

GREEN SPACE ADVISORY COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES

Meeting Date: Monday, June 7, 2021
Location: Larson Park
Called To Order: 5:45 p.m.
Adjourned: 6:45 p.m.
Next Meeting Date: Monday, July 12, 2020, 5:45 p.m. Larson Park

NAME	PRESENT	ABSENT
Annie Russell		X
Bill Hoss	X	
Pam Bliss, Council Liaison	X	
Ginger Garrett	X	
Ann Omura		X
Lynnda Greene	X	
Jerry Pinkner	X	
Carrie Coyne, Chairperson	X	
Tessa Wasserman	X	
Laura Jordan	X	
Yvonne Steingrubby, Staff Liaison	X	

+Michelle Clemens (Staff) X

Approval of Minutes: The May minutes have one change- Mark Halpin needs to be changed to Mark Gruber. Ginger approved, Tessa 2nd.

Old Business:

- A. Douglass Hill Development Update: Overview/history of zoning in area- Pam is about to head to a zoom meeting that will consist of reading over 80 comments the community has submitted.
- B. Memorial Tree Plaque for Richard Fitzgerald: Ginger is drafting the wording, will send it out to the group for a vote/comments. Was voted on and unanimously agreed to pay for this out of the GSAC budget.
- C. Trees of Distinction programs update: Carrie spoke to Jamie Hasemeier from Sustainability about ideas. She hopes to have something up and going by Fall.
- D. Future Webster Groves Tree Walks: we'd like to continue these, and need a new arborist to give a walk in the Fall. We have the June 23rd walk coming up in Southwest Park. Flyers are posted around the city, info was added to the WKT's calendar, and was posted on the City of Webster Groves Facebook page and shared with all the Community Facebook pages. Hoping for a great turn-out. Also, despite our efforts to save it, the Ash tree at Southwest Park is falling apart. Scott Davis is on board with someone making a sculpture of it, so we're looking into ideas for that.
- E. Participation in Community Days Parade Discussion: there was no real interest in being in the parade this year, if anyone wants to participate, they are welcome to walk with the Sustainability Commission. It will be very informal, respond to Carrie's poll if you want to participate.
- F. Landscape Preferred Planting List: it is our winter goal to get this out after we have revamped the TOD program.

New Business:

- A. Upcoming Volunteer Events: 60 people coming to Southwest Park 6/8 from 1-2:30 to plant button bushes and spread wood chips. If anyone has volunteer opportunities, reach out to green keepers and Yvonne directly. (https://www.deercreekalliance.org/wg_green_keepers)

- B. Grant Opportunity Discussion: On May 18, 2021. The Parks Division has an estimated for \$400 to trial goat services at Shady Creek.
- C. Mayors Monarch Pledge: Pam spoke about this, consensus in council was to let the related commissions decide if we do this or not. Mayors and other heads of local and tribal governments are acting to help save the monarch butterfly, an iconic species whose eastern populations have declined by 90% and western populations by 99% in recent years. Through the National Wildlife Federation's Mayors' Monarch Pledge, U.S. cities, municipalities, and other communities are committing to create habitat for the monarch butterfly and pollinators, and to educate residents about how they can make a difference at home and in their community. We already have parks in Webster Groves that qualify, so how to move forward? Carrie is sending out an email with more information, and asking for someone to spearhead the program. **Jerry Pinkner responded to the email and volunteered to work with Pam and Mayor Welch.

Updates:

- A. Chairperson: Carrie let us know that most, if not all commissions have their own secretaries who take notes. We have been super fortunate to have Michelle these last years, but for the time being, she is unable to be our recorder of minutes. Ginger and Lynnda volunteered as co-secretaries, the vote was unanimous. They will also handle the GSAC Facebook page.
- B. Council: Pam mentioned the new Director of Community Development, and that the WG Parks and Recreation FB page has 4500 followers, it is the 3rd highest behind the City of WG and one other WG related page. There will also be a planning committee hearing introducing the Douglass Hill Project and 2 other Webster Groves redevelopments. Pam also spoke of Prop 1, which will be on the Ballot on August 3rd. Prop 1 will ask voters in Webster Groves to vote if they are for or against the amendments made to the existing zoning code. These amendments allow for additional opportunities to increase housing stock within the community. The City Council approved the A4 zoning amendment change (Ordinance 9145) in May in effort to advance housing options for Webster Groves residents, however a petition from citizens was filed to repeal this ordinance. The Council revisited the ordinance at the June 1, 2021 City Council meeting and the vote to repeal failed by a vote of 2-5. The City Council has ordered the ordinance subject to referendum to the election on August 3, 2021. There will also be a planning committee hearing on the Douglass Hill Project and 2 other WG redevelopment projects.
- C. Staff: Yvonne mentioned one last sidewalk pour at Blackburn, and asphalt is being replaced behind the backstop on Gaines Field. The Webster Groves Parks Department needs volunteer workers and seasonal staff. Volunteers can contact Yvonne directly. Folks interested in working as seasonal staff can apply through the City of Webster Groves' website. Maypop donated 40 water saver hanging baskets for the City's hanging plants, the City is hoping to get the watering of hanging baskets down to twice weekly.

NEXT MEETING:

Monday, July 12, 5:45 p.m. Larson Park

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting adjourned at 6:45 p.m.