

McCordsville

ESTD  1988

INDIANA

Parks and Recreation Board Meeting Monday January 9, 2023

Call to Order and Roll Call – Susie Highley

Present: Kim Pearson, Branden Williams, Catherine Witsman, Susie Highley

Absent: Justin Bastin

Also Present: Tim Gropp, Ryan Crum, Niki Jones, Mary Harmon (resident), Context Design representatives

Election of Officers

Ms. Highley nominated Kim Pearson as President. Ms. Witsman seconded and passed 3/0.

Ms. Highley nominated Justin Bastin as Vice President. Ms. Witsman seconded and passed 3/0.

Approval of Meeting Minutes

Ms. Witsman motioned to approve the September 12, 2022 meeting minutes. Ms. Highley seconded and passed 3/0.

The November 2022 meeting minutes will be held until the next meeting on March 13th for approval due to attendance.

Old Business –

Old School Park Redesign Concept

Mr. Gropp explained that he has been working with Context design to design a new layout of Old School Park. The project would be constructed in two phases.

The redesign would address adding dedicated parking, additional playground equipment, a shelter and restroom (perhaps built on the Hannah Street side due to the sewer location). Also, there would be a possibility of adding cornhole games, horseshoe pits, a bocce ball court, new tennis courts, pickleball courts, and rotating the current basketball court. There would also be a new trail around the perimeter of the park and removing the current baseball diamond.

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Mr. Williams expressed concerns about the current tennis courts being demolished since they were recently refurbished. Conversations continued as to whether the tennis court should be included in the plan at all and as to how much use it currently receives.

Ms. Pearson inquired if the Town would furnish court accessories. Mr. Gropp stated that residents would need to bring their own equipment and accessories.

Mr. Williams also expressed concerns that there would be too much crammed into such a small park space.

Mr. Gropp explained that phase one would be focused on adding the new playground equipment, parking, shelter and moving the current historic Old School monument.

The plans will be taken to Town Council to show them and to proceed with the projected plans.

New Business -

Central Green Design Charrette

A design team from Context Design gave a presentation and visuals of the possibilities of future amenities for Central Green at McCord Square.

Central Green is where future town events, Summer programs, live entertainment, craft fairs, markets, ice skating, etc. would be held. Designs show a possibility of a shelter, restrooms, concession area and amphitheater. The concept is based around water, fountains and water features.

The first phase would consist of green space and will begin with all grass.

Designers from Context asked the board and attendees to brainstorm, draw on plan boards, and to share their ideas and opinions.

Town Council Liaison Report

Mr. Williams stated that Town Council will now look different as they welcome two new council members, Scott Jones and Dr. Bryan Burney.

Town Council will have a working retreat on January 28th to address the next years concepts.

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Mr. Crum added that there may be a special meeting to be held in early February with a committee to address grants, the Parks 5 year plan and the Parks Impact Fee which will be addressed in March.

Ms. Pearson inquired about filling the vacant Parks Board position. Mr. Gropp explained that the applicant was in this evening's audience, Mary Harmon. He explained that this would be an appointment from Town Council and that the Parks Board can make a recommendation to Council.

Public Comment:

Ms. Harmon inquired as to what the terms were for Parks Board membership. Mr. Gropp replied that terms are one-year terms to start and then four-year terms thereafter.

Next Meeting – March 13, 2023 at 6:00pm

Adjourn

Motion to adjourn was made by Ms. Highley. Ms. Witsman seconded and passed 3/0.

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Minutes Approval

These January 9th, 2023 Parks and Recreation Board Meeting minutes approved this 13th day of March 2023.

Kim Pearson, Parks and Recreation Board President

Attest: _____
Niki Jones, Recording Secretary