



LEE'S SUMMIT PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD MEETING MINUTES

CITY OF LEE'S SUMMIT, MISSOURI

DATE:	March 24, 2021	TIME:	6:00 PM	PLACE:	Via Videoconference
Board Members Present:		Board Members Absent:		Staff Present:	Other Guests:
Mindy Aulenbach, President		Nancy Kelley		Joe Snook	Hillary Shields, City Council Liaison
Lawrence Bivins, Vice President				Carole Culbertson	Jackie McCormick-Heanue
Jim Huser, Treasurer				David Dean	Christal Weber
Casey Crawford				Steve Casey	
Jon Ellis				Brooke Chestnut	
Wesley Fields				Devin Blazek	
Tyler Morehead					
Samantha Shepard					
AGENDA ITEM		DISCUSSION (Findings/Conclusions)			RECOMMENDATIONS/ ACTIONS
Presentations:					
Tax Levy Fund Reallocation – April 6 th Election		<p>Mr. Snook introduced Christal Weber, Assistant City Manager-Operations, to present information regarding the Tax Levy Fund Reallocation, an issue that will be on the April 6th ballot. Ms. Weber stated the ballot measure is requesting a ten-cent change in the property tax rate. Currently, the property tax rate is \$1.46 and is broken into three funds: Parks Operating Fund, Debt Service Fund, and General Operating Fund. The measure is asking citizens to consider taking ten cents from the Debt Service Fund and moving it to the General Operating Fund. Moving the ten cents will generate roughly two million dollars in additional operating revenue for the year, which will be spent in three main areas: building maintenance, technology advancements, and investing in employees (training, compensation, etc.). This reallocation of funds is trying to use the taxpayer’s money in the most responsible way.</p> <p>Mr. Fields asked whether there is a sunset for the no-increase ballot measure. Ms. Weber stated there is no sunset to the tax rate; the overall rate will stay the same, money is simply move from one fund to another. The allocation will remain until the need to be adjusted again.</p> <p>Vice President Bivins questioned if the language on the ballot clearly states “no tax increase.” Ms. Weber advised it does not. Due to the Hancock amendment, the City is not allowed to state “no tax increase” because the General Fund does technically increase. Mr. Bivins asked if signage placed prior to the election can indicate no tax increase. Ms. Weber stated that if the signage is placed by the City of Lee’s Summit it cannot state no tax increase.</p> <p>Mr. Crawford asked about the word “intention” in the ballot language and whether the City Council could change their intent regarding the reallocation. Ms. Weber stated the ballot language does not bind the City Council to fulfill what is stated on the ballot. She added that by law, the council could change their mind; however, it is unlikely, as a motion has already been drafted to be put into place once the ballot is passed.</p> <p>Councilmember Shields affirmed while the language is not very clear, it is unlikely that any council member would not move forward with the plan.</p>			
AGENDA ITEMS:					
Approval of Minutes of February 24, 2021 Regular Park Board Meeting		Supporting documentation (see pages 1-4). No questions or discussion.			Mr. Morehead made a motion to approve the minutes of February 24, 2021; seconded by Mr. Ellis. Motion carried unanimously.
Treasurer’s Report – February 2021		Supporting documentation (see pages 5-14). Treasurer Huser read the Treasurer’s Report for the February financial statements.			Mr. Ellis made a motion to accept the Treasurer’s Report for February 2021; seconded by Mr.



