

Special Council Meeting 03/25/2022

Minutes taken by Autumn Shreve, City Clerk

Meeting Time 7:00 pm Presiding officer: Mayor John Ryan

Council present: Moore, Shreve, Sitz & Lister

Council Absent: Seals

Employees present: A Shreve

Guests present: Pat Cox (BG Consultants), Courtney Priest, Kelli Moore, Bruce Overturf

Mayor Ryan called the meeting to order at 7:00pm.

Mayor Ryan advised that this meeting was to gather input from the public about park needs and wants.

A list of ideas was presented to the council from the 11/21/21 special meeting.

Sitz corrected list and advised that community stated they would like a pump track, and zip line, and that the council decided at the previous meeting that a splash pad would be too expensive to maintain and too much water waste.

Pat Cox reminded the council to consider the sewer at the north end when planning the park, He stated the operational edge should be 100 feet. He also stated that we need to be aware of supplying utilities.

The mayor stated he spoke to the maintenance supervisor about cleaning up the tree line at the park.

It was stated that there is a need for a fence between the park and the railroad track for the safety of the community. There was question on the opening in the fence line, it was advised that the opening was so that people could collect the foul balls during games.

There was discussion about the walking path.

Courtney Priest stated that she thinks that the fence is a good idea. She had concern about the current playground and the lack of ground cover. She asked the council if they have thought about the current equipment and the stuff we already have at the park.

It was stated that there should be adequate ground cover for the play area. There were suggestions of building a retaining wall to keep the mulch in and a plan to get the current park back to where it needs to be at.

Pat advised the council that it can be money driven and there are multiple ways to get funded such as grants, scholarships, or funded by companies/organizations.

The mayor stated that he feels like a plan with phases is a good route to go with and that the council should take the ideas and decide what is do-able and prepare for the next stage.

Courtney Priest asked the council if phase one will take care of maintenance of the current toys and playground and what is the council looking at as a priority for the park.

She suggested that if they want to attract and retain families the council should start with stuff for the kids and littles. She also suggested creating things that are good for families with individuals with disabilities as there is nothing set up for those individuals. The mayor stated there is handicap access into the play area.

There was more discussion on the mulch and ground cover. Pat Cox stated that wood mulch tends to only last about a year and rubber mulch won't wash away as quickly and lasts about 3-4 times longer.

The mayor suggested that we have a plan for the size for all shelter houses or outdoor pavilions, a standard to go by so that they all match through out the build. Pat Cox stated that Shawnee County's shelter houses are booked year-round for events.

Bruce Overturf had questions on if there would be a security camera system put in at the park to help deter damage. The mayor advised that would be up to the council to make that decision.

Lister asked what the community member present thought should be the first priority.

Bruce Overturf thought a fence between the park and playground, better drainage system to get the water away, cleaning the dead limbs and trash out.

Bruce asked about supplementing community service for violations to help offset the cost of clean up and get stuff done. The council brought up there being an issue of there having to be supervision, and the quality isn't as good per previous experiences.

Courtney Priest thought the toddler & younger area being a good starting spot with a solid rubber base which could be good for handicap. Courtney stated that concrete pad & walking path would be more versatile. She feels that a pad would be usable for more items.

Councilman Moore was concerned about scheduling conflicts with the concrete pad, and mentioned that he thought the Rec department should be a Parks & Rec department and take care of it but that they can't get enough people to join the board.

Moore thought the Pad and park for toddlers should be front and center for the planning,

Courtney stated that we need more options for children who require supervision that are structured.

Lister asked if Holly is still interested in doing the skate park, mayor thought that she was still interested.

Council members agree with needing to know what will go in it but not enough people come to the meetings.

Shreve asked if the council is thinking to start with multipurpose pad, landscaping and toddler park, Lister does not think walking path is a priority. Moore stated that it could be a path made with a bobcat and filled with gravel.

Pat introduced himself to those who do not know him, he stated that Councilman Moore was spot on to establish alignment for walking path. Safety and fence around the ground is a great start. He stated that most walking paths start out rough and can be done in phases.

The council needs to know the amount of area for the skate park, at this point there has been no plan from Holly. Pat Cox stated that it was his understanding that she was going to come back with funding and a plan. He stated that it is all about budget for a skate park.

There was a recommendation to start from the south and work north but the council needs to decide where to start and how.

Parking is important as current parking is inadequate. The council discussed putting parking along the current parking on both sides of dirt road and creating a barrier so that people do not drive into the grass/park area.

There was also a discussion of putting a gate at the end to allow cars to get through for events and for adding breaks in the barrier to allow people to walk through.

Right now, the council needs to decide what they want to see in the park based on the suggestions already received from the community and come up with a plan.

Sitz suggested having Pat Cox and BG consultants come up with a map for the park.

There was discussion on a soccer field and where it could go. There was discussion of the space available at Jones Park, west of the pool. There is concern for lack of parking in many locations. Moore suggested the land behind Carbondale Attendance be used if possible.

The clerk asked the council if they knew for sure if Holly planned on continuing with the Skate Park, as her last comment was that maybe she needed to find land elsewhere. The clerk asked if the council was going to speak with Holly regarding this or what they would like to do next. The mayor suggested letting her come back to the council. Sitz thought it would be respectful for a council member to speak to her once they determine how much space she can use.

Motion to adjourn at 8:25pm by Sitz, 2nd by Shreve motion carried.