

Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee

Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, November 14, 2023 – 4:00 PM

City Hall – 2nd Floor Open Planning Area

Present: Michael Odum, Patt Sned, Matthew Goldberger, Jacquelyn Taylor, Perry Douglas, Julie Hastrup, Mary Murphy, Niels Heimeriks	Staff Present: Leah Rockwell, Sherry Wilson, Lorenzo Rivero, Eric Schneider, Lucy Morelos
Absent: None.	Guest(s): Angela Ogburn, Elizabeth Herington-Smith, Cameron Lee, Thomas (Tom) Waniewski, Peter Moore

Topic	Discussion / Action / Follow Up
Call to Order	Meeting called to order by <i>Michael Odum</i> at 4:00 p.m.
	Motion made to approve October minutes made by <i>Patt Sned</i> with a second by <i>Niels Heimeriks</i> . All in favor.

New Business	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Wireless Facility/Cell Tower – Dreher Park South <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <i>Eric Schneider</i>, City Principal Planner, introduced himself and gave a brief overview of the Master Plan with communication companies wanting to place a wireless facility/tower on City-owned property where the City would then collect a portion of the rent. Diamond Communications contacted the Planning Department as they have a facility on a billboard on the west side of Summit Blvd. and I-95 that needs to be relocated and identified 3 locations within the park that they would want to use. ○ <i>Perry Douglas</i> questioned if Parks would benefit from this or receive any of the revenue? <i>Elizabeth Herington-Smith</i> of City Scape answered that the revenue would come to the City and the City Administrator would decide how the funds would be distributed. ○ <i>Tom Waniewski</i> introduced himself and <i>Cameron Lee</i> from Diamond Communications prior to their presentation. The reason for coming to PRAC asking for the cell tower is because the billboard that they currently have on the other side of I-95 is no longer structurally sound and cannot support a fourth carrier. They approached the Zoo, Renaissance Charter School, and the city; the Zoo has rejected the proposal, and the school has not responded. ○ <i>Julie Hastrup</i> had a question about safety and asked if there have been any issues with people interacting with the area if it's closer to a parking lot? <i>Tom Waniewski</i> answered that it's an 8 ft. board on board fence which is hard to scale, and, in some situations, they have put barbed wire across the top, but wouldn't in this case. ○ <i>Patt Sned</i> stated that she doesn't think it's appropriate in our greenspace park which has already been chiseled away to give a 50'x50' space. <i>Matthew Goldberger</i> agreed with <i>Patt Sned</i> and stated that he could not agree with giving away more of Dreher Park. ○ <i>Matthew Goldberger</i> made the motion to give a negative recommendation from the committee. <i>Niels Heimeriks</i> seconded the motion. All members voted in favor of the motion, which was not to allow the cell tower to be built in Dreher Park, and none opposed.
Old Business	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Currie Park – Update <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <i>Leah Rockwell</i> introduced <i>Peter Moore</i> the President and CEO of Chen Moore and Associates (CMA) who will go over some of the changes to Currie Park that are being made so the project will continue moving forward. ○ <i>Peter Moore</i> updated the committee that by having put together a completion team, there is a weekly meeting with all City stakeholders and CMA this has resulted in condition approval for the site plan, they have progressed past 50% construction documents with the estimate that we will have 100% construction documents by the end of the year, and a groundbreaking in Summer 2024. ○ <i>Julie Hastrup</i> brought up that the last update that PRAC received, there was a discussion about the movement of a traffic light, and she would like an update on that.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <i>Perry Douglas</i> would like a progress presentation on where we are at current versus the original plans. <i>Peter Moore</i> stated that there hasn't been any level of value engineering from the original scope of the project. Once the ITB has been finalized, if we see that we are close to the budget, we will have to review different options. ○ <i>Matthew Goldberger</i> asked when the estimated timeframe would be for a ribbon cutting. <i>Peter Moore</i> stated that this project has many grants, and we have to make sure that we are meeting all the requirements from the first grant before moving on to the next. But he will work on getting a more detailed answer for the estimated ribbon cutting. ○ <i>Matthew Goldberger</i> asked if the boat launch will shut down at some point. <i>Leah Rockwell</i> answered that at some point it will be shut down as we are rebuilding it, but we haven't applied for that grant yet but estimate to submit for that grant in March.
