

**Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee**

**Meeting Minutes**

Tuesday, February 13, 2024 – 4:00 PM

City Hall – 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Open Planning Area

<b>Present:</b> Mary Murphy, Perry Douglas, Julie Hastrup, Jacquelyn Taylor, Niels Heimeriks, Michael Odum, Matthew Goldberger	<b>Staff Present:</b> Leah Rockwell, Sherry Wilson, Todd Snyder, Anjali Ganesh, Lucy Morelos
<b>Absent:</b> Patt Sned	<b>Guest(s):</b> None.

<b>Topic</b>	<b>Discussion / Action / Follow Up</b>
Call to Order	Meeting called to order by <i>Michael Odum</i> at 4:03 p.m.
	Motion made to approve January 9, 2024; minutes made by <i>Niels Heimeriks</i> with a second by <i>Julie Hastrup</i> . All in favor.

<b>New Business</b>	No new business.
<b>Old Business</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>Leah Rockwell</i> informed the committee that the City’s transportation coordinator could not attend today’s meeting but will plan for her to attend March’s meeting via Zoom. <i>Niels Heimerik’s</i> added that, if possible, Alan Green could attend as he is the City’s senior project engineer coordinating the Parker Ave. south of Southern to Forest Hill plan.</li> </ul> <p><b>Bond Project’s Update</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>February 14, the department is scheduled to defend the PBC Health Department application to license Pleasant City Community Center for the afterschool program. Once this is completed, we can move the children from Gaines Park program to Pleasant City. <i>Jacquelyn Taylor</i> stated that it isn’t a relicensing of Pleasant City and <i>Leah Rockwell</i> clarified that Pleasant City under Faith’s Place was licensed and when they moved and the building was renovated, the city needed to go through the process.</li> <li>Demolition occurred at Phipps Skate Park of the old ramps and rails, the design team is here and will begin working on the new design.</li> <li>The concession building and restrooms at Phipps baseball are 80% completed and we hope to have the restrooms open in the next few weeks.</li> <li>The Coleman Park Community Center contractor is saying it should be completed by March 31st.</li> <li>Playgrounds: The George Petty Park installation has begun with an estimated completion within a month. Blum Park splash pad water lines need to be rerouted as the original playground was installed over them. Phipps Park is under construction and should be done in two weeks and Echo Lake is completed.</li> <li>South Olive tennis courts and parking lot are going through PPRC and plan review for permitting. We were planning to bid on the project in the fall to avoid placing all the tennis courts with programming out of service, however this is being pushed up to late spring if plan review is approved.</li> </ul> <p><b>Penny Sales Tax Projects Update</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Howard Park Community Center project: A meeting is scheduled for next Friday to meet with the architect. The project is currently going through PPRC, and we are working on the interior designs to get the project within budget before going out to bid.</li> <li><i>Todd Snyder</i> updated that the restrooms at Dreher Park have been built and are being stored with the manufacturer; the city is set to receive small construction bids in the next few weeks. Todd will be on the selection panel. Once the construction firms are under contract we can then move forward with the installation of the new restrooms.</li> </ul> <p><b>Boys and Girls Club – Working on Dreher Agreement from term sheet and DeGeorges New Agreement</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No new updates on the Boys and Girls Club. The first pass was made with the agreement and sent back to the Club along with a draft of the Pinewood DeGeorges Club agreement.</li> </ul>

