



PARKS, RECREATION AND ARTS COMMITTEE OF COUNCIL MEETING RESULTS
August 23, 2022
12:00 p.m.
City Hall, Room 101

Chairperson Budoor called the meeting to order at 12:00 p.m.

Those in attendance included:

Councilmember Barb McGuinness, Ward I
Councilmember Mary Ann Mastorakos, Ward II
Councilmember Michael Moore, Ward III
Chairperson Gary Budoor, Ward IV

Also in attendance were:

Mayor Bob Nation
City Administrator, Mike Geisel
Councilmember Merrell Hansen, Ward IV
Director of Parks, Recreation & Arts, Tom McCarthy
Executive Assistant, Parks, Recreation & Arts, Ann-Marie Stagoski
Barbara Briggs, Co-Chair of Parks, Recreation & Arts Advisory Committee
Rob Kilo, Co-Chair of Parks, Recreation & Arts Advisory Committee

Agenda Item #1: Approval of Meeting Results

The meeting results of the June 14, 2022 Parks, Recreation & Arts Committee of Council Meeting were submitted for approval. Councilmember McGuinness made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Moore, to approve the meeting results. There being no discussion, the motion was passed by a voice vote of 4 to 0.

Agenda Item #2: Creative Arts Alliance Art Piece

Director McCarthy explained that the art piece, *Popsicle*, previously chosen in the Art on the Move draft was no longer available and the committee revisited the options and chose another piece. The location for the new piece is proposed as the same location that the previous piece would have been near the south plaza in Central Park. The size is 6'X3'X6". We will have this piece for two years if passed and full council approves.

Councilmember Moore made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Mastorakos, to approve the art piece, *Sun to Moon* by artist Mary Argers and move it on to full council. There being no discussion, the motion was passed by a voice vote of 4 to 0.

Agenda Item #3: Cricket Options

Director McCarthy stated he had been asked to get additional information on the Parks Department running a youth cricket program that mimics the youth soccer program that is currently being run. It would run for seven weeks, be revenue positive, have volunteer coaches, have one practice and one game per week, would not require a permanent pitch, use a different ball than a traditional leather cricket ball, and would be played on multi-sport fields. It is recommended that we start in the fall but push it back a few weeks to allow time to promote the program. It would also run in the spring of 2023 due to the short notice for this fall. It will then be reevaluated.

The second option was to install an adult cricket field on the 32 acres east of the complex, grade the field, create infrastructure for parking of 100 spaces, add fertilizer, field marking, permanent pitch, electric, and water/sewer. That project would run about 2.8 million dollars. The packet also includes information on what the American Cricket Academy was willing to pay and what the City would charge. The Academy communicated that they were willing to pay \$25/hr. The City would charge \$45/hr. on a graduating scale over years.

Councilmember Moore and McGuinness expressed favor for the youth program to test the waters. Director McCarthy stated that the program could be tried this fall and again in the spring.

Councilmember McGuinness moved to approve starting a youth cricket program costing approximately \$3,100. Councilmember Moore seconded the motion.

There was further discussion on the cost of the program being \$82 for residents, the age range from 6-11 years, the need for a break even number and what size field would be used. There was clarification that this would not conflict with other contractual obligations. Councilmember Budoor expressed the desire for additional time for the program. Several others discussed the attention span of young children, the Parks Department's experience in running youth programs, the research in how other programs across the nation are run and the explanation that this is a recreational program as opposed to a competitive program.

Councilmember Mastorakos stated it was important to her that it is not evaluated on the fall because of the time frame available to promote this fall's program. There being no discussion, the motion was passed by a voice vote of 4 to 0.

Councilmember Moore moved to postpone/table the second option of building the full-size cricket field until the financial position of the City is known and until we know if there is enough interest. There was no second. There was additional discussion on pickleball when Chairperson Budoor reminded everyone that this topic was not on the agenda.

