

Smithville Parks and Recreation Committee

Regular Session

June 25, 2020

Senior Center

1. Call to Order:

Chairman Dani Wilson call the meeting to order at 6:00 PM. Members presents: Chairman Dani Wilson, Jim Pascoe, Todd Fleischmann, Molly Porter, Alderman Chevalier and Mayor Boley. Staff Present, Matt Denton and Brittanie Props.

2. Approve Minutes from February 27, 2020 Regular Session Meeting

Mayor Boley made a motion to approve the minutes from February 27, 2020 Parks and Recreation Committee meeting. Molly Porter seconded the motion. Voice vote, all ayes.

3. Staff Report:

Main Street Trail Update: The Main Street Trail design has been approved by the Department of Natural Resources and will be bid in June, with construction to begin later this summer. Project to be completed by the end of the year.

Parks and Recreation and Storm Water Sales Tax: The April 7 election was moved to June 2. Smithville asked residents to vote on a ½ cent sales tax. The Parks and Stormwater Sales Tax passed with 52% of voters in favor. Over the next couple of months discussion regarding expenditures of the funds will occur.

Staffing: Matt Denton was hired in March as the new Parks and Recreation Director. Brittanie Propes has been hired to replace Matt as the Recreation and Marketing Manager. Brittanie previously worked for Excelsior Springs Community Center and A marketing agency. She started May 26.

Recreation: All spring leagues and clinics have been canceled. Brittanie has been busy preparing some great on-line alternatives and programming, a STEAM program and programs (all compliant with Clay County Public Health Center recommendations regarding COVID-19 concerns) to celebrate Parks and Recreation Month next month. Brittanie is also working to develop fall programming, also following recommendations relating to COVID-19.

COVID-19: The Parks and Recreation Department has been actively following Clay County Public Health Center's (CCPHC) "Recovery Plan" and coordinating with other parks and recreation departments to be consistent. Our intent is to offer programs and experiences that are safe for both our staff and patrons. We will be slowly opening amenities with restriction guidelines put out by CCPHC.

Cares Funding: The City of Smithville received stimulus aid from Clay County to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic. The money is designed to help cities, schools and the county's health department pay for extra expenses related to COVID-19. Staff presented options for expenditures to the board on 6/16. The Board directed staff to move forward with touchless restrooms fixtures for all city facilities (including park restrooms), addition of Wi-Fi and streaming equipment at Heritage Park and purchases of supplies and equipment to allow for response to COVID-19.

4. Heritage Park Basketball Court

On June 16, 2020, staff presented a recommended Capital Improvement budget to the Board of Alderman that included putting the construction of the Heritage Park basketball court on hold until the Master Plan is complete. Since there was no official plan for Heritage Park, the parks and recreation committee in February agreed to recommend pushing back the construction of the basketball court until the Master Plan is completed to have a better understanding of the future of the park and trail system throughout the communities, including identification of amenities. On 6/16 the Board of Alderman indicated their desire to move forward with the construction of the basketball court this year. This committee has been asked to consider the basketball court location at Heritage Park and make a recommendation to the Board of Alderman. Matt explain to the committee that since the last meeting in February we have moved forward with the construction of the new parking lot up by the new playground which allows us to remove the old playground at Heritage Park. In past discussions on the location of the basketball court we were planning around the old playground because we were instructed to keep it until further notice. Staff has proposed the new location be where the old playground lays. Todd Fleischmann asked about the concerns of parking for the future of the park. He mentioned that as we add new amenities will be need that space for more parking. Chairman Wilson mentioned the overflow parking was added to solve that problem. Jim Pascoe moved to adopted staff's location for the location of the basketball court. Molly Porter seconded the motion. Vote passed 6-0.

Chairman Dani Wilson - Aye

Jim Pascoe - Aye

Todd Fleischamann - Aye

Molly Porter - Aye

Alderman Chevalier - Aye

Mayor Boley - Aye

5. Dog Park Update

Earlier this month Clay County representatives contacted our City Administrator and indicated a desire to schedule a groundbreaking date for the dog park. While a date has not yet been identified, the City of Smithville stands ready to coordinate with Clay County to supply the water line when appropriate. Chairman Wilson asked if there was a specific date. Mayor Boley mentioned that there is not, but once they break ground it should not take long. Alderman Chevalier let the committee know he would reach out to the Clay County give more information on the dog park.

6. New Business:

Matt let the committee know about the Planning Sustainable Places program the City has submitted to receive funding for potential future projects. He let them know that the grant would provide up to 80% for the funding. Final application amounts are being finalized, but it is estimated the plan would cost approximately \$60,000- \$70,000, the City's match would be approx. \$12,000- \$14,000. He mentioned that Staff is looking for comments from the community in support of the application. The more feedback we receive the better the chances are.

Matt mentioned the Comprehensive Master Plan focus groups will be starting back up next month, and it will be important for this committee to be in attendance for those meetings. Once the dates are set, we will email those out to you all.

Molly Porter asked if there was an update on the Splash Pad. Matt mentioned they are scheduled to break ground any day now. We are hoping to be completed by the end of the summer.

7. Adjourn:

Mayor Boley made a motioned to adjourn. Jim Pascoe seconded the motion. Voice vote, all ayes. Chairman Dani Wilson declared the regular session adjourned at 6:47 PM.