



## LEE'S SUMMIT PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD MEETING MINUTES

CITY OF LEE'S SUMMIT, MISSOURI

DATE:	February 2, 2022	TIME:	6:00 PM	PLACE:	Zoom
Board Members Present:		Board Members Absent:		Staff Present:	Other Guests:
Mindy Aulenbach, President		Samantha Shepard		Joe Snook	Sheila Shockey
Lawrence Bivins, Vice President				Steve Casey	April Snay
Jim Huser, Treasurer				Brooke Chestnut	
Bernadette Basham				David Dean	
Jon Ellis				Tede Price	
Wesley Fields					
Tyler Morehead					
Casey Crawford					
AGENDA ITEM	DISCUSSION (Findings/Conclusions)				RECOMMENDATIONS/ ACTIONS
ROLL CALL	President Aulenbach called the meeting to order at 6:07pm. Roll call was taken, with members present and absent as reflected above.				
Youth Sports Association 2022 – Lee’s Summit Baseball Association Agreement	<p>President Aulenbach introduced the Lee’s Summit Baseball Association agreement presented by Ms. Chestnut during the January 26, 2022 regular session Park Board meeting for approval.</p> <p>Vice President Bivins referenced item 53 on page 12 clarifying LSPR will take full responsibility for the maintenance of the fencing and netting materials. Mr. Snook stated that is correct. Vice President Bivins then referenced item 25 on page 7 clarifying LSPR does not expect the baseball association to indemnify or share in any legal action with LSPR if an injury lawsuit were to occur due to lack of maintenance. Mr. Snook stated that is correct.</p> <p>Mr. Crawford asked if there is similar language in other youth sports associations agreements. Mr. Snook stated this language is also in the Lee’s Summit Girls Softball Association agreement because they have similar practice facilities. Mr. Crawford asked if there are similar clauses in the agreements with the soccer and football associations. Mr. Snook stated those agreements are up for renewal in June, and believes changes were made to the indemnification clauses last year in both the soccer and football agreements. The changes are now being made to baseball and softball agreements to ensure consistency. Mr. Crawford would encourage uniformity through all agreements, so he would like to make sure if a clause is changed for one agreement all agreements will reflect the change.</p> <p>Vice President Bivins asked what potential liability LSPR wants to retain. In this case we will retain the responsibility and liability for the batting screens, so as an agreement is developed for soccer and football, the intent of fairness should be the same for each association.</p> <p>Mr. Ellis asked for a confirmation of the maintenance schedule for the baseball fields. Ms. Chestnut stated staff performs a weekly check of the fields and facilities, and an in-depth check once a month by examining the nets, pulling on them, checking for holes, etc. In the off season the nets are stored inside. Mr. Ellis asked what other maintenance items are checked. Ms. Chestnut stated staff check the nets and L-screens because the other program equipment is provided by the association. Mr. Ellis asked how the field conditions are maintained. Ms. Chestnut stated staff checks the fields weekly for divots or issues, but if the baseball association notices something staff asks for them to bring it to our attention to be addressed immediately.</p>				Vice President Bivins made a motion to approve the agreement with the Lee’s Summit Baseball Association as presented; Mr. Morehead seconded. Motion is carried 7 to 1 with Mr. Crawford voting Nay.
Youth Sports Association 2022 – Lee’s Summit Girls Softball Association Agreement	President Aulenbach introduced the Lee’s Summit Girls Softball Association agreement which Ms. Chestnut presented during the January 26, 2022 regular session Park Board meeting for approval.				Mr. Fields made a motion to approve the agreement with the Lee’s Summit Girls Softball Association as presented: Vice



