Hall. **Roll Call** noted the following present for the meeting:

Board Denise Childress, Mike Ryan, Brad Harmon, Kathy Mudrovic, Mike Hannegan Merle Schneider and Council Liaison Denise Mitchell were present. Tuss Peluchette was absent.

Staff Maralee Britton – Director, Chris Atkinson- Assistant Director, Don Borgmeyer – Enterprise Superintendent, Mike Wilkins – Chief Park Ranger Peter VanLinn – Maintenance Superintendent.

Other Kent Fawcett – BRS, Jason Ringdahl – BRS, Brandon Dowling – Johnson Consulting, Jay Wohlschlaeger – SWT Design, Briana Coleman – SWT Design, Darin Barr – Ballard King (Virtually)

3. Pledge of Allegiance

4. Discussion and Update of the Fieldhouse/Hub Feasibility Study by BRS and Team

Britton introduced the consultant team to the Board. Ringdahl led the presentation with input from the other team members. Ringdahl and Wohlschlaeger highlighted the original Master Plan with the responses and direction provided from that process. Barr highlighted the demographic and market assessment information.

Earlier in April 2023, the consultant group kicked off the feasibility study process that involved multiple in person meetings in July with the public, focus and stakeholder groups. From those meetings, multiple field house building layout options were discussed. Either due to the size of the proposed building, high construction costs or the lack of a possibility of the building being self-sustainable operationally further refinements were needed on the building layouts.

Presented to the Board were Option A, an approx. 80,000 square foot building with 4 basketball courts and approx. 34,000 square foot of indoor turf with other building amenities at an estimated cost of \$26-31 million and Option B, an approx. 96,000 square foot building with 6 basketball courts and approx. 34,000 square foot of indoor turf with other building amenities at an estimated cost of \$32-37 million.

Dowling and Barr led the discussion on the operational costs to operate both buildings and the economic impact of building and operating both buildings.

Conclusions were that Option B is approx. \$6,000,000 more to build than Option A but offers greater cost recovery and economic impact potential.

The consensus of the Board was that the preferred option is Option B. The consultant group said that they would continue to fine tune Option B.

The next step is to also begin further discussion on the hub portion of the development and possible phases to build the park.

5. **Discussion of Boschert Greenway Issues**

Atkinson presented the memo to the Board. Since the trail was closed down to use by the public in October staff have been working with City officials, consultants and contractors to finalize a plan to reopen the trail in the short term and then also complete repairs in the long term.

In the short term, the plan is to pulverize and compact the entire trail between Boschertown Road and New Town Blvd. This phase will also include a 100 ft test site for Full Depth Reclamation(FDR). A possible MODOT Project (Detention Basin clearing) will likely impact the timing of this process. The Board and staff also both believe removal of the approx. 300 trees is an important first step in this process.

Long term the plan is to see how the FDR test site functions. If it works then the entire trail will have the FDR process completed and then it will receive a new asphalt cap to finish the project.

Great Rivers Greenway has verbally agreed to fund 50% of the repairs and an agreement will follow at a future meeting for Board and Council approval.

Childress asked if City Legal have provided any input on this and also asked if Parks should be requesting more than 50% of the costs from GRG. Staff said they would reach out to City Legal to get their input/opinion.

6. **Consideration of Change Order #1 to the contract with Byrne & Jones Construction for the pulverizing and compacting of the Boschert Greenway (Boschertown Road to New Town Blvd section). Adding \$79,359.00 to the current contract amount and making the new contract amount \$102,129.35***

Atkinson presented the Change Order which would allow the completion of the first phase of the trail restoration project. Harmon made a motion to approve the Change Order. Seconded by Mudrovic. Motion passed.

7. **Transfers over \$10,000***

Atkinson presented the Transfer. Harmon made a motion to approve the Transfer. Seconded by Hannegan. Motion passed.

8. **Discussion and Consideration of Revisions to the Compensation Policy***

Britton presented the Revised Policy. Childress made a motion to approve the Revised Policy. Seconded by Harmon. Motion passed.

9. **Discussion and Consideration of Department Closure of Non-Essential Personnel December 27 through 29, 2023***

Britton presented the Closure Request. Childress made a motion to approve the request. Seconded by Mudrovic. Motion passed.

10. **Action Tracker Report**

No discussion.

11. **Adopt a Park (Board Member observations pertinent to facilities, programs and services within the System)**

Schneider, Hannegan, Ryan and Harmon – Good

Childress – Good. Childress brought to the Boards attention the proposed Ordinance revisions by City Council to change or eliminate certain Boards and Commission in the City. She has concerns as a citizen how these changes may impact the various Boards and Commissions. The Ordinance has been introduced and will be discussed further at the December 12, 2023 Work Session.

Mudrovic – Frontier Park is busy with activities and the construction projects.


Mitchell – Good. Enjoyed attending one of our Lunch & Learn sessions with SSM. Also asked about the Wapelhorst Cell Tower flag. She also touched on the Boards and Commissions issue and that she was told that the City Charter “trumps” or supersedes any ordinance. Further discussion will take place at the upcoming City Council Work Session.

As there was no further business to discuss Childress moved for **Adjournment** at 8.42 pm: Seconded by Hannegan. Motion passed.

Meeting: December 6, 2023

Respectfully Submitted,


Mike Ryan - President


Denise Childress - Secretary