

Columbia City Park Board Minutes April 21, 2014

The Columbia City Parks Board met in regular session with the following members present:

Park Board President Keith Nickolson

Park Board Vice President Larry Walter

Park Board Secretary Mauri Bordner

Park Board Member Terry Baker

Members Absent:

Park Board Member Dan Curlless

After reviewing the minutes of the March 31, 2014 meeting, Larry Walter made a motion to correct the previous minutes by adding the Park expansion discussion.

Mark Green, Park Superintendent, opened the meeting with a report on the Opening Day Kickoff for the Baseball/Softball leagues. Mark asked Keith Nickolson for a report since the Softball Committee is organizing the Kickoff this year. Keith stated the events start at 11:30 am with Kathy Heuer throwing the first pitch and the games will start at 1 until approximately 8. Nickolson informed the Park Board that the Summer Baseball/Softball program has between 700 to 800 kids playing.

Mark Green stated the weekend tournaments have started with On Turf playing on two fields on Friday and two fields on Saturday. Mark stated everything went well and it was the first weekend the Park utilized a part-time employee to take care of the bathrooms, trash and little things that need to be done.

Park Superintendent, Mark Green presented a review of the Trout Fishing Derby held by the DNR in Morsches Park pond. Mark stated the DNR stocked the pond with 400 foot-long trout for a Saturday fishing derby.

Mark announced that April 22 an opening season meeting for the Master Gardners will be held in the Park Pavilion. Mark invited all Park Board members to attend.

Green presented the quotes to repair the riverbank by the River Greenway. Mark announce the two quotes are quite different stating Niblock quoted \$41,000 using river-rock and Wigents quoted used broken concrete for \$14,000.

Mark reported on the shuffleboard court, stating they would be getting help from the Street Department with removal. Mark reported the baseball field fence will be completed this week and the lights are being worked on by the Electric Department.

Mark Green, Park Superintendent, presented a power point report on the three sites under consideration for the Aquatics Facility.

Site One: Property Close to DeMoney Grimes off Denzil Drive

Pros: Not in a flood plain
 Close to US 30/Visibility
 Easy to drive to after seen on US 30
 Do not have to drive through a neighborhood to get there
 Along the trail system
 Two exits onto SR 9 if Emergency occurs
 Could benefit lower-income area
 Possible overflow parking for DeMoneys while closed

Cons: Is it too visible?
 Close to funeral home
 Would neighbors want it there?
 Is there enough parking?
 Have to acquire property – will they sell?
 Would need to clear some trees for visibility?
 Additional landscaping to muffle sound for neighbors?

Site Two: Behind Mobile Homes Along US 30

Pros: Along US 30/Visibility
 Not in a flood plain
 Along the trail system
 Curb cut already installed- would need to be widened

Cons: Driving through the mobile homes to get to the facility
 Installation of Fence to shield dump site
 Lack of visibility – crime/vandalism issue?
 Need to acquire property – will they sell?

Site Three: Morsches Park Location South of US 30 – Tee Ball Fields

Pros: Located within Morsches Park
Less land to maintain
No purchase required
Cross-over visits due to park events/tournaments
Best Visibility from US 30

Cons: Parking may be an issue
In a Flood Plain
Emergency evacuation Problem
Would have to relocate tee ball fields and JFL fields

After much discussion, Larry Walter made a motion to proceed with the three sites on the north side of US 30 and to determine the feasibility and the cost of each site. Terry Baker seconded the motion. On the call of the vote, all voted aye.

Mark Green presented a report on future possible Park Expansion Land located by Countryside Mobile Home Park with the following information:

- Land expansion could occur over several decades
- Would be difficult to use current dirt path as additional exit from Morsches Park
- No great, direct road without going through neighborhood
- Plenty of land, high and low spots
- Are they planning to develop further
- Costs to the Park/City
- Strong need for Park Board to produce 5 & 10 year plans

The next meeting will be June 9, 2014.

All business was discussed, the Board adjourned.

These minutes are respectfully submitted by Andrea Pequignot, Administrative Assistant Parks Department.