CITY OF MERRIAM PARK AND RECREATION
ADVISORY BOARD MEETING MINUTES
Tuesday, April 23, 2019
6:00PM

Roll Call

The April meeting of the Merriam Parks & Recreation Advisory Board was called to order at 6:00 pm, by Chairperson Billy Crook. Board members in attendance included: Kathy Stull, LaVera Howard, Christopher Leitch, Suzanne Downey, Thelma Fowler and Grant Getzlow. Staff members in attendance included: Anna Slocum, Director; Dave Smothers, Assistant Director; Renee Nagle, Recreation Supervisor, and Ingrid Berg, Assistant Program Coordinator.

Public Comments

There was no one present for public comments.

Approval of Meeting Minutes

LaVera Howard made a motion to accept the March meeting minutes and Kathy Stull seconded the motion; motion was approved unanimously.

Staff Reports

Director's Report

Community Center Update

The site has officially gone vertical with the parking structure precast beginning on Monday, April 22. The piers and foundations at the community center are currently being built. Once the parking structure is in place, backfill will be completed which then allows for the internal road network to be constructed. This is a key component as it then moves all construction traffic off of Slater and onto IKEA Way. This will have a positive impact on the neighborhood in time for the pre-cast of the community center to be delivered.

Assistant Director's Report

Updates

2019 Farmers' Market

The market is scheduled to open on Saturday, May 4th. There are 20 returning vendors leaving ten stalls available. Staff is running advertisements and promoting on Social Media in an attempt to find vendors for these spaces.

Upcoming Events

Turkey Creek Festival 5K

Online registration numbers are greater than the same time frame of 2018. The early bird discount ends on Wednesday, May 1st.

Recreation Supervisor's Report

Reports

Brunch with the Bunny

There were 118 people in attendance and Chris Cakes catered. Story time with JOCO library, the games and craft were all great hits, as were pictures with the Bunny and the egg hunt.

Volunteer Appreciation Event

The theme this year was "Volunteers are the Heart of our Team". Smokin' Babes BBQ catered the event with staff serving the meal of pork, chicken, cheesy corn, baked beans and salad. Staff prepared desserts of raspberry and lemon bars. Good reviews were given for the food. In addition to honoring the 57 in attendance, each received a Farmers' Market logo coaster which matched the shape of previous years. Carol Whitlock was honored as the "Volunteer of the Year" with decades of service to the Planning Commission.

Upcoming Events

Grandpa's War

In celebration of Older Americans Month, author Mark Armato will provide a presentation about his book, "Grandpa's War: The WWI Experiences of Corporal John George Rakers." Staff will be sending out postcards to the senior community. Christopher Leitch asked to have a flier emailed to him so he could pass it on to the Genealogical Society.

Other Business

New Community Center Room Naming Discussion

Building off the discussion of March – there were two main concerns:

1. Concern about using names in the event there is a negative history associated with names. It is fair to say that the behaviors of the 1800s are different than today but the names suggested are recognizable within the area and are utilized today in various locations. These people were considered forefathers and community leaders.
2. The suggestions of using street names could provide confusion based on the grid system within Johnson County – roads are not named specific to Merriam

To aid in discussion, staff created a ballot with the suggested names based on those previously proposed. The concept was this would provide a process of elimination helping to identify the top choices. Kathy Stull compiled a list with other details and it was decided to add First Americans Tribes (Kansa, Osage and Shawnee) to the choices. Through discussion of adding this option, staff was directed that if chosen, more information from Haskell Indian Nations University would be necessary to ensure the naming is done in an appropriate manner. Elimination voting proceeded to identify top choices. Recognizing the top suggestions, board members discussed the merit of the top options and concerns for possible confusion.

Large Banquet Room: Christopher Leitch made a motion to name the large banquet room First Americans Room with each smaller room being, Kansa, Osage and Shawnee, pending input from Haskell University. The second option, if not acceptable by University officials, would be to name the space Founder's Room with each smaller room being Campbell, Kessler, Loomis. Kathy Stull seconded the motion; motion was approved unanimously.

