

GREEN SPACE ADVISORY COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES

Meeting Date: Monday, March 5, 2018
Location: Webster Groves Recreation Complex
Called To Order: 7:18 p.m.
Adjourned: 8:35 p.m.
Next Meeting Date: Monday, April 2, 2018

NAME	PRESENT	ABSENT
Annie Russell	X	
Bill Hoss	X	
Ginger Garrett	X	
Glen Horton		X
Jenine Harris	X	
Joanne Fogarty	X	
Matt Armstrong, Council Liaison	X	
Peg Pedersen	X	
Richard Fitzgerald	X	
Tessa Wasserman	X	
Yvonne Steingrubby, Staff Liaison	X	

Visitor: Jake Moore, Boy Scout

Michelle Clemens, Staff

Approval of Minutes: The January meeting minutes were approved as written. No meeting was held in February.

Visitor Remarks:

Jake Moore, a Boy Scout from Webster Groves who attends Hixson Middle School, was attending the meeting to express his interest in participating in volunteer projects in the parks. This would enable him to earn his Community Service badge. Park Superintendent Yvonne Steingrubby indicated that there were several upcoming opportunities he could help with, including installing new plants that are coming in at the end of March/early April. He could also help at the Arbor Day plantings at Shady Creek on April 18th.

OLD BUSINESS

Upcoming Volunteer Projects:

Projects include Arbor Day plantings on April 18th and plantings the Girl Scouts will be doing at Larson Park on April 21st.

Tessa mentioned that Steger School will be doing honeysuckle removal on March 30th, 7:30 am – 2:00 pm and they are looking for volunteers to help with cutting the honeysuckle. The students help with removing the honeysuckle after it is cut.

Pollinator Plant Program Update:

Mary Ann Fink is still updating the information gathered from the parks. Tessa mentioned she would contact her as she has more information to provide. She also mentioned that the Museum of Transportation is looking for volunteers is anyone is interested.

Trees of Distinction Nominations

Jenine Harris is coordinating this program now and had sent emails to GSAC members earlier with pictures of the various nominations for this year's Trees of Distinction Award. Discussion was held regarding the nominations. A motion was made to nominate the magnolia tree at 446 Greeley as this year's private tree award recipient. A second was made on the motion and all were in favor.

A motion was also made to nominate the red oak tree located on the grounds of Hixson Middle School. This would be for the public tree category. A second was made on the motion and all were in favor.

Tree Steward Nominations

Discussion was held regarding selection of this year's Tree Steward Award recipient. A motion was made to nominate Lisa Picker as this year's recipient. A second was made on the motion and all were in favor. Lisa Picker and her husband, Don Knobbe, worked extensively with the students at Steger School regarding native tree education, honeysuckle removal, etc.

NEW BUSINESS

Arbor Day Planning

The annual Arbor Day activity will be held on April 18th. It will begin at Shady Creek Nature Sanctuary 3:30 – 5:30 pm for the tree planting. We will then move to the Sculpture Park for the actual event. Scouts will be handling the flag ceremony. Other activities will include the proclamation from the Mayor, presentation of the Trees of Distinction awards, presentation of the Tree Steward Award and closing ceremony. The awards will need to be ordered soon and Tessa will notify Lisa Picker of her upcoming award and obtain some bio information on her for the award presentation. Yvonne has a draft of the program ready and will finalize it with the award recipient information.

STAFF UPDATE: Yvonne Steingrubby

Yvonne mentioned that the Tree City USA Luncheon is being held at the Lodge in Des Peres on Friday, April 6th, 10:45 am – 12:45 pm. There is space available for GSAC members interested in attending. Those expressing interest included Richard Fitzgerlad, Yvonne Steingrubby, Bill Hoss, Annie Russell and Tessa Wasserman.

Barbre Park renovation update: Some funds have been raised for the sculpture, along with a pledge. This will total approximately \$100,000 of the \$150,000 needed.

Yvonne mentioned that she now has a volunteer to help her coordinate and manage the volunteer program. The volunteer will be able to host a separate website that will list all projects, etc.

CHAIRMAN UPDATE: Richard Fitzgerald

Richard mentioned that the Deer Creek Watershed Alliance organization would be holding upcoming seminars regarding their rain garden / rainscape reward program. Those interested in applying for a grant should attend one of the seminars. Information can be found on their website: www.deercreekalliance.org/register.

COUNCIL UPDATE: Matt Armstrong

An article was recently printed in the Webster-Kirkwood Times regarding a proposed plan to reduce the number of tennis courts at Memorial Park from eight courts to four. The available

space would then be reconstructed into additional parking spaces and hard surface. This lot would be used to help facilitate the annual Lions Club July 4th Carnival, among other things. The City spent large amounts of money over the years to repair the field following each carnival. The City spent large amounts of money over the years to repair the field following each carnival. The past two years the carnival has been held on the east lot of Hixson Middle School. It has been hoped that the City and School District could reach a long-term agreement for the continued use of the Hixson lot in order to keep the carnival off the field.

The City has plans to completely renovate and improve the Memorial Park fields. It will not be able to do so if there is any chance the carnival would have to return to the field and subsequently damage the improvements. At this time, an agreement with the School District has not been able to be reached. For that reason, the proposal to add more hard surface where some of the existing tennis courts are located was developed as a space to accommodate the carnival should the Hixson lot not be available.

Matt Armstrong commented that there were many complaints and negative feedback regarding the proposal. As a result, the eight existing courts may remain instead of putting in the parking lot. The City Council will be looking at the proposal tomorrow for further discussion.

The proposed Brew Pub concept at the location of the former Auto Beauty Specialists has initially fell through but it still looks promising and early talks continue.

A reminder was made regarding the upcoming April 3rd election.

NEXT MEETING: Monday, April 2, 7:15 pm at the Recreation Complex.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.m.