

**TOWN OF COLLIERVILLE**  
Parks, Recreation, & Cultural Arts Advisory Board  
April 11, 2023 – 5:30pm  
Agenda

CALL TO ORDER . . . . . Chairman Derenburger

APPROVE AGENDA . . . . . Chairman Derenburger

REVIEW / APPROVE – February 21, 2023 Minutes . . . . . Chairman Derenburger

PUBLIC COMMENTS

ITEMS:

1. Morton Museum . . . . . Kate Renner

2. Hinton Park – Playground Concepts. . . . . Greg Clark

DIRECTORS REPORT . . . . .Greg Clark

OTHER BUSINESS . . . . . Chairman Derenburger

ADJOURN: Next Meeting – May 9<sup>th</sup>, 2023



## **Parks Advisory Board Meeting – April 11, 2023**

**Members Present:** Chris Armour, Corinne Derenburger, Maureen Fraser, Micah Miller, Jeremy Smith, Kathy Thiele, Jimmy Turner

**Members Absent:** Michael Ebbs, Katie Mims

**Staff Present:** Greg Clark, Kate Renner, Tress Shields

**Guest(s) Present:** Sam Henry, Dean Thomas (DT Designs), Jaipal Buddala, Aditya Dash, Dinesh Ponnvru, Santhosh Subramaniyam (Cricket Field)

Corinne Derenburger called the meeting to order at 5:31 p.m.

### **Approval of Agenda**

Micah Miller made a motion to approve the agenda. Kathy Thiele seconded the motion. The board approved the agenda.

Kathy Thiele pointed out that the board did not take a vote on/approve the motion to recommend the presented CIP Plan to the BMA as noted in the February 21, 2023 minutes.

### **Approval of Minutes**

Kathy Thiele made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 21, 2023 meeting as corrected. Chris Armour seconded the motion. The board approved the minutes as corrected.

### **Public Comments**

Aditya Dash stated that yesterday he and a group of Cricket players attended the Board of Mayor and Alderman (BMA) meeting regarding getting a Cricket field. He remarked that he did research on locations where they could play that had parking and restrooms. Aware that there are plans for a Cricket field in the proposed five-year CIP, Aditya inquired if there is some place that they can use temporarily until we can construct a permanent Cricket field. He pointed out that he was looking at Progress Park. He declared that it is the only facility that has the adequate dimensions for a Cricket field. He is proposing to have an area there that can be temporarily customized for a Cricket field where about 400 Collierville players can play and host tournaments.

Maureen Fraser asked the speaker how often are the tournaments. Aditya Dash replied that they have three to four tournaments in a season which is from April to November. Maureen then asked what are the minimum requirements for them to play Cricket. Aditya replied about five acres of land. He explained that there is a 200 ft. radius field with a 22-yard concrete base pitch in the center. Then, they would need seating areas for the teams and viewers. Jimmy Turner inquired about the frequency of their games. The response was

that they play every weekend. Then, Jimmy asked how many teams come to the tournaments. Aditya responded that they have twenty teams with at least fifteen players per team. Eleven players are on the field at one time. He went on to explain some of the rules of the game. He reported that there are twenty teams in Collierville which is about 400 people. About 320 of those players are Collierville residents.

Greg Clark stated that soccer is the largest program that we have. We would have to check with the Collierville Soccer Association (CSA) to see if they are willing to give up space at Progress Road. He then informed that we cannot give up the two large fields.

Corinne Derenburger asked the guests if they were willing to raise funds towards a field. They replied absolutely. Aditya Dash said that they would definitely work on raising funds. Greg Clark suggested that the multipurpose field at Hinton Park could potentially serve their needs. It would take some work to get it ready for play. After discussing the Progress Road fields and Hinton field, Greg told the players that we will keep looking for a permanent location. For now, he can only offer the Hinton Park field because he does not think the Progress Road field will work because of the location of the light poles. He acknowledged that he has money to do the permanent field in the 5 Year Plan, but that is down the road. Maureen Fraser asked how much would it cost to get the Hinton Park field to where they can use it now. Greg replied around \$200,000. After a brief discussion about the Hinton field, Corinne told the guests that Greg has their contact information, so he will contact them. The players thanked Greg and the board members.

### **Items**

1. Morton Museum: Greg Clark introduce Kate Renner, Director of the Morton Museum. Kate Renner thanked Greg and gave an update on activities and events at the museum. She provided a folder for each board member which had an overview of her presentation, promotional material of the upcoming events/programs, and her business card. She reported that the museum is open Tuesday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and admission is always free. Kate mentioned that she has been the director since November 2021. She expressed that it has been a joy getting to interpret and share Collierville history. Her one full time staff person is Chandler Tait who is the Collections and Special Projects Coordinator. She curates all the exhibitions, cares for the artifacts, and manages the special events rentals. Neecole Gregory is the part-time Visitors Services Coordinator. She recently accepted the position and will start in a few weeks.

Kate Renner gave updates on events and programs at the museum. She announced that this past year, they celebrated the museum's tenth anniversary. She proudly reported that they exceeded their attendance and rental revenue goals. They produced ten in house exhibitions that were related to either local

history or visual arts. They are continuing to host programs for all ages including Lunch & Learns, Spotlight Saturday Family Days, Opening Receptions, Evening Concert Series, SRVS Story Time for adults of differing abilities, etc. At the Tennessee Association of Museums Conference, they received five awards. The awards were as follows: Award of Excellence for the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Gallery Renovation, Award of Commendation for Youth/Adult Summer Workshop Series, Award of Commendation for Your Local History Museum Social Media Campaign, Award of Commendation for Commemorative Mug for Gift Shop Memorabilia, and Chandler Tait received an award for Emerging Museum Professional. Kate expressed that they are really happy about their accomplishments, and she praised Chandler Tait for the work she has done.