	<p><i>Michael Odum</i> asked if they will get a chance to look at the draft before it is finalized, <i>Leah Rockwell</i> answered that she will provide them with a copy. <i>Matthew Goldberger</i> asked why the building is named DeGeorges and if it was a funding source. <i>Leah Rockwell</i> answered that it's like the one for Dreher, where the Connors family donated money, the DeGeorges family donated to the Boys and Girls Club for the Pinewood building in a trust or foundation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Niels Heimeriks</i> asked if we have a parks foundation or a vehicle to say if you donate \$250,000, we can get the building painted since the government can't just take someone's money. <i>Leah Rockwell</i> clarified that donations can be made to the city for specific purposes. There could be a foundation that some park systems have as it's easier for that not-for-profit to write grants to those that only accept from a 501(c)(3) and not municipalities or government agencies.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Staff Comments / Updates</b></p>	<p><b>Status on Finalizing Afterschool Licensing of Pleasant City CC</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The finalizing of Pleasant City CC licensing was spoken about with the bond project updates, but when it is completed, we will then begin the process of licensing Coleman Park Community Center since the building has been expanded and we have added a gymnasium.</li> </ul> <p><b>Programming Update</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Sherry Wilson</i> stated that we have junior soccer wrapping up this week and next week we will begin the spring soccer league for the kids and adult softball is currently ongoing. Spring break camp will be the week of March 18; the first summer camp planning meeting was held today; and summer job positions have been posted.</li> <li>• <i>Michael Odum</i> added that he received a phone call from a man who was elated about the PNC Mobile Banking program and wanted more details on when it will be on-site and for how long. <i>Leah Rockwell</i> clarified that PNC approached the department with the mobile banking program to go into communities that don't have banks in them and we asked for them to also provide classes for teens and seniors at the Youth Empowerment Center on banking which they agreed.</li> <li>• Greenmarket is ongoing and we are in the height of event season along the waterfront and within the parks.</li> <li>• The aquatic center will reopen around March 18<sup>th</sup> for lessons and for camps due to limited staffing. Come summer, it will be fully open.</li> <li>• <i>Todd Snyder</i> updated that they've met with Scott Bills, a consultant, on the rebuild of the Bill Moss-Hillcrest Paseo athletic fields. He will be putting together construction documents based on those specific fields. We plan on advertising the project in May.</li> <li>• Funding to rebuild the South Dreher Park trails is in place and once a timeline has been developed with events and 5Ks scheduled in the park, we will mill and pave these trails.</li> <li>• The Parks Maintenance parking lot was also repaved, which is saving the vehicles from damage by the potholes. Thanks to a one-time expenditure approved by the Administration.</li> <li>• Lincoln Park basketball courts also received one-time expenditure funds to completely rebuild. This should begin mid-summer.</li> <li>• <i>Niels Heimeriks</i> spoke about a park's foundation, <i>Leah Rockwell</i> stated that there has been some talk in the community about a conservancy for Dreher Park. Individuals are considering ways to raise money to fund the master plan as well as the upkeep and maintenance of the park. <i>Jacquelyn Taylor</i> asked what the negatives would be for a conservancy. <i>Niels Heimeriks</i> stated that he sees it as a benefit that makes it easier to raise money to invest in the park. <i>Julie Halstrup</i> asked if it would be separate from this board and if they would manage the park themselves. <i>Leah Rockwell</i> stated that this is a policy decision for the Mayor and City Commission. <i>Perry Douglas</i> added that a downside might be that they have their ideas and PRAC would have completely different ideas.</li> </ul>

	<p><i>Niels Heimeriks</i> stated that Parks holds the strings, and the conservancy can choose to give the money or not give the money just like the City will accept it or not accept it.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Michael Odum</i> asked if the conservancy would just be specific to certain areas, <i>Leah Rockwell</i> stated that individuals in the community are talked Dreher Park specifically. example.</li> </ul>
<b>Board Comments</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Michael Odum</i> stated that with the influx of people coming here and with the economic boost, we might have to consider doing some of the programming year-round. Has there been a demand for more stuff to continue? <i>Leah Rockwell</i> answered that most of the events are done by outside promoters, but the summer months are very hard because it's so hot. We have tried a summer market twice, but the growers have little produce in the summer. Last year, we did offer the mini market during Clematis by Night and the intent is to offer it after Greenmarket has ended.</li> <li>• <i>Julie Hastrup</i> asked about the timeline for the playground that is supposed to go where the Visitor's Center used to be. <i>Leah Rockwell</i> answered that she has a meeting with the CRA tomorrow, February 14<sup>th</sup>, and she will report back on the timeline. The urban planning design firm, Gehl has been brought in and they are working on the public realm, public space, and best use of that space. Also, how the playground or other playful structure might fit.</li> <li>• <i>Niels Heimeriks</i> was recently at Summa Beach and is very happy with the park and it looks very good.</li> </ul>
<b>Public Comment</b>	No public comment.
<b>Next Meeting</b>	Tuesday, March 14, 2024, at 4:00 p.m.
<b>Meeting Adjourned</b>	<i>Michael Odum</i> made a motion to adjourn. Second by <i>Niels Heimeriks</i> . All in favor. Meeting adjourned at 5:04 p.m.