

GERMANTOWN PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
Meeting Minutes
July 22, 2010

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Germantown Parks and Recreation Commission for June 24 was rescheduled and met on Tuesday, June 22, 2010 for their annual “Evening Notes” concert and picnic at Municipal Park.

PRESENT:

Jerry Gee
Mary Anne Gibson
Bob Timm
Angela Sorensen
Rodney Strop
Jim Wilson
Rick Bennett, Planning Commission Liaison
Pam Beasley, Director of Parks and Recreation

ABSENT:

Kevin Young, Chairman
William Kenley
Mark Billingsley, Alderman

GUESTS:

Andy Pouncey, Assistant City Administrator
George Brogdon, Assistant City Administrator

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

It was moved by Mr. Gee, seconded by Mr. Wilson to approve the July 22, 2010 agenda as submitted.

Gee – yes; Gibson – yes; Timm – yes; Sorensen – yes; Strop – yes; Wilson – yes.
Motion approved.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF JUNE 22, 2010

It was moved by Mr. Strop, seconded by Mr. Wilson to approve the June 22, 2010 minutes as submitted.

Gee – yes; Gibson – yes; Timm – yes; Sorensen – abstain; Strop – abstain; Wilson – abstain.
Motion not approved.

Motion was made to approve minutes for June 22, 2010. However, Ms. Sorensen, Mr. Strop and Mr. Wilson were not present at the June 22nd meeting and therefore must abstain. The June 22, 2010 minutes must be resubmitted for approval at the August 26, 2010 meeting.

PUBLIC ASSEMBLY AREA – PARK PLANNING

Ms. Beasley stated that the Public Assembly Area (i.e., Amphitheatre) that was proposed for the new park site came way over what the city had budgeted and instead of trying to redesign that particular project, the city has asked the Parks and Recreation Commission to take a leadership

role in reevaluating the scope of the project, the location for the project, and who that project will serve. The Commission has been tasked to look at inclusion within this project and reach out to stakeholders. In the early days of the park design, staff contacted the different user groups to get their input. Ms. Beasley suggested that they bring back those groups as well as identify other citizen-based groups that may not have participated at that time to help the Parks and Recreation Commission come up with the best solution for this amphitheatre/public gathering space.

Ms. Beasley suggested that while reviewing this project, it would be in the Commission's best interest to look at the Oceanview Farms/Bobby Lanier park site. That property was purchased with LPRF grant funds. Mr. Tarry and his wife will reside in the home until the first part of December, 2010. At that point, the City has less than 18 months to begin development, not only plan what will be done but budget the resources to develop the property and to, at least, begin phase I. The original plan called for it to be a park support facility, thinking that Park Maintenance might use a portion of the barns and garages in the back, that the Parks and Recreation administrative offices might be located there. However, there have been a lot of changes and it has come to the City's attention that the property right beside the Public Services Department, which is several acres, has become available and the City is negotiating purchasing the property. That would allow Public Services and park crews who are now merged to expand their equipment and supply yards, which makes much more sense than having some of the staff on this part of the tracks and the other part there. With that said, there is not a need to use the back portion of the Oceanview property for park support. Ms. Beasley had an opportunity to look inside the house and reported that the house is structurally sound and requested that the Commission work with staff and citizens in developing the highest and best use of those buildings and the property, ultimately coming to a recommendation to forward to the Board of Mayor and Aldermen. Part of the role of the Commission is to serve as an advisor to the BMA in all park planning.

Ms. Beasley formally requested that the Parks and Recreation Commission fulfill the Mayor and Board of Alderman's request to revisit the Park Master Plan and to offer inclusion for citizen-based groups, the community, and to advise back to the Board what the results of what the review is.

Options for the "format" were discussed:

- A day-long work session
- Schedule several recurring meeting times
- Offer public (community, schools, staff, etc.) the opportunity to come in and share what they feel are some possibilities
- Establish a the vision for the property
- Develop a full policy guideline
- Once meetings are scheduled, provide a "Save the Date" to the community to make it known when the Parks and Recreation Commission will be studying all possibilities of the park plan.

