

Kearney Park Board Minutes--Tuesday August 18th, 2020 meeting

On Tuesday August 18th, 2020 the Kearney Park Board met for its monthly meeting virtually, via Zoom Meeting. Kristi Mayo called the meeting to order. Members present were Kristi Mayo, Julie Jones, Tiffany Kirkland, Lisa Cheesebrough, Dan Holt and Pastor Nick DiBenedetto. Connie Crawford called early and stated she would be unable to attend as she was out of state. Staff members present were Eric Marshall and Ryan Marcotte. Larry Pratt also attended via zoom.

Park board minutes from the July 21st, 2020 meeting were presented, with Dan Holt making a motion to approve the minutes, and Julie Jones seconding the motion...the motion was approved unanimously.

Public Request and Petition--None

Old Business – Eric updated the board on our Youth Sports.... Sign-ups are continuing for Soccer, Flag Football and Girls Volleyball. Staff reported that coaches' meetings would be held via zoom, once the deadline has passed, and teams gear would be dropped off to the coaches' homes. Staff reported that there is a real possibility of not having the volleyball league this year due to gym availability, and guidelines we would have to follow due to the COVID. Pastor Nick asked staff if possible, to have sand volleyball, and Ryan stated these options have been looked at, but lights would be needed as we play these games during the week starting late September and running through October, and weather can be a factor as well. We will be in contact with the schools getting a final decision and report to the board at the next meeting. We will be playing 5 on 5 for soccer, and hosting our own league this year, as Smithville parents are concerned with intermixing the kids with the continued concern of COVID. Staff reported that flag football would most likely be played at Jesse James Park, as we do have the space to provide field dimensions and allow parents to social distance with lawn chairs. Staff reported that we continue to do park maintenance at Jesse James Park and Mack Porter Park, as teams still use the baseball/softball fields for practice. We have taken over mowing Mack Porter Park every other week to cut down expenses from the contract mowing company. We have started to trim some trees, and will be doing extensive trimming come fall and winter.

Eric told the board that after approval at the last meeting regarding placing Dog Waste Stations in various locations on the trails, Rotary Club has asked for a letter of cooperation from the Park Department, so Rotary can send that in with the grant application. Dan did comment that the grant had been submitted. Staff reported that another park bench has been purchased to go along the walking trail (site not yet determined) and Pastor Nick asked if we are continuing to look for areas and also more park benches.

Staff reported that people usually donate these benches in honor of a loved one, and we will continue to place benches along the areas of the trail. We would like to start placing some along the MP Park trail as none are located in that area.

Lions Park master plan—Staff gave the board an update from the August 17th board meeting of the Board of Aldermen. The drawings from Vireo were discussed again at that meeting, and a recommendation from Steve Casey to the BOA is to go out for Bid on the project. Staff noted that there was some discussion on the overall plan from the BOA members, and one was adding a feature of Kearney heritage with spring riders, as both Eric and Ryan told the board they did not like the balance beam feature, and wanted to get a couple extra features to eliminate this as a cost to cost addition. Staff also commented that we would take out a bench swing and add a two person (parent/toddler swing) which we were able to do. Staff told members there could be a price increase beginning in October, so we will be having a meeting with the splash pad people via zoom to see if they can hold their prices as is. Lisa asked if the funding is all in place as originally she thought the Kearney Enrichment Counsel/Splashpad would be raising funds (\$300K-\$350K) Eric told members at last night's BOA meeting he thought around \$30K has been raised, so the BOA, to get the renovation to proceed would be funding one million dollars, and the grant of 250K would come to the figure estimated to complete the project. Dan Holt said this was correct. Park Board members thanked the BOA for their participation to see the project through. Pastor Nick asked the status of the bandshell. Staff reported in a memo from Larry from Vireo and Steve Casey that the project go forward as is. We think the shell as presented will be a great addition to the park, as it is a half hexagon, open air, and as noted there is no theater group that does theater in the park any longer, and the theater group we sponsor wants to use the Amphitheater as a host to theater in the park. Eric told members that we have had weddings in the park, and feel this open area band shell

will be wonderful for that, in addition to the smaller Music in the Park events would use this as well. Steve said he would check prices, but thinks we are too far down the road for changes of such a structure. In the BOA meeting it was noted that extensive planning has been done, and if the park department feel this is a bandshell that will work for what we think it will serve to go forward with the project. Julie Jones asked if bike racks were to be placed in the park area, as kids could be riding their bikes to use the park amenities. Staff noted there used to be a bike rack in the park, but it was taken out as no trails were in the park and bicycles were driving in the playground areas, and there is a sign for NO BIKES in that park as of now. Staff stated with the trail being constructed in the park and splashpad installed, this will be something we need to address as a staff/board reported another memorial bench will be coming within the next two months, with a location yet determined.

Oktoberfest/Kids Fest Ryan mentioned that he “thinks” we could possibly host Oktoberfest, as it is a much smaller event, and feels the 250 people limit set forth by Clay County could be adhered to. Larry Pratt commented that he does have concerns with the event, as most of those people who attend that event, are higher risk in the COVID spectrum, and the food and beverage license would be a great expense and might not work to recoup these expenditures for this one event. Pastor Nick asked where the event is held and staff stated in the “L” shaped pavilion by the Amphitheater concession stand. Ryan mentioned that we will probably not host Kids Fest, as there are over 1,100 kids/parents who attend this event, 700-750 at one point plus having to social distance lining up for rides, touching the inflatables and rides getting on and off, and how we could keep sanitized. Ryan mentioned there isn’t a way to keep people from walking in, being it is an open area event, and people enter various locations to the area. Dan stated we might be at risk trying to get the volunteers who help with passing out treats, cooking food, having booths for the kids as well. Ryan did state that this event does cost the City 9-10K dollars, and we are still in a budget crunch. Tiffany asked if we could ticket the event...150 kids the first half and then the other half, and people would have to get their tickets on line in advance and show at the gate. Ryan did mention it may be an extra logistic problem with high school cross country still planning on having their meet that same date prior to our event. Board members questioned if they still were planning on hosting the event, and staff stated that they had not heard anything different. Eric stated we will be in contact

with coach Roberts on the logistics as we get closer to their date. Regarding the Kids fest, staff reported it may be about monies as we are on hiring freeze, only essential purchases, and Dan stated that the sales tax revenue was really down so far.

Board Comments-- Dan asked Ryan if he had heard any more of a Christmas parade, and Ryan is checking in to that, as Kearney likes their parades, and is always well attended, but will we be able to abide by Clay County health rules. Eric mentioned we will be in contact with Kurt Hamilton as part of their Magical Christmas, and Rotary is a sponsor of the parade. Ryan mentioned that it would be great if we could live stream the event on our YouTube channel. Pastor Nick asked staff what all we do at our kids fest, and staff told board members that groups, organizations, sometimes businesses that come out help with the event by setting up booths, helping pass out treats, cooking hot dogs, games, face painting all to make it a fun day. We contract with FUN SERVICES for the mechanical rides and big inflatable rides for the kids to ride, which is the bulk of the expense. Staff reported it is kind of a last day in the park until spring time. Pastor Nick asked if the dog park is still a planned addition for the park? Staff reported that has been taken out of the budget for this year. The fence for the dog park was around \$36K , but hopefully this is placed back in a future year budget, as Mayor Pogue would really like to see this come to fruition, as he and staff feel it will be used extensively.

ADJOURNMENT

With there being no further business on the agenda, a motion was made by Lisa Cheesebrough, and seconded by Tiffany Kirkland to adjourn. Motion carried.

Approved: _____

Connie Crawford Chairperson

Julie Jones _____

Secretary

