

DATE: May 31, 2005
TO: Michael G. Herring, CA
FROM: Mike Geisel, DPW\CE



SUBJECT: Meeting Minutes, PW\Parks 5/26/05

A meeting of the Public Works/Parks Committee began at 5:45 p.m. on Thursday May 26, 2005. Those in attendance included Chairperson Barry Streeter (Ward 2), Barry Flachsbart (Ward 1), Dan Hurt (Ward 3) and Mary Brown (Ward 4). Also in attendance were Councilmembers Bruce Geiger (Ward 2) and Mike Casey (Ward 3), Mike Geisel - Director of Public Works\City Engineer, Bonnie Hubert – Superintendent of Engineering Operations, and Darren Dunkle - Superintendent of Parks, Recreation and Arts. Mr. Randy Logan and Mr. Tom Rothwell of the PRACAC, Ms Diane Thomas, Ms. Carol Painter, Ms. Karen Bono, and Mr. Ram Suntiba were also in attendance.

The meeting was called to order at 5:45 p.m.

*** To be discussed at the 6/6/05 meeting of City Council.**

Item #1: Councilmember Brown motioned to approve the minutes from the 3/16/05 meeting of the Public Works\Parks Committee as submitted. Councilmember Flachsbart seconded the motion which passed unanimously, 4 – 0.

Item #2 & 3: A motion was made by Councilmember Brown, seconded by Councilmember Flachsbart, to approve Councilmember Flachsbart as Vice Chair, and assign Committee Liaisons as follows:

Vice-Chair PW\Parks – Councilmember Flachsbart
Beautification Committee _ Councilmember Brown
Chesterfield Arts Commission – Councilmember Brown
Parks, Recreation and Arts Citizens Advisory Committee – Councilmember Streeter
Public Works Board of Variance – Councilmember Flachsbart
Chesterfield Citizens for the Environment – Councilmember Hurt
Public Works Citizen Advisory Group – Councilmember Flachsbart.
The motion passed unanimously, 4 – 0.

Item #4a: Mr. Geisel discussed his memorandum regarding construction of an off-leash dog park within the City. While the costs to construct the essential physical improvements could be reasonably estimated, costs related to land acquisition, utility extensions, site access and site development could not be determined. Further, it is important to coordinate and integrate any proposed dog park with the parks and trail systems. Given the current state of negotiations for land purchases previously authorized, it is difficult and potentially pre-mature to initiate any definitive actions towards development of a dog park at this time. Mr. Randy Logan, Chairperson of the PRACAC reminded the Committee that the PRACAC had reviewed and made recommendations regarding park priorities, and that a Dog Park had been identified as a desirable addition to the parks system, but was the lowest priority of those amenities recommended. Ms. Diane Thomas, Ms. Carol Painter, Ms. Karen Bono and Mr. Ram Suntiba

spoke in support of a dog park and provided specific design considerations which should be employed. Councilmember Streeter expressed that although everyone appears supportive of constructing a dog park, no commitments were being made. He reminded the Committee that a dog park was not included in the list of improvements identified in conjunction with Proposition P and that no funds were allocated for this purpose. Until the City had better definition on the acquisition costs of land currently in negotiation, we are unable to determine the impact of adding a dog park. **Councilmember Flachsbart moved to thank Staff for compiling information, thank the Citizens for their input and to direct that Dog Park(s) appear on each PW\Parks meeting agenda for review until more definitive plans, locations, and estimates are available to allow for formal decisions to be made. Councilmember Brown seconded the motion which passed unanimously, 4 – 0.**

Item #8: Councilmember Brown advised the Committee that St. Louis County Parks has a program that provides for temporary loans of sculptures from the Laumeier Sculpture Park collection, and that business' and cities can borrow artwork for a period of 1 – 3 years. There is an annual charge for the rental and businesses are required to insure the art. Ms. Kathy Higgins, representing Chesterfield Arts and the Arts Commission suggested that it may be possible for St. Louis County to actually deliver the pieces and that since the City had blanket insurance coverage, there would be no difficulties. She offered the assistance of Chesterfield Arts, and their Executive Director Stacey Morse, to help select specific artwork for City Hall and the Chesterfield Valley Athletic Complex. **Councilmember Flachsbart motioned to direct Staff to investigate the details with regard to funding, liability, and logistics, and to coordinate efforts with Chesterfield Arts to identify sculpture for the City Hall and the Chesterfield Valley Athletic Complex, including the Miracle Field. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Brown, and passed unanimously, 4 – 0.**