Other points of interest:

- Mr. Gee shared that the Nature Center never got done and hopes that the opportunity will present itself to reopen those discussions, but suggested that maybe the Tarry house might be a good way to generate some classroom space.
- Mr. Pouncey pointed out that 60% of the original project plan dealt with infrastructure issues such as an emergency access road, water, utilities, and walkways to get to existing restrooms, etc.
- Ms. Beasley suggested that the Commission look at the overall plan develop it from a community perspective.
- “LEED” site
- Consider the financial aspect

The Commission decided to meet at the Pickering Center parking lot on Wednesday, August 18 at 6 p.m. to walk the property. Everyone was encouraged to dress comfortably, wear tennis shoes and bring bug spray.

It was moved by Mr. Gee, seconded by Mr. Strop to conduct special work sessions in order to reevaluate the overall park design to insure the best and highest use of the City’s largest park.

Gee – yes; Gibson – yes; Timm – yes; Sorensen – yes; Strop – yes; Wilson – yes. Motion approved.

DIRECTOR’S REPORT

Riverdale Playground Project Build Update

Ms. Beasley enthusiastically reported that Phase I for the new Riverdale Playground is going to be incredible and encouraged Commission members to make time, if they haven’t been able to view it, to go by there to see it. The city has received some great publicity and promotion opportunities. ABC, Fox 13, Channel 3 and 5 will be on site at some point during the “community build” date. Playcore will be using this project as a demonstration project and it will be on their national marketing campaign because it’s the first one ever. Ms. Beasley highlighted volunteer shift times and invited Commission members to come on Saturday, if possible, but urged them to attend the official Ribbon Cutting Ceremony on Sunday, the 8th at 4 p.m. and enjoy an ice cream social.

Two community groups that have stepped forward to offer additional funding for Phase II:

- The Germantown Festival Committee has filed a Letter of Intent to donate \$10,000 for an outdoor classroom to supplement that site
- The Germantown Civitan Club made a formal vote to donate \$15,000 for the “Gathering Plaza”, which is a covered arbor-style pavilion that will offer shade

Ms. Beasley reported that she and Mr. Brogdon were advised that the State would have some budget dollars for LPRF grants so Ms. Beasley will be submitting an LPRF grant in the amount of \$100,000. A manufacturing company has agreed to match whatever the grant amount is. This would provide for a \$200,000 project, which would be used to install a new and exciting

playground along the same lines as the Riverdale Park Project at Dogwood Elementary School. The goal is to provide playgrounds for the schools that have partnerships with the City and incorporate green environmental stewardship and nature play physical activity in the new universal design. So, when funds become available again, staff will build one at Farmington Elementary School.

CIP Report

The skate park is still in the CIP budget. The City has a lot of priorities in terms of capital projects and for the last fiscal year it wasn't as high on the list as some of the others but staff are hoping to start renovations in the fall.

Medians (a section of about 300 feet) on Wolf River Blvd from Germantown Road west to the border will be accomplished through grant monies secured by Mr. Pouncey.

REPORTS FROM COMMISSION/COMMITTEE LIAISONS

Mr. Bennett, Planning Commission liaison to the Parks and Recreation Commission, reported that the assisted living facility adjacent to OLPH is still under consideration and should begin soon. One of the issues is that a lot of trees will have to come down.

Mr. Strop reported that the Veteran's Recognition Committee is meeting on a regular basis and are insistent and determined to do something for the veteran's in the community. Mr. Billingsley stated that he can't imagine business owner's not wanting to contribute resources if the Committee were to develop a formal plan and that people would not surround that project. Mr. Pouncey said that some people have the mindset of just putting a memorial somewhere but actually the individuals who give the best perspective are those who lost a son in Afghanistan and they are encouraging the Committee to consider the veteran's, those who are currently serving, and those who have paid the ultimate sacrifice. Mr. Pouncey stated that the Committee will use these points to build the plan.

Mr. Billingsley reported that the Board held a work session recently on the City seeking to achieve the Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award. The application must be submitted by April, 2011 so staff has a daunting task. Proof of excellence in everything from finance to human resources, a succession plan for staff to going above and beyond Vision 2020 must be submitted.

Mr. Billingsley reported that the Board of Mayor and Alderman has a work session planned one hour prior to the next board meeting relative to ambulance service in Germantown and invited commission members to attend. This particular topic has been raised at various times over the past 10 years but this time staff will be paying attention to it, ask questions, and have the Fire Department and City Administration put together a pretty comprehensive plan that answers all of the questions presented over the years. This may give the City of Germantown an opportunity to consider the potential of the City's firefighter's be in charge of ambulance service and no longer have to contract with Rural Metro.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:30 p.m.