



City of Smithville, Missouri

Parks and Recreation Committee Agenda

June 25, 2020

6:00 pm – Senior Center

- 1. Call to Order**
- 2. Approve Minutes from February 27, 2020 Regular Session Meeting**
- 3. Staff Report**
- 4. Heritage Park Basketball Court**
- 5. Dog Park Update**
- 6. New Business**
- 7. Adjourn**

Smithville Parks and Recreation Committee

Regular Session Minutes

February 27, 2020 6:00 PM

City Hall Council Chambers

1. Call to Order

Chairman Dani Wilson called the meeting to order at 6:00pm. Members present: Chairman Dani Wilson, Molly Porter, Jim Pascoe, Josi Billings, Alderwoman Wilson, and Mayor Boley. Staff present, Matthew Denton and Cynthia Wagner.

2. Approve Minutes from October 26, 2019 Regular Session Meeting

Alderwomen Wilson made a motion to approve the minutes from the October 26, 2019 Parks and Recreation Committee meeting. Jim Pascoe seconded the motion. Voice vote, all ayes.

3. Staff Report

Main Street Trail Update and Public Meeting – The environmental review has been completed. Staff is working with the architects on final design and anticipating awarding a bid late spring. There was a public meeting held Tuesday, December 3, 2019 at Smithville City Hall. Engineers were able to answer questions and provide quality feedback. Citizens were also able to recommend trail amenities.

Comprehensive Plan Update and Meeting – Kick-Off for the Comprehensive Plan Update process was held in January, with good public attendance and participation. A link to a Plan Community Survey was sent out to each of you earlier this week. If you have not completed this survey yet, please do so as soon as possible. It can be found at <https://www.research.net/r/SmithvilleCompPlan>. The survey asks for opinion on areas discussed at the January kick-off meeting and will inform focus group discussion and work in the next steps of the process. The Recreation and Connectivity pillar focus group will meet on Monday, March 24 from 2 to 4 p.m. at the Mid-Continent Public Library meeting room. That Thursday evening (March 26), the week-long work of the task forces will culminate in a public meeting at 6 p.m. at the Smithville High School Cafeteria. This meeting will be in lieu of the regularly scheduled Park Committee meeting. You are strongly encouraged to attend both meetings.

Staffing – As you all know, Brett took a position with the City of Shawnee, Kansas and I am currently filling in as Interim Parks and Recreation Director. The City is advertising to fill the director position. The recruitment for the position closed on February 21, 2020. The interview process is underway. We have also added a Parks and Maintenance Worker 1 employee to our team. Gary Annis is a Smithville resident and is excited to get to work!

Recreation – Youth Basketball, Youth Volleyball and Adult Volleyball are all finishing up their season. Soccer Registration closed on February 23. Practices are scheduled to start next week. Baseball, Softball and T-Ball registration is still open until March 22.

4. Parks and Storm Water Sales Tax

Matt presented the ballot question that Smithville residents will be asked on April 7. Cynthia and Matt let the committee know that informational material is available as a handout and online at the City's website. Mayor Boley asked how much the half cent sales tax would generate. Matt mentioned that it would generate \$450,000.

5. Parks and Recreation Master Plan – HP Basketball Court

Matt informed the committee of the next steps to update the Parks and Recreation Master Plan. The plan will provide an inclusive framework, guidance and direction of our future needs concerning our parks, trails and facilities. Staff is recommending putting the construction of the Heritage Park basketball court on hold until the Master Plan is complete. Since there is no official plan for Heritage Park, staff would like to have a plan so that, as a whole, we are confident in the location of the basketball court and we will know where other amenities will be located at the park. Cynthia mentioned we currently have a lot of moving parts that could affect the future of Heritage Park. Chairman Dani Wilson mentioned that she would be disappointed if we put the basketball court in and then later had to remove it for future construction. She would prefer us to have a goal first and then work towards that goal. Jim mentioned that it is better to have a comprehensive plan because we will have a better layout for the future.

6. Future Meeting Dates Schedule

Chairman Dani mentioned that our next scheduled meeting will be on March 26, 2020. Matt mentioned the Recreation and Connectivity focus group will be on

March 24 and encouraged the committee to attend. April, May, June, July will be regular scheduled meetings. We will discuss September on at a late date.

7. New Business

Chairman Dani asked if there was any more information on the dog park. Cynthia said her last communication was in late January. We had communication from the Army Corps. Of Engineers and they were working to complete and approve the plan. We are waiting for them to give us the ok to set the waterline.

8. Adjourn

Jim Pascoe made a motion to adjourn. call the meeting to adjourn. Mayor Boley seconded the motion. Voice vote, all ayes. Chairman Dani declared the regular session adjourned at 6:35pm.

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.

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.



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.