Agenda Item #4: Municipal Planning Grant for Chesterfield Family Aquatic Center

Director McCarthy brought up the concerns over the cost to maintain the aquatic facility. It is 24 years old. Capri Pools was brought in to evaluate potential future issues and their opinion was that there are about 3 years before major expensive repairs would be needed. Director McCarthy is recommending that we apply for a Municipal Planning Grant which pays up to \$10,000 to gather more information from

the community about their vision for a future pool and its size, plan, amenities, location, etc. With this grant you host two meetings to gather citizen input, have a statistical survey and get budgeting numbers. Given that it is a multi-year process to plan and design a pool it would be beneficial to start soon. The City has a 20-30% match for the planning grant.

Councilmember Budoor moved to approve pursuit of the Municipal Planning Grant for an aquatic center and move it to full council. Mr. Geisel reiterated the Parks could move forward and apply and it would come back to council for approval. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Mastorakos. There being no further discussion the motion passed on a voice vote of 4-0.

Agenda Item #5: Parking in Central Park Update

Director McCarthy reiterated the lack of parking for Amphitheater and special events in Central Park. Gershman has started charging for parking at their facility. Gershman has agreed to take \$1,000 per event if the City cleans up after the events. This agreement would open up 412 spots in the top of the garage, the lower level (as long as we keep 20 spots open for employees) and the outside parking. Since that time Michael Steinberg now wants to charge for parking at the mall and has put up signs that say no event/concert parking and that cars will be towed. Director McCarthy reiterated that when we purchased the 8 acres across from the amphitheater for parking that would have allowed for parking and could create 245 spaces between Parks Circle Drive and the library, 100 spaces where pickleball was planned to go originally, and 27 spaces on the loop road which will be done by the end of the year.

Mayor Nation thanked Director McCarthy for getting cricket established and recapped the idea that the planners indicated that pickleball was planned for the space between Parks Circle Drive and the Gershman building. Councilperson McGuinness inquired why we didn't continue with St. Louis Parking charging \$10 per car to park at the Gershman property. Director McCarthy stated that he was asked to bring this information back to the committee. One of the reasons brought forward when purchasing the 8 acres was to create parking and so far, no spaces have been created. Mayor Nation asked for a review of the parking situation for the Backstoppalooza event this weekend.

The pool parking lot has 188 spots but the pool is open so not all spots will be open. The Parks Department blocked off the use of the pavilions so that more spots would be available. Some spots on Veterans Place Drive are blocked by the security set up on the road which takes away spots. Gershman takes 272 parking spots and 100 spaces on their surface lot, in addition to the spaces by *The Awakening*. There are 98 spots on Lydia Hill Dr. The Park apartment complex tows anyone who parks in their lots. Mounds of gravel have been placed to prohibit parking in the new development area. The mall is allowing parking there for the Backstoppalooza event for free but wants to be paid for other events. Parking in fields on park property is prohibited by city ordinance and will be enforced. The YMCA and library allow parking in their lots after they close. There are approximately 1,500 cars at an average concert.

Gershman has agreed to the \$1,000 number because they were not really making any money with the St. Louis parking events. Paying the \$1,000 would be a short-term fix to a long-term problem.

Mayor Nation inquired as to how many spots the \$1,000 payment would be. He also stated that the eight acres of land was once under contract by a developer who was going to put condos across from the Amphitheater. The City became concerned and the developer withdrew their application. The City then acquired that property with the primary reason being to develop parking. Councilmember

McGuinness repeatedly said that that was not the reason for acquiring the property for some councilmembers and that green space is important.

There was general agreement that Parks Department could spend the \$1,000 as needed.

Agenda Item #6: Unfinished Business

No unfinished business.

Agenda Item #7: New Business

Director McCarthy explained that the prior approved location for the Kilo art piece ended up being a sewer retention area when the actual Riparian trail was built and suggests an alternative location near where Burkhart meets new Riparian Trail. This would be put in place in the fall or winter. There are still four or more weeks until the trail will be finished. The art piece would be on a five-year donation with a renewable 5 years.

Councilmember Moore moved to approve the location of the art piece and move it to full council. Director McCarthy stated he will put together an exhibit and get this to council in the near future. Parks will install in late fall as time permits if approved by full council. The motion was seconded by Councilmember McGuinness. There being no further discussion the motion passed on a voice vote of 4-0.

Agenda Item #8: Adjournment

There being no further business to discuss, Chairperson Budoor adjourned the meeting at 1:18 p.m.