

Parks and Recreation Board

Special Meeting Minutes

June 26, 2017

On June 26, 2017, the meeting of the Ashland Park Board was called to order by Chairman Jerrod Bryan at 109 East Broadway, Ashland, Missouri at 6:01 p.m.

Board Members Present were Jerrod Bryan, Vee Fasciotti, Pamela Dees, Randy Burhans, David Mars and Sandy Robinson-Harris, Marilyn McGuire and Alderman Jesse Bronson. Also present was Mayor Gene Rhorer.

Board Members Absent were Cynthia Wills.

Guests: Rhett Wilkerson, Jason Johnston, and Bruce Wallace

Chairman Jerrod Bryan called for a motion to approve the agenda for June 26, 2017. Motion was made by Board member Randy Burhans and seconded by Board member Sandy Robinson-Harris to approve the agenda. Motion carried.

Park Tax:

Mayor Gene Rhorer stated that there was approximately \$33,800 in spending for parks last fiscal year. A 1/8th of a percent park tax would generate roughly \$30,000 to \$40,000 while a ¼ of a percent would generate roughly \$60,000 to \$70,000 in revenue for Parks. He is asking for a ¼ of a percent. With this revenue, there would be a line item added to the budget for parks. The monies generated from the park tax, would be used for parks only. Discussion followed regarding how the park being supported by the general fund up to this point, is hindering the ability of the Police Department to hire staff to support the area being developed at the airport.

Chairman Jerrod Bryan stated that with the ¼ of a percent, the Park Board would be self-sustaining and not have to so heavily rely on the general fund and would be more beneficial for the future of the Park Board. Board member Randy Burhans stated that ultimately we are attempting to free up general revenue funds so they can be spent for law enforcement. Mayor Rhorer stated that as a municipality, we should not get in the habit of asking the city for a tax every year or two but every 4-5 years is tolerable. Alderman Jesse Bronson stated that there would be a 5-year sunset and the issue would be re-evaluated at that time.

Educating the community will be vital in regards to the park tax. Board member Sandy Robinson-Harris stated to educate positively; Let people know what the monies generated from the tax would enable the Park Board to do.

Guest Rhett Wilkerson stated that being a newer member to the community, there is some confusion on who or what groups/boards provide what services or activities. He said he would like to see a vision for the use of the park tax and to look forward and not just what the present needs are.

The Park Board members suggested the following ideas:

Sandy Robinson-Harris – Handicap accessible walking trail, trail lighting, improve current equipment and structures.

Vee Fasciotti – Fall ball or dance of sorts, poker run/tournament, Dog Park.

David Mars – a variety of activities and plans for the different parks such as, horseshoe pits at the pocket park on Henry Clay.

Randy Burhans – consolidation of the parks or offload the areas not being well utilized and have well marked paths to the current parks.

Marilyn McGuire – children's area/structures updated to better serve the youth of the community and refresh the tennis courts.

Individual Reports:

The following Board members reported individually:

Marilyn McGuire mentioned there had been bluebirds in Palomino Park. Pamela Dees stated that the Chamber of Commerce had a planning meeting for the Solar Eclipse and they interested in what other groups have planned. Vee Fasciotti suggested the Park Board have candy bars and soda available for sale during the Solar Eclipse event. Alderman Jesse Bronson invited anyone to join the walking school bus for the remainder of the week. Chairman Jerrod Bryan reported that the sale of the Solar Glasses had gone well but will table the rest of this discussion to the next meeting.

Motion was made by Board Member Sandy Robinson-Harris and seconded by Board Member Marilyn McGuire to adjourn the meeting at 7:28 pm. Motion carried.

Minutes taken by Carrie Fischer, Administrative Assistant.