Item #7: Dr. Alan Politte discussed a proposal representing a collective effort between the Chesterfield Historical Commission, Chesterfield Arts Commission, and the Chesterfield Development Corporation, regarding historical portrayals through the placement of artwork along the Pathway on the Parkway. Mr. Geisel discussed his memorandum dated May 18th, 2005, which describes the process by which individual displays would be conceived, approved, and placed. Dr. Politte expanded upon the information and indicated that a special committee, consisting of two members from each of the aforementioned citizen committees, would be responsible for this effort. Each individual display would be reviewed for safety and a sinking fund would be created for maintenance and possible removal. **Councilmember Flachsbart made a motion to express that the PW/Parks Committee concurred with the concept to develop a sub-committee consisting of members from the Chesterfield Historical Commission, Chesterfield Arts Commission, and the Chesterfield Development Corporation for the artistic commemorative portrayals on or adjacent to the Pathway on the Parkway, and as described in Mr. Geisel's memorandum dated May 18, 2005, including the development of all related funding by this group. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Hurt and passed unanimously, 4 – 0.**

Item #10: Mr. Randy Logan, Chairman of the Parks, Recreation and Arts Advisory Committee (PRACAC), informed the Committee that PRACAC had met to develop recommendations for community events as requested by the PW\Parks Committee. He reported that the PRACAC recommends that a family walk be scheduled to commemorate the opening of the Pathway on the Parkway on the west side of Chesterfield Parkway. The event would be scheduled for a Saturday morning beginning at 10 am, and could potentially involve merchants,

vendors and commemorative pins could be distributed. Mr. Geisel expressed concern that there would be limited Staff available due to the weekend tournament schedule at the Chesterfield Valley Athletic Complex. Mr. Logan assured the Committee that this effort would be coordinated, planned and conducted primarily by volunteers and members of the PRACAC. However, a Parks Division employee would necessarily be assigned to work with the volunteers. Mr. Logan also reported that the PRACAC had investigated and found that the City did not have a volunteer coordinator on staff. The PRACAC recommends the hiring of an additional City employee to serve in the capacity of a volunteer coordinator. **Councilmember Flachsbart motioned to express support for the proposed event to commemorate the opening of the Pathway on the Parkway. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Brown, and passed unanimously, 4 – 0.** The Committee suggested that the Police Explorers and/or reserves could be used for traffic control and as crossing guards. Mr. Logan indicated that the PRACAC was now focused on identifying pocket park opportunities. The Committee advised Mr. Geisel that he could investigate the potential position of a volunteer coordinator.

Item #4b: Mr. Geisel presented a map prepared by the Department of Public Works which portrayed those properties within Chesterfield Valley currently owned by the City, the Monarch-Chesterfield Levee District, U.S. Fish and Wildlife, as well as a property currently being suggested by the Missouri Department of Natural Resources as a potential boat ramp. There was discussion related to a riverfront park at any one of the several riverfront locations. Mr. Geisel advised the Committee that river access, scenic boardwalks, and other minimal structures, may be allowable. However, above ground structures on the river side of the levee would be problematic because the floodway consumed the majority of these properties. The Committee members directed staff to continue cooperative efforts with public and private agencies to acquire valley properties by public agencies for preservation and passive uses.

Item #4c: Mr. Geisel updated the Committee on the progress of construction at the Chesterfield Valley Athletic Complex (CVAC). City Council has previously authorized contracts for Professional Consulting services with EDSI, have authorized fencing repairs and additions and additional athletic field lighting. Mr. Geisel reminded the Committee that the City had previously authorized a reimbursement to the Monarch-Chesterfield Levee District such that they could utilize their contractor for mass earthwork at the west end of the CVAC. He indicated that the mass earthwork was virtually complete and that a \$60,000 change order would be presented to the City Council at the June 6, 2005 meeting to represent the actual final quantities. He also advised the Committee that Staff had recommended that the Levee District authorization be amended by \$170,000 such that the Levee District's contractor could place geotextile fabric and 12 inches of rock to establish the drive aisles and parking areas serving the west end expansion, as well as to provide access to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife site as required by an existing easement. Mr. Geisel presented the committee members with a copy of the latest version of the master plan, showing ancillary parking lots and a drive aisle adjacent to the toe of the levee.

Item #4d: Mr. Geisel updated the Committee on the progress of construction at the Miracle Field. He reminded the Committee that Council had previously authorized contracts for earthwork, dugouts, and fencing. The inaugural game is scheduled to be played on August 19, 2005, at 10 a.m. to coincide with Mr. Matheny's availability. Staff has worked with the school districts, advocacy groups and parents during the design and planning for this field, as well as the opening event. He further advised the Committee that a change order is probable for the Byrne and Jones contract, since they had to pay additional trucking for donated aggregate material.

Additionally, Staff was attempting to negotiate a change order with Demien Construction to provide and erect the permanent entry monument for the field. These change orders will be forwarded as soon as final details are firm. Landscaping and Irrigation is currently out to bid and is scheduled to be approved by City Council on June 20, 2005. Mr. Geisel advised that Mr. Matheny has committed additional money for this project and has chosen to add a scoreboard to the project. Mr. Geisel distributed a color mock-up of the scoreboard. He also advised that Mr. Matheny was negotiating with a vendor to provide uniforms and equipment annually in exchange for name identification on the scoreboard, as was indicated on the mock-up exhibit. Mr. Geisel advised that he expected the asphalt surface to be placed the first week of June, and the MONDO surface could be placed only after the asphalt had cured for a minimum of thirty days. He also explained that other funding avenues were being sought to add stadium style structured seating consisting of four or five rows of seats with a covered awning. The seating is speculative at this time and could not be available under any circumstances this season, but discussions continue with project sponsors.

