

TOWN OF COLLIERVILLE
Parks, Recreation, & Cultural Arts Advisory Board
April 13, 2021 – 5:30pm
Agenda

CALL TO ORDER Chairman Rhylander

APPROVE AGENDA Chairman Rhylander

REVIEW / APPROVE – February 9, 2021 Minutes . . . Chairman Rhylander

PUBLIC COMMENTS

ITEMS:

1. Outdoor Pickleball Courts PresentationGreg Clark

2. 2021 Independence Day Celebration Greg Clark

3. FY 2022 – 5 year Capital Investment Program Greg Clark

DIRECTORS REPORT: Greg Clark

OTHER BUSINESS: Chairman Rhylander

ADJOURN: Next Meeting – May 11th



COLLIERVILLE
PARKS

Parks Advisory Board Meeting – April 13, 2021

Members Present: Corinne Derenburger, Joe Ennis, Maureen Fraser, Micah Miller, Jennifer Moerbe, Dave Rhylander

Members Absent: Kal Bhavaraju, Kathy Thiele, Jimmy Turner

Staff Present: Ashley Carver, Greg Clark, Tress Shields

Guest(s) Present: Cindi Peckham, Terry Plunk, Taylor Taylor

Dave Rhylander called the meeting to order at 5:29 p.m.

Approval of Agenda

Jennifer Moerbe made a motion to approve the agenda. Joe Ennis seconded the motion. The board approved the agenda.

Approval of Minutes

Micah Miller made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 9, 2021 meeting. Jennifer Moerbe seconded the motion. The board approved the minutes.

Public Comments

NONE

Items

1. Outdoor Pickleball Courts – Greg Clark remarked that over the last few years, we have discussed pickleball and its increasing popularity. He pointed out that we have indoor courts at the Cox Gym, and we recently converted some temporary courts outdoors at Frank Road. He informed that we have a small enthusiastic group that wanted to make a presentation to this board regarding outdoor courts and the need for them in Collierville.

Greg turned it over to Taylor Taylor who was accompanied by Cindi Peckham and Terry Plunk. She thanked the board for allowing them to make their presentation. Taylor showed everyone the paddle and the ball used in pickleball. She stated that it is played on a badminton size court. She acknowledged that it is very easy to facilitate; she has played/taught pickleball in cafeterias, hallways, parking lots, etc. Also, she disclosed that four pickleball courts can fit on one tennis court.

Taylor Taylor shared that she started out playing tennis, and it was her career for twenty years. However, she thinks she loves pickleball more and strongly believes that it is doing a tremendous amount of good for individuals, families, and communities as a whole. It is incredibly social, easy to learn, inclusive, and intergenerational. People of all ages, races, genders, and socioeconomic status can play together. The sport is inexpensive; there are no real apparel requirements except sports shoes. She said that pickleball has a very passionate following, and it breeds community. Taylor pointed out that the courts at Cameron Brown Park in Germantown are constantly packed, and players are always looking for available courts where they can play. She stressed that if we build the courts, people will come; and the community will appreciate it.

Taylor Taylor announced that they have resources to help build the courts, and she offered to send that information to the board. She stated that the sport is physical, but it is not overwhelmingly difficult. Taylor provided some pickleball data. In 2020, the sport had 4.2 million players in the United States. That is a 21.3% increase from 2019. There are two professional pickleball tours and one junior tour. In the last five years, the number of courts in North America has increased 133%; there are nearly 30,000 pickleball courts. She concluded that this is the game for everyone.

Dave Rylander inquired about the dimensions of a pickleball court. Taylor Taylor answered that they are 44 ft. long by 20 ft. wide. She added that to host sanctioned events, the courts must have 10 ft. between them. She expressed that we would not have to have sanctioning in order to have a really successful tournament. Taylor suggested that if we are going to build outdoor courts that we should build at least 8 courts. Joe Ennis inquired if the courts are concrete. She answered that we could do either concrete or asphalt; concrete would last longer, but asphalt is better on the body.

Taylor Taylor mentioned that there are 3 or 4 certified professional pickleball instructors in our area. They are all looking for places to teach. Maureen Fraser asked what it would cost if Collierville wanted to build an outdoor pickleball facility from the ground up where we could have sanctioned events. Taylor surmised that it would cost between \$250,000 and \$300,000. She added that they would like to have indoor courts as well because of weather conditions.

