

RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD MEETING March 7, 2017

City of Madison Recreation Advisory Board Meeting met in regular session on Tuesday, March 7th, 2017 at 12:00pm at Dublin Park. The meeting was called to order at 12:03pm. Henrietta King made a motion to approve the minutes from the last meeting.

In Attendance:

Kory Alfred, Director, Madison Parks and Recreation	Present
Jim Enault, RAB President	Absent
Kelly Johnson, Program Director	Present
Gene Scherer, AYSO	Present
Paula Robley, WestCo	Absent
Chris McFarland, MBA	Absent
Chris Lewis, MAA	Absent
Vickie Parker, Senior Center	Present
Paula Cushman, MCDAB	Present
Tina Becraft, MCDAB	Present
Henrietta King, Madison Dolphins	Present
Robin Gregg, MCV	Present
Lisa Bath, Mayor Appointed	Present
Allison Wheeler, Greenway and Trails	Present
John Seifert, City Council	Present
Brian Givens, Madison City Schools	Absent
Paul Shaw	Present

Kory Alfred:

Kory started the meeting with introductions with new attenders – Paula Cushman and Tina Becraft from the MCDAB and Mathis Sneed with Mullins, LLC.

Gene Schere is directing the meeting due to Jim Enault's absence.

Kory gave an update on the PP master plan. Items to include renovations to existing facilities and new facilities. He asked everyone to go back to the board to talk and discuss possible improvements. Items to include: expansion to the park, upgrade existing facilities (irrigation, restrooms and lighting) and a recommendation plan with cost estimates to give to council with priorities.

Council agreed to contract with Mullins LLC to work on a plan for Palmer Park. Mathis Sneed will be our architect on the park expansion.

Mathis Sneed:

Landscape experience includes residential and commercial properties such as the soccer complex in Decatur and Huntsville.

The new land to the east of Palmer, is usually wet/low area has been donated to the city. Gary Chenoweth plans on having 3 new soccer fields and possibly a dog park to this area. Cooperation with the county for some of the site work on the property.

Looking for vision. What do you want? What are your priorities? Interest? Safety issues? Accessibility?

First priority – to suit the needs of the city. How far do we want to go to bring in top events to this park? What do we want on the wish list?

Maintenance issues: lighting, fences need to be repaired, irrigation added. High priority and will not be neglected. Current issues that can be handled through budget.

MCDAB – Miracle League, wheelchair accessible picnic tables and port-a-johns, with parking areas to be a hard surface.

Mathis Sneed – Where will this money come from to pay for these improvements: private donations, city council, grant money, with recreation department budget, etc.

Gene Schere – turf field for wheelchair soccer.

Mathis Sneed – talk continues to extending the Bradford Creek Trail through this new area of the park to proceed to the railroad tracks and possibly throughout Palmer Park. Gary is working on replacing the 2 bridges near this new area and providing pedestrian crossover to the existing greenway.

Kory Alfred – Trailhead at Palmer near the baseball fields to be moved.

Gene Schere – Area at the front near the gates, can this be used as soccer field? Kory stated this area may be used as green space for soccer spillover, football, sand volleyball.

Robin Gregg – Would like to discuss an adult league. Spring season which is at max right now. Wait list forming now. Mathis – should we set aside space or plan for sand volleyball courts? How many? Parking? How many players per team? Come in with this vision with reality.

Gene Schere – new area to include 3 new soccer fields? Kory confirmed and stated these fields will flood. Kory stated soccer is the driving ship with this project and soccer will be the priority. Hopefully, we can get these 22 acres to the west for additional field space. Soccer complex to host these tournaments with restrooms, parking, etc. is a priority.

Gene Schere asked if anyone has talked with the Clift family concerning that land on Highway 72. Talk may continue to meet with the Mr. Clift at a later time to discuss the land.

Lisa Bath – shade structures, green space for the families during or between games for tournament play.

Kory Alfred – looking at misters in the dugouts as well. Breaking up the hardscapes at the quads.

Gene Schere – Parking is a concern. Mathis stated that traffic count devices will be placed throughout the park at 4 different locations from Monday-Monday (March 25th – April 1st)

Gene Schere – when we have a baseball tournament, they want to charge to enter the park when others have soccer practice/games or want go to the playground.

Kory Alfred – traffic flow, especially when a storm is coming. Would like to have a 3rd entrance or widen the 2 main entrances. Pedestrian access to fields with taking all safety aspects such as rerouting traffic flow or taking the curve out of the main road in the park.

Allison Wheeler – restrooms on the new area? Mathis stated we would be able to build any structures on the new area.

Lisa Bath – area on Mill Road. Kory stated we are placing a trailhead there as well. Parking and restrooms to be added. Gary working on drainage issues at this time. Could see a Frisbee golf course at this area.

Kelly Johnson – asked if a building could be built similar to the Monrovia Community Center with 1-2 basketball/volleyball courts which could be converted to indoor soccer or pitching/hitting facility with meeting rooms. Kory stated the rec campus could come back for a multiuse facility once the pool issues are complete.

Kory Alfred - would like to see a maintenance shed to hold all the equipment as we have equipment sitting outside and we do not have a space to work on equipment. New lights for upper quad and WestCo. Tennis courts at Palmer?

Kory Alfred - What kind of public input should we have for this project? Talk with your board and bring back ideas for the master plan.

Paul Shaw – this facility consist somewhere in the US. Is there another complex out there like that we need to visit? Mathis stated that someone has done baseball just right. Somebody has done soccer just right. Finding the place that was done right and we need to talk to these departments. Kory – we need to talk to these people and find out what worked for them and find out what they should have done to make the park a better place.

Mathis Sneed – when you go to these different parks, make notes on what you like and what you do not like and send it back to us. Foley wanted top of the line facilities and they built it.

Gene Schere – We've been turned down for some major soccer tournaments because of the lack of restrooms and parking. Tournament could have 160 teams coming to Madison if we had the facility. Mathis asked how much parking is needed to have this tournament at the park. Do we need shuttle service?

John Seifert – with a park of this size, we could bring more hotels, restaurants, all right here on County Line Road. We have a lot of farm land to build on.

Kory Alfred – we have a list from the feedback from the group. I'll put together a list for each area of the park. Please continue to send us feedback as well. We will start drafting a questionnaire for the public to help with the project. Mathis can get started with some preliminary items for the park and will be back for the next meeting in April.

Kory Alfred – passed out information concerning the quarterly newsletter for the spring/summer programs.

Kory Alfred – talking with our engineering department for 130 spaces for the parking lot near Dublin 5. Possibly some additional parking near Dublin 6.

Table:

Lisa Bath – no report

Paul Shaw – no report

MCDAB – no report

Allison Wheeler – no report

Vicky Parker – no report

Kelly Johnson – no report

John Seifert – Thank You

Gene Schere - \$40k donated for lights. Need to talk about location

Henrietta King – tryouts early May. Appreciative for council for the bubble but there is a lot of concern about this being a permanent solution. John Seifert stated this would be a short term solution. Some council would not vote for the bubble unless there is a solution for the long term.

Robin Gregg – highest numbers with 24 teams.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:13pm.