

Parks and Trees Committee - January 11, 2023, 6 pm

Minutes:

Agenda:

Location

Zoom: <https://zoom.us/j/91746576398>

Meeting id: (enter manually if issue with link): 917 4657 6398 **Mobile** 1-346-248-7799, (id 917 4657 6398)

Committee Members: (highlighted in attendance)

Laura Savidge, (Co-Chair), Sarah Martin, (Co-Chair)

Jaime Davis, Judy Hyde, Kailee Noland, Linda Heinen, Linda Thornburg, Matt Lero, Russell McCorkle, Kate Raglow, Council Liaison, Tom Madigan, Council Liaison alt

Facilitator: Anthony Marshall, Parks and Recreation Superintendent

Daniel VandenBos – public works (optional)

Consent Agenda:

- Total available funds for expenditure: \$2,973.56
- Approve minutes from December

Guests:

- Michael Poppa- Came to thanks us for our efforts and let us know he is available including office hours at City hall- Monday and Thursday- call first, and soon to have a scheduling link
 - Question- Have had applicants for his Council seat already

Discussion/updates/new items:

- Cooper Creek Park interpretive signs- Russell
 - Russell presented signage to talk through the nature part of the Creek, getting rid of invasive species, native trees and plants and monarch way station
 - 3 ft wide by 2 ft tall
 - QR code that will refer back to the website- likely city website
 - Also takes you to expanded text and other creatures
 - Intended from early on to have a sign, location is TBD
 - Will be accessible
 - If the site could have an autocast
 - Wave rool created by WCAG lets you know if it's accessible
 - Signs with audio/auto cast
 - *Unanimously approved, and people can see the full size proof if requested.*
- R Park play structure/fall zone options
 - Sarah- Draft something for signage and Social media (send to Katie Garcia as well to post): (these signs are now up! Thanks Anthony!)
 - **Playground Coming Spring 2023!** The final step of the R Park playground (the fall/base structure), will be installed in Spring of 2023 once the weather is consistently warm enough for

installation to be effective. In the meantime, unfortunately it is not ready or safe for use, so please refrain from using or allowing children to use the structure until it is ready. Thanks sincerely for your patience and we look forward to enjoying the new play structure to its fullest soon!

- *Signage- we're making (FYI)-*
- **Playground Coming Spring 2023!** The final step of the R Park playground will be installed in Spring of 2023 once the weather is consistently warm enough. It is not ready or safe for use yet, so please do not use the structure until it is ready. Thanks for your patience and we look forward to enjoying the play structure soon!
- Pavilion rentals clean/up -Kate, Anthony and Linda- update ready or next time?
- Missing Bench for R Park (empty bench pad where blue bench was):
 - Can't replace with the matching benches for the rest of the park, unless we elect to purchase or fundraise for.
 - See if we can find out if it dates back to the school
 - Color doesn't matter
 - *Get the replacement and put in storage, group consensus*
- Bike rack currently allocated from Sustainability for Nall
 - Hold off on installing for Nall, store, or place elsewhere. Discuss if we have placement for another park.
 - Hold off until we know the treatment plan or put near the gaga ball pit
 - Anthony will check with PW for a place to put it with concrete
- Next steps for Nall Park
 - Any updated on budget? Allocation from the new build at the Rocks?
 - City Council likely discussing next time
 - Up in the air still, not sure how much funding will be used
 - Will have a community forum on the Nall Park master plan
 - Grants?- **Laura** looking into one, any other ideas?
- Committee Re-elections
 - Laura and Sarah are happy to continue as Co-Chairs for 2023 if the group agrees
 - Unanimously voted- agreed to continue with Co-Chairs

Public Comment/ Concerns:

- R Park playground fence keep getting torn down, city working on a more sturdy fence along with signage being installed. - signs up
 - AB Creative purchased a sturdy fence, looking at possibly next week to put it in, and tomorrow adding in gravel in case the weather cooperates before spring
- Traffic garden signs too high up for kids and cars could get confused
 - If could scale the sign 50% or so?
 - Stop signs 36 inches around, and poles are easy to cut in half
 - Sizes could be 18, 24 and 36
 - Anthony thinks we could look at the 18
 - Poles are 7 ft
 - Anthony to meet at the park with Sarah, Matt L, Laura/others also welcome
 - Group agrees
 - If cost is prohibitive, we will bring back to group
- Skateboarders in Pavilion- need sign

- Jaime, Linda, Sarah, Laura- ad hoc sign meeting to draft and bring back to group

Completed in last month:

