

Parks & Trees Commission Meeting 02.9.26

Present: Bob Williams, Barbara Cantey, Barb Willens, Rickey Macklin, Michael Eddings

Sitting In: Elizabeth Shook, Matt DeWitt

Meeting began at 5:30 pm

Introduction of Elizabeth Shook, who will be transitioning into staff liaison position. City Manager Matt DeWitt made some remarks

Discussion about 2026 schedule – Commission voted to remove July meeting from schedule

Around the table reporting on park visits. Kat updated that trash cans and replacement light fixture has been ordered, and still waiting on signs had been order through Outlaw Signs, who will produce or let know what they can't provide. To include Kendall Lake Park, Rectory Square, City Hall Park, RWVC. Trash cans for Monument Square may take up to 8 weeks. Another issue was a citizen concern about a street light at Park Circle and East Hampton Street. Commission members discussed safety and security vs. natural dark habitat for animals living in the park. Bob will take the issue to the Kendall Lake neighborhood association and discuss amongst that group. Kat will ask Matthew to flag location.

Barbara reported that at Kendall Lake Park, behind clubhouse is litter and cones, and a small encampment down the hill on that side. Matt will notify Chief Rushing about that. Burndale Park has nothing as far amenities. Kat mentioned that funding may available to provide a playground to Burndale, as well as support the walking trail project at Kirkwood and possibly revisiting the Boykin Park walking trail. Donna asked about the swing chains, have they been replaced? Kat will follow up. Rickey asked about Groom Park and whether it should still be a park, or let it go to a greenspace. Rickey also mentioned tree debris on Stowers at Kirkwood Park, and ATT utility case is still laying on the ground. And looks like new cracks in basketball court.

Conversation about Earth Day – Nature As Teacher has a full day of activities planned. Perhaps the City could support her plans. Will talk to Ashley to get her input.

Greg Wise reached out to Bob about taking a tree down at his property. Bob looked and believes it is on the owners property.

Update on the pollinator garden at the CREP. The conservation district will help fund the project, but requires a detailed plan. Austin Jenkins will meet up with Bob to look at proposed site and start to make a plan.

Commission members going to rotate parks – Barbara Cantey will visit Kendall Lake, Kendall Park, and Burndale. Donna will visit Rectory Square, Kirkwood Commons, and Rickey will visit Scott Park, Armory Park, and Boykin, Barb Willens will visit Edgewood, Kirkwood and Groom, Bob will City Hall Park, Powder Magazine Park, and Broad Street Park, Michael will visit Archives Park, Monument Square, and Hampton, Lisa will visit CREP, Arena Park, and Town Green.

Barbara motioned, Donna seconded to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 6:20 pm.

Next meeting will be Monday, March 9 and 5:30 pm.