

MINUTES

JUNE 2, 2021

6:30PM

TELECONFERENCE

TYPE OF MEETING	Monthly Meeting
CHAIR	Peter Billipp
SECRETARY	Mary McCulloch
ATTENDEES	Members Present: Peter Billipp, Will Bertron, Mardi Turner, Maryann Grahamann, Mary McCulloch, Laura Turley Members Absent: Brett Bingham, Jeff Chen, Nina Pilson, Lindsey Swiger, Sami Morrison Staff: Susan White Council Liaison: none
VISITORS	

- I. Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 6:32 pm by Peter Billipp.
- II. Approval of May 5th Meeting Minutes:** Laura Turley made a motion to approve with Mardi Turner seconding the motion. The minutes were approved.
- III. Citizen Comments:**
 Maryann Grahamann provided comments about the back SPARK park playground at WUES. It is in need of some updates, which the current PTO president has started by adding a GaGa pit and a new swing. The goal is to do fundraising through the PTO, the elementary school foundation, the community & corporate sponsorship. They will also be asking Friends if they would contribute since it is open to the public outside of school hours.

 Friends helped the school in 2015 to improve the front playground and the hope is that they would provide support for this back playground as well.

 Mardi pointed out that mayor Susan Sample is a big supporter of SPARK parks. Peter said it sounds like a great project and will be fun to see how it turns out.
- IV. Friends Update: Sami Morrison**
 Party on the Patio starts this Friday, no reservations required. Complimentary concerts are open to citizens. This week is the very popular Fab 5 performance. Father & Flash 10/23-10/24. Underwriters opportunities are opening soon. PLB will be Feb 5, 2022 at ZaZa Hotel.
- V. Council Update: TBD**
 Not applicable.
- VI. Parks & Rec Update: Susan White**
 - 1) Fee Schedule – Sent ahead of time. Thanks to Brett, Will and Laura for their input. Will caught an inconsistency on one of the fees. All non-resident fees should be 50% raise. As field use policy is developed we have consulted with policies in Bellaire. Explored new rental revenue streams. There weren't comments or questions about the reviewed fees.

- 2) Huffington Park Update – Almost full fence has been replaced. New playground structure has posts set already. Everything is on schedule. The turf needs to establish so some taller fencing may be used to separate the areas that can be used.
- 3) Judson Park Update – User group meeting scheduled for last week was rained out. The majority will meet tomorrow in a rescheduled meeting. Representation comes from this Board, neighbors, Friends and others. It is strange Judson is ahead of Wier park in the Master Plan when it was updated before Judson. This is due to concerns that the equipment last put in did not have great feedback from some residents that were expecting more traditional structures. This perception has evolved and there may not be a lot to do with renovations for Judson. The user group will help identify this. We will also use the qualitative data from the survey. Peter asked about the BBQ pits – are these actually wanted and/or utilized by West U citizens? There are remnants proving use from time to time, but not high in demand. This will be evaluated in the user group process. This park is almost 3/4 of an acre. The previously installed fence may be over \$50,000 to replace it. Time to resurface the tennis court at Judson. May not be preferred to repurpose / multi-purpose that court because it is high usage for tennis.

It's notable that players like that it is a single tennis court because it is more private. Starting to plan at Wier next, especially after the data comes back. A landscape architect may be needed for that one. Mary agreed with Susan's assessment of the equipment being more acceptable these days and the park not needing much

- 4) COVID Operational Updates – Exciting news that Colonial Park Pool no longer needs reservations. Based on post COVID data on attendance there are not concerns about capacity constraints. There has been positive feedback at the Rec center on the fitness and cardio equipment. Next steps may be eliminating reservations, which may have some pushback from the pool users. Maryann asked if capacity hits the 250-capacity constraint, how will the entrance be treated? Susan said it will be hard to know when we reach capacity. The fire marshal set the pool capacity INSIDE the pool is 240, then 250 on the pool deck and 300 in the West park grassy area. Because it is outdoor space, the recommendation from the CDC should be followed.
- 5) Strategic Planning – Using a city consultant to facilitate an organized process. Things like the field use policies and other challenges, like usage hours. For example, we cannot keep long hours that aren't fiscally responsible. We've done our homework on figuring out a good cost/benefit arrangement for sources of revenue. 5:30am – 7:30pm seems to be the sweet spot. Staffing for the earliest hours is hard and results in absent lifeguards with a staff member having to step up for coverage.
- 6) Miscellaneous: Susan brought up an issue of families adding children to their family passes that don't live in West U. This is a concern, but difficult to figure out how to manage. It will be looked at with the fee committee. Laura brought up the chlorine shortage and Susan assured her we are ok. Mardi asked about the freeze causing damage to the plants in JEH park. Susan explained that Brooks has been compiling a comprehensive list of all the damage so we can tackle it from a wholesale budget process in 2022. Programming for the 4th of July weekend are in the works. A modified parade on Saturday morning will be planned similar to the WULL parade so it doesn't end up at Colonial Pool and draw a huge crowd. Sunday will have some patriotic games and activities at the pool.

VII. Judson Park Planning: Peter Billipp

Discussed above.

VIII. Park Ambassador Assignments:

- Colonial Park East (Will) – nothing to report
- Colonial Park West (Nina)
- Colonial Park Pool (Mary) – all great and good feedback from everyone. Excellent ice cream social. Are the log and the alligator coming back? Susan said they may use 2 lily pads instead of those so less crowded.
- Friends Pocket Park (Sami)
- Huffington Park (Maryann) – drove by today and it looks SO COOL!
- JEH Park (Laura) – things look great
- Judson Park (Jeff)
- Recreation Center Playground (Mardi)
- Whitt Johnson (Brett)
- Wier Park (Lindsey)

IX. Order of Business: Peter Billipp

None.

X. Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 7:23 p.m.

There may be one more meeting scheduled before the end of this Board term.