

Bridgeton Parks & Recreation Board
January 18, 2022
Attendance

Present

Nancy Haug – Chair
Luke Bland
Maribeth EstEEP
Conner Matusek
Kathy Schlag
Brad Eader
Joni Norris – Ex Officio
Brendan Kane - Director

Absent

Meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m.

Public Portion:

None

Motion to approve the agenda with the addition of approving October and November minutes; motion made by Luke Bland, seconded by Conner Matusek, motion passed. Motion to approve meeting notes from the October 19th meeting with one correction made by Maribeth EstEEP, seconded by Luke Bland, motion passed. Motion to approve meeting notes from November 16th meeting made by Kathy Schlag, seconded Maribeth EstEEP, motion passed.

Old Business:

Fee Increase Proposal: Brendan Kane discussed the proposed fee increase that goes before City Council January 19, 2022 with a few editing changes. The only possible issue is the senior bus fee; this will come up for discussion. Some communities have a free bus service, however Maryland Heights charges \$30. This fee is not a revenue generator but a way to off-set/reduce some capital expenses. One of our two buses will need to be replaced in the near future if we continue to use it at the cost of \$80-\$100k. We have cut-back to using only one bus.

Brad Eader asked how long Bridgeton has offered the bus service and is this the first time proposing fees? Nancy Haug stated it has been in use for over 30 years and this is the first proposal of adding a fee.

Joni Norris mentioned that one van was purchased from a beneficiary donation and we also qualified in years past with grants from senior divisions that no longer exist. Brendan Kane stated that if this fee is an issue, he thinks Council could remove and approve the rest of the proposal.

Brad Eader mentioned the possibility of sponsorship or adds for promotional information on the bus.

Matthews Park: Nancy Haug asked the status of Matthews Park; is it complete? Brendan Kane stated the sign was installed last week. Joni Norris stated the street sign posed a problem with the new park sign. Brendan Kane stated the street sign will be moved.

Two mini shelters should be in next week and installed the following week.

The railings coming from the new sub-division will be installed next spring after Public Works replaces the culvert.

Graffiti was removed from playground equipment and benches with ease.

New Business:

BMAC: We had a bid opening for the BMAC homerun fencing and we received four bids. The low bid is approximately \$20k under budget which was \$117k and the bid is \$95k. This will help us regain younger players at BMAC that left during COVID.

Berry Hill: Supplies have been ordered for whole one drainage project.

Recreation Center: We are getting our quotes for the window tenting project for the Recreation Center gymnasium. There is a piece of fitness equipment we need to order for the Fitness Center.

Public Works/Parks Groups: Nancy Haug mentioned the award given to our Public Works/Parks Group for the concrete work they did at Bridgeway Park.

BMAC Playground: The subject of lighting at BMAC has come up several times at City Council meetings during the public portion. Our contention is there is adequate lighting when games are going; however we do not want lights on in the park after play.

Quarterly Report: See your attached handout from January meeting.

Salary Increase Proposal / Overtime Policy: Administration is proposing an ordinance change for overtime. Currently, if an employee works more than 40 hours/weeks, they get time plus a half, and if they work over 8 hours in a day it's time plus a half. Part-time staff currently get overtime if working more than the 8 hours. This will be eliminated and paid straight time over 8 hours. The budgeted money saved by eliminating overtime will go toward pay increases.

Ex-Officio's Report:

2022 budget was approved; \$25,840,045. We put off Capital purchases for two years. We are now able to purchase two new police cars and trucks for public works. We will improve the sound system at the Government Center and update our cyber security system. Employees were given 3.2% cost of living increase. A new City Clerk has been hired, Karen Robinson. She comes from Black Jack with 20 years of experience. Charter Commission is working on updating our city charter from 1967.

Redistricting has been approved by City Council.

Retail is down 2% in December. We had a boutique open in Orchard Bend. Bridal salon opened at this same location. A karate facility opened on Natural Bridge at the old Blockbuster location. We have two new oil change locations.

Staff Report:

Kirstie Chase, our fitness supervisor is leaving, going to Florissant January 28th.

Riverwood Bridge is continuing to sink. Budrovich Crane Company said they will take it out for \$50k, but if we let them keep the bridge, they will do this work for \$10k plus \$8k to demo all the concrete. Great River Greenway has indicated they would share this expense due to their poor design.

Chair Report:

Motion: Chairman Nancy Haug called for a motion to adjourn....

Motion to adjourn by Maribeth Estee, seconded by Brad Eader, meeting adjourned at 6:57pm.