		President Bivins seconded. Motion carried unanimously.
<b>Park Master Plan Work Session</b>	<p>Mr. Casey introduced Sheila Shockey and April Snay with Shockey Consulting, LLC. In November 2021 parks staff, city staff and outside stakeholders met to collect data regarding the Parks Master Plan. The purpose is to create a strategic document to help guide the parks department as the city continues to develop. The city would like to be in a position to manage the growth and development of about 4,500 acres of property owned by PRI, and to see land dedicated for open space usage. The next step after this work session is to engage the public to receive their feedback for what they would like to see in the development.</p> <p>Ms. Snay presented a PowerPoint outlining the Parks Master Plan Update. Some key objectives are to identify future park and open space area, outline park amenities and establish a timeline and estimated cost associated with new park development. It is important to tie in the old parks master plan as well as the city's comprehensive study as the new master plan is created.</p> <p>Ms. Shockey presented the trends and goals identified by the city's comprehensive plan. Inclusion was an important theme as citizens want to make sure everyone has access to parks and facilities. It is important for the department to determine how to connect people to the outdoors and preserve the natural resources for the coming generations. There was also a lot of discussion about our current high-quality parks and recreation system, but wanting more non-programmed open space areas. The stakeholders also mentioned the idea of intergenerational socializing, where multiple generations would be able to interact. Finally, there is an increased enthusiasm for technology, such as drones, gaming and virtual reality, so how will this impact the parks system.</p> <p>A part of the city's comprehensive plan was to set definite goals with measurable targets to work towards. Two goals relating to the parks and recreation department is to maintain the acres of parks per capita and to increase the percent of the population within a 10-minute walk of a park.</p> <p>Ms. Shockey displayed a graphic comparing the satisfaction level of citizens from the years 2004, 2013 and 2019. From 2019 people were very satisfied with the number and maintenance of our parks. Areas of satisfaction that have grown are the Lovell Community Center, formerly Legacy Park Community Center, the number of playgrounds and trails, Gamber Community Center and Harris Park Community Center. Moving forward with development it is important to think about how to keep these satisfaction levels high.</p> <p>Finally, Ms. Shockey presented trends not specific to parks and recreation but could affect the parks department. An example would be e-transportation and the emergence of autonomous vehicles as well as how younger generations like to travel and spend their money. There has also been a change in retail and office space leaving buildings empty, so these building could be used for future activity centers. Finally, the COVID-19 pandemic has brought about more outdoor dining and gathering experiences, so offering more open space for people to gather outdoors will be important.</p> <p>Ms. Snay reviewed the SWOT (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats) analysis results from the Park Board, Parks staff and City staff to review similarities between the groups. These results are used to help guide discussions as a development plan is created to determine where gaps need to be filled and what types of parks would draw people into the community. Ms. Shay then asked Park Board members to view the Park System map included in the work session packet to begin identifying community needs within Lee's Summit.</p> <p>Mr. Snook asked if an activity center had been identified for the northern section of Lee's Summit and whether the parks department will play a role in the activity center. Ms. Shockey stated the city is targeting development of an activity center east of Howard Park and North of Todd George Parkway to include residential as well as commercial development. There has been discussion of constructing an</p>	



entrance into Fleming Park, a county park, in conjunction with Lee's Summit, but the area south of Fleming Park is full of natural resources that citizens would like to preserve.

Mr. Snook drew attention to Pottberg Park. This park is located within the county parks system, and we lease the land from them to create a neighborhood park. A partnership is already established with the county, so hopefully this provides a good foundation for creating a neighborhood park inside Fleming Park.

Vice President Bivins asked what the population is surrounding Howard Park. Ms. Shockey stated she does not have the population number handy, but the green line circling Howard Park is a 10-minute walking distance. The population density is likely not high in this area because it is heavily treed. There will likely be commercial office and retail space developed along this area. Vice President Bivins clarified this park is south of Woods Chapel road and has recently had some renovations completed, including a splash pad, new shelter and disc golf course. Mr. Snook stated that is correct.

President Aulenbach stated there is a large distance between Howard and Fleming Park, and believes incorporating a neighborhood park, similar to Pottberg Park, in the Fleming Park area would be great for our citizens. Ms. Shockey stated the south area of Fleming Park has high-value natural resources, but something could be incorporated where Todd George and Strother road intersect.

Vice President Bivins believes Howard Park is a versatile park, the only thing it lacks is people knowing it is there. Mr. Snook drew attention to the three yellow dots which signify facilities and amenities offered by the Lakewood HOA. There is not a need to duplicate services in an area that is already being served by a different organization. Mr. Snook believes there is a potential need for a neighborhood park south of the Fleming Park area to serve future development, but south of Howard Park space is limited due to the airfield.

Mr. Ellis thanked Mr. Snook for clarification on the relationship with Jackson County. It does make a lot of sense to partner with the county especially when there are a lot of naturally wooded areas that would be challenging to develop. He asked if there was any space north of Lakewood Boulevard or south of Veile Park for development. Mr. Snook stated the land between Lakewood Boulevard and Veile Park are large acre private homes so he does not see a lot of development taking place there. Mr. Casey agreed, stating a lot of the area is undermine and private, large acre properties. Mr. Ellis stated if Lakewood has a good handle on facilities and amenities for their community then no further development needs to occur there. Having some development happen at Fleming Park could be a great opportunity to enhance what the county already has.

Ms. Basham would like consideration for more pickleball and tennis courts in the northern section of Lee's Summit. Not everyone in the northern section lives in Lakewood so they do not all have access to the amenities Lakewood has to offer. She also enjoys the trails, but has to travel to Fleming Park or central Lee's Summit to find a trail. Developing more trails in the northern section of Lee's Summit would be something she would like to see as well.

Ms. Shockey then directed attention to the southern section of Lee's Summit. There is a large acreage of property currently owed by PRI, and discussions have taken place surrounding development of a large, regional type of park in this area as well as multi-story commercial and residential development. The Rock Island Trail is also a major draw to the community. The main area of development would be north of Stuart Road and east of Ward Road.