Kate Renner promoted the museum's upcoming programs. This Thursday at noon, they have a Lunch and Learn called Captivating Curb Appeal. They will have Battle of Collierville Walking Tours around Town Square, Saturday, April 15<sup>th</sup> and Sunday, April 30<sup>th</sup>. Friday, April 21<sup>st</sup>, the museum will host a children's concert and instrument petting zoo with Iris Collective. Tuesday, May 2<sup>nd</sup>, there is an evening concert with student ensembles from Collierville High School. Tuesday, May 9<sup>th</sup> from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m., they will host an opening reception for the new exhibition, the Clarene Russell Collection. Kate acknowledged that Clarene Russell was the Town's unofficial historian for decades. She passed last year. She gifted the museum its largest donation, so this is a chance to remember her and show appreciation for her contributions to the Town. Lastly, every Thursday in June and July, the museum will host free workshops for all ages on topics that are relevant to Collierville history. Registration and information about all upcoming museum events are on the website; also, anyone can follow the museum on Facebook and Instagram. The board members thanked Kate.

Greg Clark suggested that we discuss and vote on the CIP Plan. Kathy Thiele asked if we looking at the \$1.5M towards a Cricket field in a different way as a result of tonight's discussion. Greg answered no and remarked that it is ultimately the BMA's decision. We are only making a recommendation to the BMA.

The board members briefly discussed the Cricket field matter. Greg Clark commented that it is a unique project that requires the right spot, and we have not found it yet. Jimmy Turner made a motion to approve the 5 Year CIP Plan as proposed. Micah Miller seconded the motion. A vote was taken; there was one nay vote. The board approved.

2. Hinton Park – Playground Concepts: Greg Clark introduced Dean Thomas and Sam Henry with DT Design. They were on the original Hinton Park design team and have designed many projects for the Parks Department. They are also the design team for Hinton Park Phase II. A major component of the second phase is the playground. Sam and Dean have provided design concepts that they will share with the board members for feedback.

Dean Thomas began by giving background on the Hinton Project. He stated that the main reason for applying for the grant was to finish the playground. The Town administration wanted the playground as the centerpiece of the park. They wanted something completely different than anything we have in the park system now. Also, the grant money is to help complete the amphitheater and provide additional parking. We are anticipating having a lot more people driving to this park to use the playground and to attend events at the amphitheater. Dean described Hinton Park as the most attractive park we have; a very pleasant, comfortable passive place to spend time. The current playground has natural components to fit the very natural look of the park. It has wood carpet as the safety surface, not a pour in place rubber surface like many playgrounds. Dean turned it over to Sam Henry to go over various concepts to see if this board wants to keep the original concept or go with something different.

Sam Henry stated that the grant submittal ended up including a number of different things such as additional parking, a central playground, an added trail to the stage area, and building a stage and putting a cover on it. The cost estimate they submitted was \$1.5M. They also submitted examples of some things which they were considering for the stage/pavilion. He presented construction drawings for the playground and stage. Sam noted that they are pushing full steam ahead on having construction plans for the second phase. The original idea for the playground included towers and had a treehouse theme. It had a lot of wood elements, tall towers, and rope bridges. Four different companies (Cunningham Recreation, Kompan, Recreational Concepts, and PlayVentures, Inc.) presented concepts for the destination playground. They presented various options including pour in place surfaces and accessibility. Sam gave an overview of each company's concept and provided examples of playgrounds they have constructed. Sam exclaimed that each vendor is willing to make changes in order to give us what we like.

Maureen Fraser articulated that she still likes the original plan with the treehouse and inquired if we can still do it. Dean Thomas answered yes and explained that the original design is custom; not something that comes out of a catalog. Corinne Derenburger asked if they could get a copy of all the designs they saw

tonight. Sam Henry agreed to email the designs to Greg Clark to pass along to each board member. The decision is whether to stay with the original wood/custom design or go with the more modular playground equipment. Board members briefly discussed the designs, and many voiced that they would like to stay with the original custom design. They liked the idea of having something unique and unlike anything else we have in our parks. Greg Clark affirmed that we would go with the original concept for now.

Jeremy Smith inquired about seating at the pavilion/stage area. Greg Clark replied that we have tiers but no permanent seating. Patrons would have to bring their own chairs. Kathy Thiele asked if there was something in the back of the stage where the musicians could store their equipment. Sam stated that they could put something in the back of the stage for storage. Greg thanked Sam and Dean.

### **Director's Report**

Greg Clark reported that he has two interviews scheduled tomorrow for the part-time position at the Harrell Theatre. Kathy Thiele asked questions about the position. Greg conveyed that the position is still open and anyone can apply. It is a Town of Collierville part-time position (20 to 25 hours a week); the employee would report to him. He further explained that it is similar to our Special Events Coordinator position except that employee would coordinate community cultural arts events; it is not a position solely for the theatre.

Sam Henry gave an update on the Pickleball Courts. He showed the layout of the courts on the two baseball fields at Suggs Park. There is a sidewalk connection and a paved area where we could have bleachers or people could put chairs. There are six courts with lights. The Town is reviewing the construction plans now. They should go out for bid in a couple of weeks.

Greg Clark reported that we have received two quotes on fencing in the playground at WC Johnson Park. We are waiting on the third quote. He concluded that we are very busy.

There was a motion to adjourn. Chris Armour seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 7:18 p.m.