



WILDWOOD®

## Parks Action Plan Update Committee Minutes from the Tuesday, July 24, 2018 Meeting

### I. Welcome to Committee Members and Opening Remarks

The meeting was called to order by Chair Garrett at 6:30 p.m.

### II. Roll Call of Members

A roll call of members was taken, with the following results:

*Committee Members Present:* Broyles, Strand, Napoli, Coverdell, Gillman, McCune, Pickett, Council Liaison Bertolino, Council Liaison Gragnani, and Chair Garrett

*Committee Members Absent:* Commission Liaison Beattie

#### *Other Officials*

*and Staff in Attendance:* Council Members Woerther and Stephens, Director of Planning and Parks Vujnich, Assistant Director of Planning and Parks Arnett, and Superintendent of Parks and Recreation Crews

### III. Review and Action on the Meeting Minutes from June 26, 2018

A motion was made by Committee Member Broyles, seconded by Committee Member McCune, to approve the June 26, 2018 minutes. A voice vote was taken on the minutes, with no opposition, and the motion was declared approved by Chair Garrett.

### IV. Review of Tonight's Agenda

The agenda was reviewed by Chair Garrett. There were no questions.

### V. Presentation of Final **Draft** of Revised "Citizens Committee for Park Progress Action Plan 2007" – Pages 1 through 46

Chair Garrett requested staff review the proposed modifications. Director Vujnich highlighted the different text styles used throughout the draft to delineate changes the Committee has already reviewed (blue and bold text), content that is new in this version (orange, italicized), and the areas that need new survey data entered or additional modifications (highlighted in yellow). Chair Garrett asked if there were any immediate changes Committee Members would like to have made to the draft.

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Committee Member Gillman noted he was having trouble determining the cost of events each year, how the budget is determined, what the cost of events is per person, how much discretionary expenditures are allowed, etc. He also requested that Action Item #3, relative to an acquisition in Town Center Area, be modified to specifically include wording regarding a Village Green.

Discussion was then held among the Committee Members and Department staff regarding the following: the cost estimate of event expenditures; the review of budget line-items; the importance of a centrally located park and events within the Town Center Area; the potential for adding reference to a Village Green in the final draft; the wording relative to Belleview Farms, which could be more direct; the proposed trail from the Meadows of Wildwood Subdivision to the Meramec River; the question whether a park tax should be included as a recommendation in the final plan; and the desire to clarify a Village Green would be the central focal point for the radiating trail system.

Consensus was reached by the Committee Members to modify Recommendation #1 on Page 5 to change the wording to, "...acquisition in the City's Town Center Area **for a Village Green**, as a location..."; and to include wording similar to the following suggestion, "...completing the desired greenbelt **trail system** between the Meramec and Missouri..."

a. Wrap-Up on Any Outstanding Items

1. **Belleview Farms** –

Discussion was held regarding the following: the Committee Members research that mountain bikers do minimal damage on trails; the potential disruption to habitat; the desire to have flow trails and a bicycle skills park somewhere in Wildwood; the potential for a partnership with the Missouri Department of Natural Resources in Babler State Park for GORC to provide flow trails; the potential for more trails in other locations; other opportunities on the property; the initial proposal on the property, which included limited utilization; and the desire to have the park open to public use and development of it to benefit all of Wildwood.

Consensus was reached regarding the following items:

- Set a timeline for Recommendation #9, on Page 3, along with adding an extension of the lease, if not ready for opening in 2020, which is currently required;
- Complete the studies outlined by the representative from Missourians for Monarchs (this item will be discussed at Council Planning and Parks Committee meeting in August); and
- Include language encouraging a trail linkage to Castlewood State Park and the Al Foster Memorial Trail;

2. **Extension of Al Foster Memorial Trail** –

Discussion was held regarding the following: adding specific language to direct the continuation of the southern extension of the Al Foster Memorial Trail to the City Limits of Wildwood, at the Eureka border; add language to ultimately connect with Route 66 State Park and validate the Meramec Greenway Plan of Great Rivers Greenway.

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Consensus was reached to include language that would direct the continuation of the southern extension of the Al Foster Memorial Trail to the City Limits of Eureka, with an ultimate connection with Route 66 State Park, as part of the Meramec Greenway.

3. **Pruitt Property** –

Discussion was held regarding the following: include language for acquisition or acceptance of a donation of the Pruitt property; the wariness of several Committee Members to support this acquisition, given its limited accessibility and use; the previous use of the property as an auto salvage lot; the difficult terrain of the property and proposed trail; the property's future land use as Cultural/Institutional Overlay District, as part of the Town Center Plan; an existing alternative route for bicyclists using the road in Rockwoods Reservation; the issue that Rockwoods Reservation does not allow off-road bicycling in the park; the estimated price of the property; the action taken on the property by the Planning and Zoning Commission to deny McBride and Son Homes' proposal; the Committee's purpose to determine if the proposal fits in the plan and not to direct how much to pay for its acquisition; and a letter sent to the Missouri Department of Conservation from the City to determine its interest level in the trail development upon its property.

Consensus was reached by the Committee Members to clarify the language of Recommendation #1, on Page 5, to ensure it includes the acquisition of the Pruitt Site for a trailhead that will link the Town Center Area and Rockwoods Reservation.

4. **Village Green** –

This item was discussed, and consensus reached, earlier in the meeting.

5. **Park Tax** –

Discussion was held regarding the following: the fact that the Metropolitan St. Louis Sewer District (MSD) is also seeking a stormwater tax in the future and the need to ensure and parks sales tax proposal by the City is on a separate ballot; the enabling State Statute requires funding for both parks and stormwater; the desire to determine a way to further describe or clarify an emphasis on the tax's use for parks; the desire to place this item on an April ballot; the preference for the tax to be a sales tax, not a property tax; and the City cannot promote any tax initiative, but instead a group of citizens should pursue that action.

Consensus was reached by the Committee Members to change Assumption #2, on Page 8 to remove 'property' from the first line, so it reads, "...difficulty of seeking support for a tax increase..." and to rewrite Recommendation #1, Page 6, to note seeking a referendum to support a sales tax for parks.

6. **Park Per Ward** -

Discussion was held regarding the potential for reviewing parks locations within each of the City's eight (8) wards and determine which do not have parks, so an emphasis can be placed on these locations.

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Consensus was reached by the Committee Members to Recommendation #5, Page 3, to add language stating "...a neighborhood-sized park, or pocket park(s) if space is limited, in any Ward of..."

7. **Community Park Buildout** –

Discussion was held among the Committee Members regarding the proposed phasing within Community Park. It was noted the revised plan could provide direction to City Council that public input be held at each new proposed phase, or even give direction on the proposed phases.

VI. Next Steps

Staff will have revised plan to Committee members no later than August 14<sup>th</sup>.

VII. Next Meeting Date – August 28, 2018 & September 25, 2018

Committee Member Broyles noted she would not be in attendance at the August meeting and Commissioner Pickett would not be in attendance at the September meeting.

VIII. Public Comments

No public comments.

IX. Other Items of Interest

Dr. Gragnani noted an active shooter training will be held at City Hall on September 15<sup>th</sup> and encouraged everyone to attend.

X. Closing Remarks and Adjournment

A motion was made by Committee Member Coverdell, seconded by Commission Member Gillman, to adjourn the meeting. A voice vote was taken, with unanimous approval, and Chair Garrett declared the meeting adjourned at 8:31 p.m.