

**SAINT CHARLES PARKS & RECREATION BOARD MINUTES**  
**MEETING HELD**  
**February 7<sup>th</sup>, 2024**

The meeting was **Called to Order** by President Ryan at 6:03pm in the American Legion Room in Memorial Hall. **Roll Call** noted the following present for the meeting:

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

**Staff** Maralee Britton – Director, Chris Atkinson- Assistant Director, Don Borgmeyer – Enterprise Superintendent, Peter VanLinn – Maintenance Superintendent.

**Other** City Council Person Mary West, Brian Ferris and Aina Ferris.

**3. Pledge of Allegiance**

**4. Presentation of Potential New Park on Hawk’s Nest Road**

Britton introduced Brian and Aina Ferris and Councilperson Mary West. They have been working with Britton and VanLinn on this project.

The approx. 1.6 acre property in question is located at Hawks Nest Drive and Lynbrook Street is in Ward 4 which is Councilperson West’s Ward.

The property could/would be purchased from the current owner and then donated to the City to be used as parkland only.

They made a presentation to the park Board about the possibility of turning the vacant land into a natural, educational park. The goal is to get children and families outside into nature to explore and have fun. The park could have an outdoor education component where people can learn about trees, plants, animals etc.

The property could also include parking, gazebo, learning classrooms, benches, planted areas and natural paths.

The Park Board was excited about the possibility of a park in this Ward in the City and of the concept.

Childress made a motion to approve the concept of the park and for staff to continue working with the City and the Ferris’s on the development of the park. Seconded by Mudrovic. Motion passed.

5. **Memorial Hall Update**

Atkinson discussed the information presented in the memo. Since the last Board meeting staff have been working tirelessly to get the building repaired and back open to the public.

The Parks & Recreation Departments maximum financial liability is \$50,000 since this is now been covered by the City's insurance. Insurance will also cover lost revenue and staff time spent working on the project.

The building is now dried out and staff and contractors are working on repairing the damaged walls, plumbing fixtures etc.

The hard wood floor on the main level will be sanded and refinished beginning 2/5//24.

Current goal is to get the building back open to the public on 2/29/24.

The Board thanked staff for their work on getting the building back open.

6. **Action Tracker Report**

Britton talked about the possible partnership with City Engineering/Public Works to add an extra entrance point into Frontier Park at Madison Street (Street that connects to Forget Me Not Park). This would provide direct access from Main Street to the park restrooms.

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

Schneider, Hannegan, and Ryan – Good

Childress – Good. Thanked staff for getting the agenda posted online.

Mudrovic – Frontier Park is busy.

Councilperson Mitchell – Good.

As there was no further business to discuss Mudrovic moved for **Adjournment** at 7:01 pm:  
Seconded by Childress. Motion passed.

Meeting: February 7<sup>th</sup>, 2023

Respectfully Submitted,

  
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Mike Ryan - President

  
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Denise Childress - Secretary