	Mr. Ellis clarified it is the expenses in each fund being approved. Mr. Ellis expressed appreciation for the detail and managing of expenses with the current dip in revenue.	Morehead. Motion carried unanimously.
Sales and Use Tax Report – March 2021	Supporting documentation (see pages 15-16). Ms. Culbertson stated the sales and use tax is still performing well.	No Board Action.
BOARD APPROVAL ITEMS		
OLD BUSINESS		
Projects and Services Review	<p>Supporting documentation, (See pages 17-24).</p> <p>Mr. Fields referenced page 17 in regards to how money is reallocated when there is a favorable variance upon completion of a project. Mr. Snook stated the savings remains in the Capital Projects fund for use on other projects. He added, occasionally, if adjustments are needed on a project and are within the budget, the adjustments are made. If the adjustments to the project would exceed the budget, then approval is needed from the Park Board.</p> <p>Mr. Crawford asked whether there is a proposed date for youth athletics to utilize the school facilities. Mr. Snook noted he is optimistic that by fall, LSPR will be able to use school facilities again thus freeing up Harris Park Community Center for adult athletics. Mr. Crawford inquired regarding the process used with the school district. Mr. Snook stated, during the summer, LSPR sends a usage request to the school district. He added that usage of school facilities is dependent on restrictions in place regarding utilization by outside groups. Mr. Crawford asked who placed the restriction on the schools; Mr. Snook stated it is the district themselves.</p> <p>Mr. Ellis referenced pages 21-22 inquiring when rentals will be allowed and whether requests are being received for facility rentals. Mr. Snook stated that rentals are currently allowed, however, the renting party is required to meet protocols, which are required by Jackson County, to rent facilities from LSPR. Some national organizations who typically rent from LSPR are currently not allowed due to restrictions by their organization. However, LSPR is beginning to see an increase in rental activity. Mr. Ellis asked how enrollment for Camp Summit is trending compared to previous years. Mr. Snook stated Camp Summit is currently under the same restrictions as last year. LSPR typically accepts 750 enrollments, however, is currently limited to 500 enrollments and 250 campers per day. He added that the enrollments are currently on par with previous years. LSPR will have an additional discussion with the County to consider increasing the enrollments and weekly participants allowed.</p>	No Board Action.
Capital Projects Plan	<p>Velie Park Improvements: Mr. Casey hosted the second of a series of virtual meetings on March 10 with the neighborhood task force surrounding Velie Park. Survey results were shared regarding potential park amenities, and Mr. Casey presented 3 different concepts. Concept 3 (page 26 in the March 24, 2021 Park Board Packet) was the most popular with the task force. Many of the neighbors value the intimate nature of the park. There were concerns that the addition of sports courts may increase traffic flow. Mr. Casey stated adding sports courts would require additional parking and addressing infrastructure issues to accommodate increased traffic. The project budget is currently \$400,000-\$450,000, with the intention to begin construction in Fall 2021.</p> <p>President Aullenbach commented the concept is ideal for the surrounding neighborhood.</p> <p>Mr. Snook commended Mr. Casey on an outstanding job working with the neighborhood task force to determine the best option for the park. The task force came to a decision quickly, and were asked to speak with neighbors regarding any concerns surrounding concept 3. The project will be included in the budget presented to the budget committee, and will be presented to the board at the April 28th meeting.</p> <p>Mr. Fields asked when to anticipate completion of the project if construction begins in the Fall of 2021. Mr. Casey stated with LSPR acting as the general contractor and</p>	No Board Action.