Taylor Taylor informed that she and her business partner have a business called Blade Runner Turf and Sport Courts. They have the ability to go to sites and have designs drawn up and present those designs to this group or other interested

groups. They can provide the pricing for whatever number courts. Taylor declared that they do not have to choose her company; she simply is an ambassador for the sport and wants everyone to have access to it. Taylor thanked the board members for the opportunity to present their case.

2. 2021 Independence Day Celebration – Greg Clark reported that our typical Independence Day Celebration is held July 3. We have a stage for entertainment, and we have areas designated for games and food vendors. Our audience is usually somewhere between 15,000 and 18,000 people. He asked the board members if they thought that that was a doable thing for July 3rd this year. There was one definitive yes. Jennifer Moerbe asked if there is an option where people could park and watch the fireworks from their cars. Greg replied that he and the special events staff are meeting with the Board of Mayor and Aldermen April 26th; it is a work session before the BMA meeting. They want to present a couple of options for this year's event. Our vendors need to know our plans at least 8 weeks in advance.

Greg Clark presented their options. Option 1 is to have the event as we have always had it. He interjected that he does not foresee that as a reality by July 3rd. Option 2 is to do fireworks only July 3rd and do a fall picnic (October 2021) in the park where we would have bands, food trucks, and games. Greg mentioned that they have looked all around town for feasible locations for viewing fireworks that would allow for the fallout zones. The two major parking lots in Collierville are The Avenue at Carriage Crossing and Collierville High School. The high school is a potential option; however, The Avenue is not because they would have to shut down the entire mall for that day.

In the board packets, Greg Clark provided aerial views of several parks. The first one is Cox Park which has 1.94 acres of viewing for the stage. The next one is Halle Park which has 7.64 acres of visibility. Maureen Fraser expressed that if we change up the event this year, we need to really change it. We should not do the fireworks at Cox Park because people will expect our usual big celebration. Greg agreed and said that we could do a trial run this year. There are many businesses/parking lots around Halle Park which would allow for excellent viewing of the fireworks from Halle. Most of the businesses are closed around the time we would have the fireworks display. We would encourage people to view them from their cars and not have anyone on site. Greg acknowledged that Option 2 is what they would like to propose to the BMA.

Jennifer Moerbe made a motion to have the special events staff present Option 2 to the BMA for this year's Independence Day event. Corrinne Derenburger seconded the motion. The board approved.

3. FY2022 – 5 Year Capital Investment Program – Greg Clark stated that he has changed a few things since January when he originally presented the CIP. He presented PowerPoint sheets for each project. He specifically discussed the project for construction of Cricket Fields. He acknowledged that the \$300,000 set aside only allows for constructing fields in an existing park. Maureen Fraser asked if there was space to build the fields at Nikki McCray Park. Greg affirmed that right now Cricket is played at Nikki McCray Park. The park already has restrooms and parking. He voiced that it is our best choice, and our responsibility now is to get with the residents in the area to see if they have any oppositions to building Cricket fields there.

Greg Clark announced that he has added outdoor pickleball courts in our five year plan. He said that it involves building two post tension tennis courts with lighting which would cost approximately \$250,000. It is like the Cricket fields in that the money is allotted for construction in an existing park. Joe Ennis suggested that if we are going to do them, we need to do them right. The board discussed potential locations for outdoor pickleball courts. Greg expressed that he would continue to look for the best location for pickleball courts.

Director's Report

Greg Clark reported that we are having our first special event for the year Saturday which is the Youth Fishing Rodeo. We required pre-registration this year, and we closed the registration at 225 participants. The Balloon Festival is on for June 19th and 20th. Our spring sports programs are up and running. The participation rate is around 75% which is up from the fall but short of our 2019 numbers. We are opening up more at the Linda Kerley Center.

Greg Clark communicated that we are opening the spray parks this year as scheduled. All our playgrounds are open. We are also doing pavilion rentals. The Town hired a new Animal Shelter manager, Brandon Wallace. He is from Horn Lake and has been on the job for two weeks. Nina Wingfield will remain for a little while to help with the transition.

There was no other business. Micah Miller made a motion to adjourn. Jennifer Moerbe seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 7:03 p.m.