

MINUTES

NOV. 10, 2021

6:30PM

IN PERSON, CITY HALL

TYPE OF MEETING	Monthly Meeting
CHAIR	Will Bertron
SECRETARY	Richard Cunningham
ATTENDEES	<p>Members Present: Will Bertron, Richard Cunningham, Amar Patel, Manish Agrawal, Stephen Damiani, Laura “Lulu” Lopez, Laura Turley, Arlene Wells</p> <p>Members Absent: Sami Morrison, Evan Mintz, Brett Bingham</p> <p>Staff: Susan White</p> <p>Council Liaison: Mayor Pro Tem John Montgomery</p>

VISITORS	Shahid Rahman and Council Member Shannon Carroll
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<p>I. <u>Call to Order:</u> Will Bertron called the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m.</p> <p>II. <u>Meeting Minutes:</u> Minutes for the October 5 PRB meeting were approved unanimously.</p> <p>III. <u>Citizen Comments:</u> None</p> <p>IV. <u>Friends Update: Susan White</u> Susan noted that the rain-soaked but fun Fathers and Flashlights event was a success that raised more than \$100,000 for the Friends of West University Parks Fund. She added that the city’s recent fun run contributed another \$30,000. She then reminded all PRB members of holiday events, including the Christmas Tree lighting ceremony on December 6, Santa’s cruise through West University on December 11 and the Holiday Festival and Laser Light Show on December 17.</p> <p>V. <u>Council Update: John Montgomery</u> John said that City Council has been meeting with representatives from Tri-Sports, a charitable association that operates and manages three publicly owned youth sports fields in and around West University Place. Negotiations are over the way the city will continue to support Tri-Sports financially.</p> <p>The city has a new fire chief. During their November 8 meeting, City Manager Dave Beach and City Council unanimously approved the promotion Jennifer Drake, the city’s current fire captain, to replace Fire Chief Aaron Taylor, who announced his retirement on January 3. Drake and Taylor will be using the time to insure a smooth transition.</p> <p>John also noted that an overhaul the city’s aging water system and wastewater plant will require major capital investments over the next few years.</p>
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VI. Parks & Recreation Update: Susan White

Susan noted that Judson is the next city park scheduled for major repairs and equipment upgrades. Among these are plans to install equipment for older kids, to remove one of the two existing barbeque pits, to install solar lighting, to replace the synthetic grass in the play area, to resurface the tennis court and to provide additional shade. This is the first substantial renovation for Judson Park since 2011.

Susan also presented initial ideas for a 3/8-mile walking path to replace the oleander bushes that used to line a portion of Poor Farm Ditch between Rice and Sunset. She brought physical samples of a recycled material that would be good for the path, then invited comments on a variety of options for a fence that would separate the trail from the ditch.

She added that the city's "refresh and replace" landscape projects, a \$109,000 investment, should be complete by the end of the year.

VII. Park Ambassador Reports:

Will invited each board member in turn to make a brief report about his or her park, noting maintenance items that might need attention while also sharing their ideas for fundraising, improved services, additional events, and other projects, such as a historical marker for Judson Park.

VIII. Other Business:

Will and Susan both reminded the board of continuing staffing problems and gave examples of the ways various programs are affected.

IX. Adjournment:

By unanimous consent, the meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.m.