	<p>only needing to seek outside help for playground equipment, trail expansion, etc. the projected completion will be May 2022.</p> <p>Mr. Snook shared that once the construction begins, renderings will be provided at the site. In addition, social media will provide regular progress updates.</p>	
Fundraising Update	<p>Supporting documentation (see pages 27-29). Mr. Dean stated LSPR was able to secure an additional sponsor with a 3-year commitment from Thompkins Industries located in Olathe, KS. He added additional payments have been received since the packet as prepared, bringing the YTD total to a little over \$193,000.</p> <p>Mr. Snook asked Mr. Dean about the number of sponsors compared to the capacity of sponsorships. Mr. Dean stated LSPR is at capacity now with fourteen sponsors; however, three sponsors are nearing the end of their commitment. Mr. Reinoehl, LSPR's sponsorship contractor, believes two of those sponsors will renew while the third may not. Another sponsor has expressed interest. Mr. Snook noted LSPR has never been at full capacity of sponsorships.</p> <p>Mr. Crawford asked why the amount for A1 Mortgage in FY21 is so much higher than everyone else. Mr. Dean stated A1 Mortgage decided to pay their 3-year commitment up front instead of spreading them out as the other sponsors.</p>	No Board Action.
NEW BUSINESS		
End of Activity Reports	Supporting documentation (see pages 30-35). No questions or comments.	No Board Action.
PATRON COMMENT REVIEW		
<p>Supporting documentation (see pages 36-39).</p> <p>Mr. Ellis asked where the underbrush was removed at Lowenstein Park. Mr. Casey shared that selective brush clearing has been performed both East and West of the new playground. He added it is mostly aggressive and invasive types of underbrush, such as honeysuckle. These areas were densely vegetated, and removing the underbrush has increased safety and visibility in the area. Mr. Ellis agreed with Mr. Casey and appreciated his response to the patron. Mr. Ellis also expressed appreciation for Ms. Jordan's response to the patron regarding LSPR's caregiver policy.</p> <p>Mr. Crawford questioned the number of comments and frustration surrounding Lowenstein Park. Mr. Casey noted there has been a significant amount of misinformation about the park and it has been a challenge, especially with the surrounding neighborhoods, to share the correct information. He added it is not due to a lack of communication on LSPR's part, but with a large change, people make assumptions. Mr. Snook stated that LSPR shares the numerous negative comments with the Park Board to ensure they know that LSPR staff hears and responds to the comments, adding that positive comments need to be shared also. He added patrons often make comments when they do not have all of the facts or details, so it is our responsibility to ensure the details are shared. Vice President Bivins believes a big concern was when the trees on the North side of the park were removed, but then learned most of those trees never belonged to the Parks department. He added, from the outside looking in, it would be disconcerting, but now the park looks great!</p> <p>Mr. Huser appreciates Mr. Casey's responses to patrons as they have a positive and informative tone. Mr. Huser also stated he has read a comment in the past regarding a situation surrounding caregivers in our facilities. This seems to be a bit of a failure for us as we can't make a good decision for the patron. He appreciates Ms. Jordan's response, but is concerned how staff will handle a situation if the caregiver has not been cleared through the inclusion coordinator prior to visiting a facility. Mr. Snook stated if someone is coming into the facility to provide care, LSPR does not charge them, as we want to integrate them into our programming. For a patron who is coming to visit the facility one time, a better solution is needed to address the situation.</p>		
MONTHLY CALENDARS		
Supporting documentation (see pages 40-41). President Aulenbach advised the next Board meeting would be held Wednesday, April 28, 2021 at 6pm.		
ROUNDTABLE		
<p>Mr. Crawford asked about constructing a connection trail from his neighborhood into the Legacy Park loop. Mr. Snook noted he can have a conversation with the Director of Water Utilities regarding his request. He would ask the Director whether creating a trail is feasible or if there are any issues prohibiting a trail. If the answer is yes he can report back. If the answer is no then it becomes a funding issue as we do not currently have funding for it.</p> <p>Mr. Huser shared the budget committee will meet on Thursday, April 8th at 6:00pm, and everyone is invited to attend. Mr. Snook confirmed and stated a meeting link and packet will be sent out next week.</p>		
OTHER ITEMS TO BE BROUGHT BEFORE THE BOARD		
<p>Mr. Snook shared LSPR is in full swing preparing for summer activities. Also, good news was received from the Jackson County Health Department regarding an increase in capacity allowed at Summit Waves. This means LSPR is able to serve more patrons as there will not be restrictions on season passes or single visits. Currently, Camp Summit is under the same restrictions as last year; however, we are hopeful for some relief in order to serve more campers this summer. Finally, the Legacy Park Amphitheater received approval from Jackson County to host events up to 1,000 people. There are currently three events booked with a fourth event anticipated. The Kansas City Symphony has also reached out to LSPR to offer more pop-up concerts similar to last year. Mr. Snook is hopeful this summer will feel more like a normal summer.</p>		



Last Friday, President Aulenbach, Vice President Bivins and Mr. Snook met with Mr. Arbo and the Mayor regarding the G&A Audit, an audit conducted by the City to determine how to allocate services such as Finance, Purchasing, Legal, etc. Mr. Snook will be working with Mr. Arbo to create an agreement that will outline the charges between the Parks and Recreation department and the City.

Mr. Snook expressed his appreciation for everyone's work on the e-bike policy. He has received multiple phone calls from other agencies in the metro regarding LSPR's e-bike policy as they begin to feel the pressure to address e-bikes as well as ADA usage of trails.

MEETING ADJOURNMENT