

TOWN OF COLLIERVILLE

Parks, Recreation, & Cultural Arts Advisory Board

January 10, 2023 – 5:30pm

Agenda

CALL TO ORDER Chairman Derenburger

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS Chairman Derenburger

APPROVE AGENDA Chairman Derenburger

REVIEW / APPROVE – October 11, 2022 Minutes Chairman Derenburger

PUBLIC COMMENTS

ITEMS:

1. Election of Vice-Chairman Chairman Derenburger
2. Overview of the Park Advisory Board Greg Clark
3. 2020 LPRF Grant – Hinton Park Phase II Greg Clark
4. Five (5) year CIP Program – 2023-2028Greg Clark

DIRECTORS REPORTGreg Clark

OTHER BUSINESS Chairman Derenburger

ADJOURN: Next Meeting – February 14, 2022 (???)



COLLIERVILLE
PARKS

Parks Advisory Board Meeting – January 10, 2023

Members Present: Chris Armour, Corinne Derenburger, Michael Ebbs, Maureen Fraser, Katie Mims, Jeremy Smith, Kathy Thiele, Jimmy Turner

Members Absent: Micah Miller

Staff Present: Greg Clark, Tress Shields

Guest(s) Present: NONE

Corinne Derenburger called the meeting to order at 5:32 p.m. Since we had three new members, she had all board members and staff to introduce themselves.

Approval of Agenda

Maureen Fraser made a motion to approve the agenda. Chris Armour seconded the motion. The board approved the agenda.

Approval of Minutes

Maureen Fraser made a motion to approve the minutes of the October 11, 2022 meeting. Jeremy Smith seconded the motion. The board approved the minutes.

Public Comments

NONE

Items

1. Election of Vice Chairman: Corinne Derenburger opened up nominations for Vice Chairman. She explained that the person in the position would fill in at meetings in her absence. Maureen Fraser nominated Chris Armour. There were no further nominations. The board voted and approved Chris Armour as the Parks Advisory Board Vice Chairman.
2. Overview of Parks Advisory Board: Greg Clark gave an overview of the Parks Department and Parks Advisory Board. He informed that the Parks Department has six divisions: Senior Recreation, Tennis, Sports, Special Events, Tourism, and Cultural Arts. He spoke briefly about a few of the divisions. He stated that we have a relatively new facility, the Linda Kerley Center (LKC). It is a senior citizen facility where we offer Pickleball, bingo, arts and crafts, movie days, senior exercise classes, and other recreation programs. He then pointed out that we have a huge tennis program. Also, we have our youth and adult sports

programs and special events. Our Special Events include Tree Lighting, Christmas Parade, and the Independence Day Celebration (our largest event). Then, we have the Tourism division. We are trying to increase the attraction for people to come to Collierville as well as engage our residents to visit our parks, participate in our programs, and attend local events. In the Cultural Arts division, we have the 352 seat Harrell Theatre. We also have the Morton Museum and the Collierville Animal Shelter under the Community Services Department. Greg informed that this board will not have a lot to do with those departments. However, individuals from those departments may come in and give reports and updates to the board.

Greg Clark reported that there are five boards under our department. They are Parks Advisory Board, Collierville Arts Council, The Heritage Commission, Tourism Advisory Board, and Town Beautiful Commission. He then focused on the Parks Advisory Board. He acknowledged that 2020 changed the world. The pandemic highlighted who is essential and what is essential. It really identified parks and recreation as an essential service that we provide to our residents. More people started using our parks, trails, and outdoor facilities more than ever. This past year, our athletic programs and special events exceeded our pre COVID numbers.

Responsibilities of the Parks Advisory Board: Greg Clark expressed that the number one function is to assist in strategic planning for our park system. The board will discuss and try to identify where we need future parks and greenspace locations, determine what to do with what we have, and develop new Greenbelt trails. Another responsibility is to recommend Parkland dedication issues to the Board of Mayor and Alderman (BMA) and the department. We have a Parkland Dedication Ordinance. Greg stated that we will discuss that in more detail at the next meeting. Another function is to lobby elected officials for funding and facility development. Prices are continuing to soar, so this board really needs to prioritize the projects that we want to develop over the next five years. Greg mentioned that the Park Improvement Tax brings in about \$2.1M/year. The parks department gets \$750,000/year of that money. Greg communicated that other functions are to advocate for the department, receive/relay community feedback, review and recommend Service Provider contracts, support our high parks maintenance standards, and review/update Collierville Parks System Facility Standards. Greg conveyed that we will discuss the responsibilities more throughout the year. He then asked if anyone had questions.

Jeremy Smith asked why we no longer have baseball tournaments. Greg Clark explained that back when we had tournaments, we had a contract with

Collierville Youth Athletic Association (CYAA) to run our competitive and recreational baseball programs. They had a volunteer group, budget, treasurer, etc. As part of their contract, they used our fields and hosted tournaments. We provided and maintained the fields and facilities for their use. When the CYAA ended, we (the Town) started managing our own rec baseball/softball programs. The Town is not set up to do tournaments like a private or volunteer group. Greg disclosed that we now have a field rental fee. If the fields are available, groups can rent the fields from the Town to put on a tournament. Our fee pays for maintenance of the fields. Whatever fees the organizations collect involving the tournament, they keep. There is a great deal of work involved in hosting tournaments, and there are tournaments happening in several of the surrounding areas which makes it harder to get teams to participate. Also, we do not have the hotels to accommodate the teams and their families, so the economic impact is as beneficial to us.

3. 2020 LPRF Grant (Hinton Park Phase II): Greg Clark stated that we applied for a grant for Hinton Park in 2020. Recently, Governor Lee and Mayor Joyner signed the grant contract. Soon, we will receive the \$1.5M for Hinton Park Improvements. The first part of it is the design phase which we will have to send to the state for approval. Once the state approves it, we will take it to the BMA for approval. The project components include a new playground, a pavilion or amphitheater type structure on the performance lawn, more parking spaces, and a trail connection. Greg acknowledged that once we get in the design phase, we will bring different concepts to the board to get recommendations. He concluded that it has started; we are moving forward with the project and hopefully construction will begin this summer.
4. Five Year CIP 2023 – 2028: Greg Clark gave an update on the Capital Investment Program (CIP). Due to rising costs, we are having to go from 15 to 16 projects over five years to 2 or 3 projects over five years. Through work sessions with the BMA, we were able to develop a priority list of projects. The top three projects are Wolf River Boulevard Trail Extension, WC Johnson Restroom Renovations, and WC Johnson Baseball Infield Renovations (Synthetic Turf). Greg mentioned that he placed a copy of the CIP Five-Year plan in the packet.

Director's Report

Greg Clark reported that spring sports registrations are underway. He announced that we opened up the Father/Daughter Dance Friday, January 6th; by midnight that same day, it was sold out. We are not providing food anymore, so we cut the cost of the tickets from \$55 to \$35. We added carriage rides around the park. The Father/Daughter Dance is February 10th, and we are doing the Mother/Son Dance the next night February 11th.

Kathy Thiele gave an update about the Collierville Arts Council (CAC). She said that *Elf* did very well. The production sold out for each performance, so the CAC will do it again this December. New Day Theatre is doing *Freaky Friday* in the spring. CAC held auditions for *Titanic* which plays this summer, and the cast list came out today. Volunteers are in the process of cleaning out the costume shop and prop closet. There was no other business. Kathy Thiele made a motion to adjourn. Chris Armour seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 6:44 p.m. The next meeting is Tuesday, February 21, 2023.