

**SOUTH LYON PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
MINUTES
June 12, 2013**

Meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by Chairperson Orlando.

Present: Dianne Beagle
Keith McCormick
Ed McLoud
Mike Orlando
Jeff Thompson

Amy Allen – South Lyon Area Recreation Authority

David Murphy – City Manager, City of South Lyon
Debbie Nogle – City of South Lyon

Jason LaPerna – South Lyon Panther Football
Adam Yatooma – South Lyon Panther Football

George Fomin – City Resident

Absent: Erica Wilson

Approval of Agenda – Orlando proposed moving item B to the top of the agenda and item C to the bottom due to the schedule of the gentlemen presenting. Beagle requested that item C. 1 be added, Historical Village Parking. Motion by McLoud, supported by Thompson, to approve the agenda as amended. Motion carried unanimously.

Approval of Minutes – Motion by McCormick, supported by Thompson, to approve the minutes from the May 8, 2013 Commission meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

Citizen Comments – None

SLARA Updates – Amy Allen stated that SLARA would have a table at the upcoming Farmers Market, hosting kids' activities and promoting their summer programs. SLARA has also started a dive team this summer which will compete in an area league. Interest and participation in the dive team has exceeded SLARA's expectations. Summer Day Camp begins Monday June 17th at Island Lake State Park. Summer adult softball and volleyball leagues have begun as well.

I. OLD BUSINESS

1. Eagle Scout Projects Update – Beagle stated that a scout is interested in taking on the project of improving the appearance of the entryway from the parking lot to the playground area in McHattie Park. He would like to begin the project this summer, possibly completing it by the fall. Commissioners were in full support of this project and look forward to the scout's proposal.

2. Community Center Committee Update – McLoud stated that the committee is preparing to request proposals from various architectural firms to obtain more accurate cost information. They have set a total budget of approximately \$15 million and would like to find out what type of center and features could be built without exceeding that amount. McLoud will attend the next meeting on Monday June 17.

II. NEW BUSINESS

1. Panther Football Field Presentation – Mr. LaPerna and Mr. Yatooma presented a proposal for a joint venture between their organization and the City to construct several football/lacrosse fields, comfort station and general purpose structure in Volunteer Park. The Panther organization is growing, as is their need for practice and game fields. The fields at South Lyon High School are no longer available for Panther use, which has caused them to consider this project. Between the football, lacrosse and cheer programs, there are many families in the South Lyon area who are willing to support the construction of these fields, both with volunteer time and money. Mr. LaPerna stated that he saw how successful the baseball diamond project between the City and the Junior League was and thought the Panthers could be successful with such a project as well. He talked with Junior League representatives about joining in on the Volunteer Park project. Baseball/softball fields would be included and Junior League representatives could lend their expertise. Mr. Yatooma stated he also represents the junior lacrosse program which is growing and in need of fields. Mr. Murphy stated that the City still carries debt on the Volunteer Park property. As a result, the City would most likely charge a user fee. However, he was interested in the project as it complies with the Park's master plan of ball fields in that portion of Volunteer Park. Mr. LaPerna agreed that such a charge would be reasonable and stated that the organizations involved would also pay for all the utility and special maintenance costs associated with the operations. Mr. LaPerna and Mr. Yatooma stated they will meet with the Junior League and attempt to formulate a more detailed joint proposal, including more information on funding.

2. Volunteer Park Nature Trails – Mr. Fomin stated that he represents a group that enjoys Volunteer Park as more of a natural area and would like the existing nature trails preserved. He provided Commissioners with a list of 29 questions about Volunteer Park and drawings which showed trails and the areas currently being farmed and stated that the farming has destroyed trails without any warning. Mr. Fomin also inquired about the Park's master plan and the existence of nature trails as part of the plan.

McLoud responded by stating he was dissatisfied with how the trail issue has come about. Mr. Fomin went to the newspaper and Facebook to stir people up first. Then

Mr. Fomin went to the City Council to protest. He never contacted anyone on the Parks & Recreation Commission at all. McCloud also stated that the farmer, Mr. Ken Hamblin, has a contract with the City for the farming which was approved by the City Council, included in meeting minutes and written about in the paper. Mr. Hamblin has stated that he will create a section of trail to connect the existing trails to the bike path along the eastern edge of the property.

Thompson stated that there is a process to be followed in proposing ideas for park projects. The Panther organization followed this process by attending a Commission meeting with a plan to start the discussion and verify that such a plan would be acceptable to the Commission and the City. Mr. Fomin and his group did not follow this process and are coming before the Commission as more of a last resort rather than a first step. Thompson also stated that it would not be possible to answer all of Mr. Fomin's 29 questions at the meeting. Many of the questions require information from other City departments and/or research by City personnel.

Olando stated that the Commission could obtain the requested information and provide it in written form to Mr. Fomin at a later date if he would like to request that.

McCormick stated that all information pertaining to construction or such activities in the City parks can be found in Commission meeting minutes. These minutes are posted on the City website and copies could be requested at City Hall if desired.

Much discussion ensued between all parties present.

Mr. Fomin requested that it be stated in the minutes that he is formally requesting a copy of the Parks & Recreation Master Plan. Mr. Murphy requested that it be stated in the minutes that he would escort Mr. Fomin to his office immediately following this meeting and provide the Plan.

Mr. Fomin also requested that a sign designating the trail head for the currently existing trails be restored. Mr. Murphy stated that as long as it complies with City sign regulations, that would be acceptable. Commissioners also agreed. Mr. Fomin will bring a proposal for such a sign to the July Commission meeting.

3. Historical Village Parking – Beagle stated that Linda Ross from the Historical Commission approached her regarding Junior League parents parking in the lots by the Depot and Church when activities such as weddings are being held. The Historical Commission has a barrier with a sign stating that the parking lot is reserved for a special function which is placed across the entrance to the lot. She has personally observed Junior League parents moving the barrier aside and then driving into the lot and parking. Ms. Ross did not know who to contact at the Junior League and requested assistance from the Commission. Beagle contacted Bryan Spaller and Dean Whitcomb from the League. They promptly responded with an email blast to all of their parents requesting cooperation with the parking when special events are taking place. They asked that Ms. Ross or Commissioners contact them immediately in the event that additional parking problems occur.

Ms. Ross was pleased with the quick response from the League.

4. Junior League Discussion - Tabled

III. Commission Comments – None

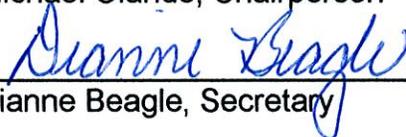
IV. Adjournment – Motion by Thompson, supported by McLoud, to adjourn the meeting at 8:43 pm. Motion carried unanimously.

Upcoming meetings/events: July 10
 August 14
 September 2 - Labor Day Bridge Walk
 September 11

Submitted by:



Michael Olando, Chairperson



Dianne Beagle, Secretary