

Parks Advisory Board Meeting – November 14, 2023

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

Members Absent: Micah Miller, Jeremy Smith, Kathy Thiele

Staff Present: Greg Clark, Tress Shields

Guest(s) Present: NONE

Corinne Derenburger called the meeting to order at 5:35 p.m.

Approval of Agenda

Katie Mims made a motion to approve the agenda. Chris Armour seconded the motion. The board approved the agenda.

Approval of Minutes

Chris Armour made a motion to approve the minutes of the October 3, 2023 meeting. Katie Mims seconded the motion. The board approved the minutes.

Because she was not present at the last meeting, Maureen Fraser inquired about options discussed regarding the memorial bench program. Greg Clark replied that we discussed doing a large plaque somewhere inside (Community Center or Town Hall) where people could make a donation to have someone's name placed on it. He specified that most people want something at the square, but the square is not a memorial park. Greg added that we are going to have to come up with a long term solution and he is open to suggestions.

Public Comments

NONE

Items

1. Outdoor Fitness Courts – Greg Clark stated that they have looked at possibly having an outdoor fitness court. We have a small one at Cox Park. There is a campaign across the country for outdoor fitness. It is something that addresses all ages. He showed a video presentation by the National Fitness Campaign, founded in 1979 by Mitch Menaged. Their goal is to build healthy communities by bringing the gym outside. This year, they introduced fitness court public art...cities have the opportunity to select a local artist to design their fitness court. The hope is to bring free world class fitness to everyone regardless of

age, fitness level, and skills. Greg Clark informed that he wanted to bring the concept to the board members to get feedback. Several board members agreed that it could be very useful to the residents.

2. Christmas in Collierville Watch Party – Greg Clark announced that we were designated for a Christmas in Collierville watch party. He had the board members put on Santa hats and grab a bag of popcorn for a photo. Greg explained that Austin with Five and Dime Studios got with him a year ago. He wanted to do a film about Collierville. Last year, he started filming at the Tree Lighting and Christmas Parade. Later, Greg introduced him to Ashley Carver and Jennifer Taylor, and he began working with them. The video was released today, and everyone watched the 18 minute Christmas in Collierville Documentary. The film briefly covered significant times in Collierville's history. Also, there were interviews with citizens, tourists, and Public Services employees who put up the lights and decorate the square for Christmas. The film centered on the Town Square during various times but especially during the Christmas Season. Greg Clark remarked that we are really pleased with the film, and he thanked the board members for sitting through it.
3. FY 2025 – 2029 Capital Improvement Plan – Greg Clark presented the opening draft of the CIP. He stated that no voting is required tonight; we will not finalize it until January. He explained that instead of doing 14 or 15 projects over the next five years, we will likely only do 7 or 8 because projects are really expensive. Greg clarified that when he turns in the CIP as part of the budgeting process, only the first year is approved for funding.

Chris Armour inquired if there were any resolutions on the Cricket field. Greg Clark replied that he has taken out the Cricket field because we have a field at W.C. Johnson. The Cricket group is really happy and excited about it. Greg said that he believes it will serve its purpose for them for the next two or three years. Michael Ebbs asked about the Pickleball courts. Greg gave an update on the courts. He reported that the work is on schedule. He surmised that by the middle of January 2024, they will open for public use. Greg announced that he will be out the end of January 2024 until March 2024 for knee replacement surgery.

Director's Report

Greg Clark announced that the annual tree lighting event is next Tuesday at 7 p.m. Then, the Christmas parade is the week after Thanksgiving...Friday, December 1st at 7 p.m. He stated that we will not meet in December. He reported that he would like everyone to attend the department Christmas Luncheon. It is Tuesday, December 19th at 11:30 a.m. at the Morton Museum. He will send everyone an invitation.

There was no additional business. Michael Ebbs made a motion to adjourn. Jimmy Turner seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 6:30 p.m.