

CLAYTON PARKS AND RECREATION COMISSION MEETING
Monday, January 9, 2012
The Center of Clayton – Multipurpose Room C

The following members were present:

Ira Berkowitz	Michelle Harris
Brad Bernstein	Omri Praiss
Mimi Deem	Eric Schneider
Rosemary Hardy	Melanie Tamsky
Laurel Herrington	

Excused/Absent:

Marguerite Garrick
Andrea Maddox-Dallas

Also Present:

Patty DeForrest
Eric Gruenenfelder
Susan Renard

Approval of Minutes: Minutes from the December meeting were approved as written.

Dog Park: Ms. DeForrest reviewed the dog park option at Haddington Court. She also shared some slides which showed the location and size of the dog park. The City has received verbal approval from the State Emergency Management Association (SEMA) and the Metropolitan Sewer District (MSD). The City is still waiting for approval from the Federal Emergency Management Association (FEMA) and will need to go through an official process for approval by MSD. Ms. DeForrest said that typically, if SEMA approves a project then, FEMA will also approve it. The development of a dog park will be about a six month process but could go more quickly depending on the approval process.

When asked about opposition from residents in the area, including Ladue residents, Ms. DeForrest said there are a limited amount of residents living around the proposed location and there is a drainage channel that runs along two sides of the park. Further, there is good buffer of vegetation around Haddington Court to help with noise control. However, this does not mean that the City will avoid opposition from people in the neighboring area.

The City will hire an engineer to assist with construction of the dog park. Also, the City needs to obtain a no-rise certificate. Additional plans include establishing funding, developing guidelines for usage and oversight, and construction. Over-seeding has already taken place; the FEMA grant is paying for restoration of the site because it is in a flood buyout.

The City of Clayton owns the land. There is 3.5 acres of land at Haddington Court; the proposed dog park would take up approximately 1.8 acres of the land. Structures cannot be placed at the site, but a fence is not considered a structure.

The road and circle drive still exist at the site and there is plenty of street parking (space for 20-30 cars). A pervious structure may be developed for additional parking. All of the necessary utilities needed for developing a dog park are in place, including lights. Restrooms will not be available at the dog park. The City of Clayton will pay for the design. The yearly maintenance will be funded by dog park memberships. Ms. DeForrest stated that staff can put together a business plan for the dog park because most of the research has already been conducted. The number one priority will be to raise the funds for construction.

Ms. Deem made a motion to move forward with the Haddington Court site for a dog park. Ms. Hardy seconded the motion and all were in favor.

Century Garden Art Piece: Ms. DeForrest conducted a PowerPoint presentation about James Surls art piece. (Please see that attached PowerPoint for additional details.) The CCF has a donor for the Century Garden art piece. There were four finalists in the artist selection process. Mr. James Surls art work was selected. His work consists of natural art. This sculpture will be eighteen feet tall. The art is titled *Molecular Bloom with a Single Flower* in a bronze vase and is a companion to the sky. The art work will be fabricated in Santa Fe, New Mexico. It takes about a year to complete the project. The garden will be redesigned to open up the space. A landscape architect will be hired to develop the plan.

A contract will be sent to Mr. Surls, hopefully by March. Maintenance to clean the art work will be conducted by an outside firm. The City owns the art piece when the project is complete and is responsible for insuring it.

Mr. Berkowitz made a motion in support of Mr. James Surls art piece and Ms. Hardy seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Director's Report: The Center of Clayton is doing very well. Ms. DeForrest noted that 83% of the residents use The Center. Sixty-three percent visit The Center at least one time per year.

The Hanley Park Pavilion project is underway. It should be completed by the end of March. The Shaw Park Tennis Center project is under review by MSD at this time. Pink flags are posted in and around Shaw Park that mark the route of the new trail. The garden at the north end of the park still needs to be worked into the trail plan. More design work at the rink is being discussed and the CCF is working to raise funds to complete a plan for the site.

SummerQuest will be back this summer. The camp brochure went to print last week. The ice rink is very busy. Ms. DeForrest and Mr. Gruenenfelder stated that a St. Louis Post-Dispatch feature deal for a buy one get one free pass to the rink resulted in over 691 pass sales. The City generated \$3,000 in revenue from the deal. Further, those who purchased passes came from as far as Collinsville and Lake St. Louis. This was the first time the department offered a feature deal and due to the success, will likely do it again in the future.

The Commission discussed ice rink usage. Ms. DeForrest stated that after school hockey and figure skating session are held from 4:00 pm-5:30 pm during the week and are open to the public, for those specific activities. Mr. Berkowitz stated that Steinberg's rink is open to the public from 3:00 pm-5:00 pm during the week and kids are going there instead. Also, from Christmas to New Year's Day it is open every evening. Ms. DeForrest said the ice rink season will be evaluated at the end of the year. A survey will be distributed at the rink, as well.

Old Business / New Business – Ms. Deem thanked the Commission for their perseverance during the dog park deliberations and stated that she really believes in the process. Further, she said Ms. DeForrest did a great job managing the dog park process.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:20 pm

Respectfully Submitted By:

Denise Ucinski