<p>Staff Comments/ Updates</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● CIP (Bond Project/PW Bond Project/Other) – <i>Leah Rockwell</i> provided an update on the capital improvement projects. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The remaining playground projects are moving forward. The only playground that is still on hold is Dreher Park playground due to the budget shortfall, but we are looking into all different avenues to bring down the pricing. ○ The contractor has signed the contract for Gaines Park Community Center and Tennis Center. It's now waiting on the Mayor's signature and then we will begin the preconstruction meetings; groundbreaking is estimated to be in Q1 of next year at Gaines Park. ○ <i>Lorenzo Rivero</i> informed the committee that the contract was executed with Hartnett Building Group for the Howard Park Tennis Center with the notice to proceed coming in the next week. It's estimated to have the start date at the end of this month to early December. ○ Phipps Park restrooms and concession stands are currently at 65 – 70% completed. We are ahead of schedule and are tentatively expecting it to be done in time for the Phipps Park Baseball season opener on February 26th. ○ Phipps Park Skate Park is going through the permitting process right now; the second week of February is our anticipated start date. Demolition will begin in January after winter break. ○ The ITB for the South Olive Tennis Courts and Parking Lot was sent to Procurement and Legal last week; the permitting process has also begun, and we are reviewing comments. There is no defined start date with this project as we don't want all tennis courts in the city unplayable at the same time. ○ <i>Patt Sned</i> asked when will the tennis courts at Howard Park be completed. <i>Leah Rockwell</i> answered that we anticipate the courts will be open next fall tennis season. ○ <i>Leah Rockwell</i> will meet with Alfonso Hernandez to go over the interior design changes for Howard Park Community Center. ○ Coleman Park is coming along; the contractor estimates that they will be done in January. We estimate to have a ribbon cutting in Q1 of next year. ○ <i>Leah Rockwell</i> informed PRAC that she received a call from John Roach who was a principal planner at the city who is now with Gunster representing one of the Related Companies. Related had gone to the Coleman Park Neighborhood Association and asked if there was anything they wanted that they didn't have the funding for, and the association answered that they wanted fitness equipment. <i>Leah Rockwell</i> and <i>Sherry Wilson</i> walked the park with John and decided that the equipment should go on the north side of the park, east of the community center which is shaded and underutilized and could accommodate fitness equipment. ○ We will come back in January with the bond projects budget update. ○ <i>Matthew Goldberger</i> asked if George Petty Park was open yet. <i>Lorenzo Rivero</i> answered that we are moving through the permitting process for the playground right now and work should begin at the beginning of next year with completion by Spring. ○ <i>Julie Hastrup</i> asked where we are with Jose Marti Park and how many stations there will be. <i>Sherry Wilson</i> and <i>Leah Rockwell</i> answered that we are working with Greenfields Outdoor Fitness on the mockups and are waiting for one more design with safety surfacing where it is needed; there will be 10 fitness stations.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ At Osprey Park, the Osprey pole/nest has been erected, the playground is in process, and the Brian Chappel fishing pier is being looked at for options as we were not able to secure funding from FIND for the pier as we didn't and still don't have the Army Corps permit. There are two options we are looking into for the pier, (1) resubmit the grant in March to FIND, receive funding in September, and start a 100% replacement, or (2) do a retrofit which will cost up to \$150,000. ● Share-a-Supper <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Will be on Tuesday, November 21st at Pleasant City Community Center with shifts from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m., 5:30 to 6:30 p.m., or staying for the entire event.
Board Comments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● <i>Jacquelyn Taylor</i> asked if a presentation similar to what the Coleman Park Neighborhood Association did for Paul Blackshear is what is needed to have something named after Tiffany Morgan at Gaines Park. <i>Leah Rockwell</i> answered that either the neighborhood association could make the recommendation to the Mayor or City Commission, PRAC would then review it and make a recommendation, followed by a Mayor/Commission Work Session, if they are in favor of it, it will then go to a Commission meeting. ● <i>Michael Odum</i> made the motion to cancel the December PRAC meeting. <i>Jacquelyn Taylor</i> seconded the motion. All in favor.
Public Comment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● <i>Angela Ogburn</i> from the Northwood Harbor Neighborhood Association thanked the PRAC members for their dedication and for protecting the parks.
Next Meeting	Tuesday, January 9, 2024
Meeting Adjourned	<i>Matthew Goldberger</i> made a motion to adjourn. Second by <i>Jacquelyn Taylor</i> . All in favor. Meeting adjourned at 5:21 p.m.