Mr. Ellis asked about the Rock Island Trail Development and the Greenwood gap. Mr. Snook stated the Rock Island trail currently ends at Jefferson Street, but the county has acquired the land they need to develop the trail to Hamblin Road. Mr. Ellis asked if the county is still acquiring the railroad property. Mr. Snook stated the railroad is not interested in letting them acquire any additional property, so the



question now is how to get people safely from Greenwood to Pleasant Hill. A number of years ago the parks department began researching alternatives and coordinating meetings with potential partners, but this section is outside of Lee's Summit, so all we can do is help encourage movement in a direction to address this gap. Mr. Ellis stated the Rock Island Trail development could provide some good opportunities by Sylvia Bailey and the landfill area.

Mr. Ellis commented, without knowing the developer's plans, it is hard to know what the surrounding community would need. As long as there is a relationship with the developer then hopefully LSPR can be a part of the development. Mr. Snook believes the parks department will have to work hard to acquire any space within this property. This area provides our greatest potential for development as there will be a lot of people who move into this space. Ms. Shockey stated this area would contain dense development with single-family homes on the outskirts. Mr. Casey shared the city has storm water issues to address in this area, which may lead to a lake or storm water reservoir being constructed. This may also drive some of the decisions regarding where the open space will be.

Mr. Fields asked if there would be a commercial component of this property in addition to the multi- and single-family dwelling units. Ms. Shockey stated by the Rock Island Trail there will likely be a large portion of commercial property due to its location to 291 highway. This will be considered an urban center or village type of development with four or five story buildings. Mr. Fields asked what the timeframe is for this development. Ms. Shockey stated the comprehensive plan is a 20-year plan. The land owners plan to begin selling off land in 5-year increments, but the whole area will likely not be developed in the next 20 years. Mr. Fields stated there is not a lot of pickleball or tennis courts in the southern area of Lee's Summit, similar to the northern section, so it would be nice to develop some courts in the south as well.

Ms. Shockey directed attention to the Longview area on the west side of Lee's Summit. There is a large amount of green and open space available here.

Mr. Fields asked if this was the area in which the department was planning for a larger community facility. Mr. Snook stated yes, but cannot provide many details as it is still under negotiation.

Mr. Ellis would like to see a collaboration with the county regarding what is currently in this section but also possibly developing another park similar to Pottberg Park.

Ms. Shockey then directed attention to the downtown or central area of Lee's Summit. There will likely be additional housing units developed, so population numbers will increase in this section, but there is also limited space available for anything new.

Vice President Bivins asked Ms. Shockey how to initiate conversations with individuals or entities who would potentially like to donate land but do not know how. Ms. Shockey stated implementing a land dedication ordinance is a strong way to make sure one is able to accommodate development and the new park land is developed in a strategic location. When developers dedicate park land it may not be accessible or in a good location, so establishing an ordinance helps to plan the parks system in a strategic way. She is not sure the PRI developer will want to dedicate land for park development as they often do not see the immediate return on investment, but the citizens will as they look to purchase homes in the area.

Vice President Bivins asked Mr. Snook how readily available the land is that was dedicated by Unity Village. Mr. Snook stated the terrain is aggressive and heavily treed, so it would depend on what development would take place in the area. If the land is used for trails it would be in decent condition, but access to the area is difficult. If it was going to be something other than a passive park it is not a good location. Vice President Bivins clarified it is 29 acres, and Mr. Snook confirmed. Vice President Bivins then asked if the land started just off of Colbern on an easement,



or if it begins south of Colbern. Mr. Snook stated the land bumps up to Colbern, but you cannot access the park from Colbern. The park can only be accessed from a drive that still belongs to Unity Village.

President Aulenbach feels this plan is off to a good start. Beginning to work with the county or other entities would be important for future park development.

Treasurer Huser believes we have an impressive parks system and good coverage with our current parks. He thinks it is important to understand the cost associated with park development, and would like to engage public support regarding the cost of acquiring land and then developing that land into a park. The citizens need to understand there is a cost to development, so they have to be willing participants financially. Ms. Shockey stated when her team goes out to engage the community they will bring this aspect to their attention.

Ms. Basham would like to see more dog parks, but also an incorporation of native plants and landscapes into park design.

Mr. Ellis asked to follow up on the land dedication ordinance as this seems to be something the parks department needs to be looking into. Cultivating a relationship with Jackson County could be beneficial moving forward. Mr. Ellis also touched on how development of a potential fieldhouse could address quite a few needs throughout the community.

Ms. Shockey stated the next steps are to engage the community and receive feedback for what citizens would like to see developed.

Mr. Snook stated they will keep the board updated with the progress, and land dedication will be discussed at the joint Park Board and City Council meeting in March. The next step will be to combine all of this information and determine how to receive public input.

Ms. Basham asked about the process to reach out to the community and the timeline. Mr. Snook stated the consultants have talked about several approaches including both online and in-person opportunities.

Mr. Ellis would like in person options available for input as well as an online option. Mr. Snook agrees there should be a combination of online and in person events to collect community input.

#### MEETING ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the Board, the February 2, 2022 Work Session of the Park Board was adjourned at 7:35pm.