Item #4e: Mr. Geisel updated the Committee on the progress of the Monarch-Chesterfield Levee Trail. He explained that the City had executed a memorandum of understanding with the Great Rivers Greenway District, wherein they committed to funding the design and development of the Levee Trail, in excess of \$4 million, provided that the City would administer the design and construction contracts, be responsible for land acquisition, and to provide perpetual maintenance of the trail. The trail itself is conceived to be a circumferential trail encompassing more than 16 miles to completely encircle the levee protected portion of Chesterfield Valley, including trail heads and amenities. Staff and Great Rivers Greenway District had interviewed professional consulting teams and were currently negotiating contracts for design and planning of the trail. **The consulting contract is expected to approach \$1 million and is currently scheduled to be forwarded to City Council at the June 20, 2005 Council meeting. Approval of the contract is subject to approval by the Great Rivers Greenway District and their commitment to reimburse the City for costs related to the design contract.** Discussion ensued about the trail surface and specific construction details. Mr. Geisel further explained that the trail surface, cross section, as well as the actual trail head composition would be the result of the Consultant's effort in coordination with the Great Rivers Greenway District. It is highly probable that the trail construction will not be consistent across the entire 16 miles, but will vary with each individual segment.

Item #5: Mr. Geisel discussed Staff's ongoing efforts to develop a funding proposal for the reconstruction of Hog Hollow Road. Hog Hollow is currently structurally and design deficient, creating both safety and maintenance concerns. Traffic is significant during the afternoon peak hour, with up to 149 stacking southbound to access Olive Boulevard. As previously directed by the Committee, Staff is communicating with utilities to determine the feasibility and potential expenses of reconstructing Hog Hollow. In addition to the obvious safety and maintenance concerns, this project is now being considered due to the availability of construction materials as well the potential for creative financing. In addition to the reconstruction of Hog Hollow, the current project proposal would include construction of a salt dome at the base of the hill, on the south side of the railroad tracks. As currently planned and proposed, the overall project cost of approximately \$4 million would be shared and financed with only \$1 million to be committed in cash by the City. If this project is ultimately determined to be viable, it would be funded through fund reserves. The Committee discussed the current condition of the roadway, as well as the maintenance and safety obligations. The Committee further discussed the necessity for the road itself and determined that it was essential to maintain traffic in the area. Mr. Geisel advised the

Committee that he had recently been advised that St. Louis County, the City of Maryland Heights and the City of Chesterfield had partnered to pursue a feasibility and alignment study for the Baxter Road extension from Highway Forty in Chesterfield Valley, into Maryland Heights Valley. This study was funded through the Missouri Traffic Engineer's Assistance Program and was being funded on an 80/20 cost share with each of the participating agencies participating an equal share of the 20% cost of the approximate \$30,0000 study.

* **Item #6:** Councilmember Streeter advised the Committee that the secondary, planned entrance onto Olive Boulevard, from the Nooning Tree subdivision, via Caliope Place, continues to be an issue for the City. Each time this potential project is discussed, Staff has been asked to estimate the cost of the improvements. Mr. Geisel has recommended, that the road extension be designed and cost estimates prepared based upon a final design such that underground utilities and other potential conflicts could be fully assessed. Regardless of who constructs this improvement, or when it might be constructed, having a detailed and complete plan will prevent poor decisions and additional conflicts. Equally as important, Council will have sound data and estimates from which to base their decision making. Mr. Geisel advised the Committee of the existence of an underground fiber optic line in this area that could significantly affect the cost, and/or the design. **Councilmember Streeter motioned to recommend that the City Council authorize a contract with Volz Engineering in an amount not to exceed \$15,000, funded by the ½ cent sales tax for streets and sidewalks, for the design of the secondary entrance into Nooning Tree Subdivision via Caliope Place. Councilmember Brown seconded the motion which passed unanimously, 4 – 0.** Mr. Geisel reminded the Committee, that although the design was to be funded by proceeds of the ½ cent sales tax, there were no funds available in this fund for the physical construction of the roadway or associated land acquisition.

Item #9: A motion was made by Councilmember Brown, seconded by Councilmember Flachsbart, to go into Executive Session (closed meeting), as provided by RSMo 610.021 (2), for the purposes of discussing "property acquisition". A roll call vote was taken, with the following results: AYES - Hurt, Flachsbart, Streeter, Brown; NAYS - None. Chairperson Streeter declared the motion as passed and closed the meeting at 7:50 p.m.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:50pm.

Respectfully submitted:

Michael O. Geisel
Director of Public Works\City Engineer