Classroom: LaVera Howard made a motion to name the classroom the Ester Brown Room; Thelma Fowler seconded the motion; motion was approved unanimously.

Party Rooms: LaVera Howard made a motion to name the party rooms the Trolley Room and Depot Room; Christopher Leitch seconded the motion; motion was approved unanimously.

Conference Room: LaVera Howard made a motion to name the conference room the Founder's Room, pending the decision of the large banquet room, with the second option being the Walker School Room. Suzanne Downey seconded the motion; motion was approved unanimously.

Residency / Household Policy – Second Review

There was excellent discussion last month. Staff prepared an updated memo included in the packet to address discussion topics and discussion continued. It is important that proof of residency be administered effectively, easy to manage and utilities are tied to a physical address and are required by every residence. Thelma Fowler motioned to accept staff's proposal of defining residency as:

(a) Any person who has a permanent residence within the Merriam City limits

(b) Any person owning taxable real estate in Merriam

Proof required with a valid driver's license, **current utility bill (electric, gas or water),** current city business license or Notice of Appraised Value issued by the Johnson County Assessor's Office.

Kathy Stull seconded the motion; motion was approved unanimously.

Defining household provides a measure of affordability to family units. There will be a variety of memberships sold: youth (under 17); Senior 65+; Couple (2 adults same household); and Household. Quantifying the number allowed in a household is an accounting measure in order to achieve the business plan outlined in the ProForma. Suzanne Downey made a motion to accept staff's proposal of defining a Household as:

Two (2) adults and up to **four (4)** dependent children as defined by IRS Qualifying Age Rule. Children 18 – 24 must provide proof of residency (see residency proof documents).

LaVera Howard seconded the motion; motion was approved unanimously.

Hometown Heroes Program

Staff was not able to prepare information on this topic in time for the April meeting. This will be tabled until later in the summer with more concrete program plan for discussion.

Park Board By-Laws

Member's discussed and voted on each recommended changes separately.

- Christopher Leitch moved to eliminate the aquatic center from facilities operated to keep it more generic and change the wording to "operation of city parks and recreation facilities"; Kathy Stull seconded the motion; motion was approved unanimously.
- Christopher Leitch moved to correct the typographical error from "od" to "of" and "one year" to "one term"; Thelma Fowler seconded the motion; motion was approved unanimously.
- Thelma Fowler moved to simplify the resignations to be filed as soon as the member decided versus as soon as possible after the member decides; Christopher Leitch seconded the motion; motion was approved unanimously.
- Amending the number of absences was tabled to the end of this discussion.
- Christopher Leitch moved to remove the classification of excused vs. unexcused absences; Kathy Stull seconded the motion; motion was approved five "yes" and one abstention.
- Thelma Fowler moved to add how and where meeting notices will be posted, formalizing the current practice for public notification; LaVera Howard seconded the motion; motion was approved unanimously.
- Thelma Fowler moved to clarify a quorum to include "voting" appointed membership since there is a non-voting member; LaVera Howard seconded the motion; motion was approved unanimously.
- Thelma Fowler moved to add the ability for "phone" link-up to be allowed for Park Board members; Suzanne Downey seconded the motion; motion tied three for and three against. Therefore, this will be decided by City Council.
- Return to amending absences. Suzanne Downey moved to change the number of absences allowed to three in a year; Christopher Leitch seconded the motion; motion passed five "yes" to one "no".

5701 Steering Committee Update

The committee is made up of three groups: 1) Preservation; 2) Open Space; 3) Economical Catalyst. The public meeting for community input is scheduled for Monday, April 29th at 7:00 p at the Irene B. French Community Center. The meeting to decide the structure of the public meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, April 24th.

New Business

Thelma Fowler asked about the Comprehensive Master Plan and whether or not Park Board members can apply. This is a 20-year plan for the city as a whole (development, commerce, green space, etc) and any resident is welcome to apply.

Adjournment

LaVera Howard moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:25 pm and Thelma Fowler seconded; motion was approved unanimously.