- Broken blue Bench in R Park- now been removed
- Update on Final Traffic Garden Finishes-installed
- R Park Pavilion Fireplace screen/block **Anthony**- Used tempered glass on West Side so screens wouldn't cause ash blow.- installed.
 - Ashes can be used for gardens, could be used in the wildflower meadow- look into for future
- Arborist tree evaluation and mapping, variety identification and health assessment
 - PW has this for their purposes, if people want to review, will find out where available.
 - Donnie- will be a link on our website

Open Action Items (notes from December below. Need to discuss gray highlights in January, remainder can be reviewed in February):

Cooper Creek:

- updates- **Judy/Laura**
 - Habitat planted the 130 native trees and shrubs took multiple days
 - Fine tuning graphics for the sign - Russell doing graphics, rest of group text and public domain photos
 - Tricia working on QR code for signage
- Play equipment
 - Daniel has installed the stones that will be the base for the balance beam, and has started looking for just the right logs for constructing those, looking for hedge
- Fencing- all in including East side of the Park
- ~~Stormwater/Erosion updates?~~ **Anthony**
 - Planting should address, and will keep an eye on- can close for now

Juniper:

- Exploring Grant- **Laura**
 - Tito's Vodka grant for community gardens- discuss more in February
 - Let Laura know if you'd like to help

Nall Park:

- Major Goal for this year- Master plan update (finding out who is working on).
 - Disc Golf course, playground equipment in 2024.
 - Allocation from the Rocks- 395K- confirmed?
 - Not confirmed/finalized yet, planning commission discussing- they agreed as well
 - Special meeting coming up to discuss further on the 19th
 - (Tom and Jan back us on this on Council to use these funds for Nall)
- sewer work has impacted the trail- any updates (no longer getting response from Urban Trails)- **discuss next time**
 - Ask PW if it's a safety issue as far as the sewer work portion, and then for future maintenance if there's another non-profit trail group that will work with us.

- A Federal Land and Water Conservation grant for contribution of costs to the Nall Park- possibly for inclusive play.
 - **Laura** investigating the grant to start
- Bike racks for the Park- Sustainability purchased to place in the park- hasn't chosen the location yet
 - Discuss in future meeting if we want to place in another park or keep in storage
 - In addition to the Master plan, Water Treatment facility may use this area for Construction storage

R Park:

- R Park- Phase III- **Anthony**
 - Play structure options discussed above
 - Launch party delay until Spring
 - Musical element see if it can be dampened- from manufacturer- **Anthony**
 - Clean-up/Issues to address
- Missing Bench-empty bench pad near traffic garden
 - Discuss upcoming agenda item - hold off on ordering for now
- Missing Bollard- **being ordered**
 - *Ordered last week*
- Estimate for resurface the basketball court as not included in Phase III- **Anthony**- *will have an estimate and way to resurface for next meeting (is heavily sloped)*
 - R Park- "Mighty Bike" Sculpture- **Matt**
 - Had a couple meetings with the engineer and worked with the fabricator to put a schedule together so we know when we need to do each piece, need to determine other costs with it- Fabrication between 80-90- additional moving pieces like an attorney and fall surface
 - Any interest in fundraising ideas
 - Meeting yesterday with structural engineer and fabricator and working with the artist to narrow down cost more and respect design intent but bring cost down, meeting with safety consultants
 - On schedule
- R Park- Wildflower Meadow Subcommittee- Jaime
 - (approved and for first 1K for this year to come from the city)
 - First phase is completed- laying landscape- temporary measure, small section of cardboard for the knowledge factor
 - Need over the winter how can move on getting a website
 - The cover had to be moved a few times, so tomorrow PW can keep it secured
 - Currently volunteer day for Saturday morning
 - Letter of support for a grant
 - Next step purchasing seed and plants
 - Anthony check if we got a budget for plugs, Kate will also check
 - Make sure nothing had to be relocated
- R Park Tree markers/QR code
- R Park- Ash disposal- how we handle safely
 - Johnson County Waste Services- takes ash disposal?
 - Bucket?- how do citizens dispose of
 - Message on the marquee, even if it's just "enjoy the park"/update bulletin
 - Update with Enjoy the Park
 - R Park- Idea for tree markers w/ QR codes- next discussion

Sweaney:

- Utility board update- Daniel/Anthony
 - Donnie and Utility Company need to work on together
 - Anthony- Challenge with getting ahold of the utility department- need to follow up with further for an update

All Parks/Trees:

- City website- make ability to rent Pavilion/shelters easier/easier to find?- ***any updates?***
- Midtown signs on consolidated signage, For Cooper Creek, Nall and R Park- Laura

Other Parks (no agenda items listed):

- Carpenter, Granada, any updates from group?
 - Not at this time

Adjourn

Next Regular Parks Meeting Wednesday, February 8, 6pm