

**MINUTES OF THE PARK & RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD
OF THE CITY OF COLUMBIA, ILLINOIS
HELD TUESDAY, JUNE 22, 2021 IN THE CITY HALL AUDITORIUM**

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Park & Recreation Advisory Board meeting of the City of Columbia, Illinois held Tuesday, June 22, 2021 was called to order by Vice Chairperson Dave Bernhard at 5:00 P.M. Mr. Bernhard asked City staff, Advisory Board members and public attendees to introduce themselves.

2. ROLL CALL & ESTABLISH QUORUM

Roll was called with the following attendance noted.

Members Present: Dave Bernhard, Kathi Boyer-Edwards, Sarah Clarke, Becky Hunt, Lauren Darr, Kara Lamack, Glenn Melching

Members Absent: Chris Grode, Molly Williamson

Quorum Present.

City Staff & Officials Present: Scott Dunakey (Community Development Director), Mike Sander (Streets & Parks Superintendent)

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes of the Tuesday, August 25, 2020 Parks & Recreation Advisory Board Meeting were submitted for approval.

MOTION: It was moved by Member Boyer-Edwards and seconded by Member Clarke to approve the minutes of the Tuesday, August 25, 2020 Park & Recreation Advisory Board meeting as submitted. Upon a voice vote, all members present voted yes. **MOTION CARRIED 7-0.**

4. PUBLIC INPUT

Vice Chairperson Bernhard asked for public input.

Mr. Scott Jackson spoke in favor of the City providing pickleball facilities, noting the sport's growing popularity and lack of local facilities. He indicated support for City staff's proposal to convert the Metter Park tennis court to two pickleball courts.

Mr. John Kleinschmidt spoke in favor of the City providing pickleball facilities. As a certified pickleball instructor, he noted the popularity, health benefits and universality of the sport. He also indicated that the regional demand for pickleball facilities is greater than the current supply, giving his opinion that Columbia could support more courts than being proposed by City staff, including marking the Bolm-Schuhkraft Park tennis courts for dual-sport usage.

5. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- a. **Consideration of and possible motion to recommend converting the Metter Park tennis court to two pickleball courts.**

Vice Chairperson Bernhard opened the discussion asking for Advisory Board input.

Mr. Dunakey discussed City staff's proposal to convert the Metter Park tennis court to two pickleball courts. He stated that the proposal was in follow up to previous Advisory Board discussion and in response to numerous community requests received by staff and elected officials. The Metter Park option is recommended because the Bolm-Schuhkraft tennis courts see significantly higher usage and there are existing agreements for their use by high school tennis teams, and Metter Park is better situated for dedicated facilities, rather than dual-sport courts. Mr. Dunakey mentioned that the upcoming comprehensive plan project will seek extensive community input on parks and desired park amenities, such as pickleball courts. The project is not in the current City budget.

There was general discussion and expression of support from Advisory Board members.

MOTION: It was moved by Member Darr and seconded by Member Hunt that the Advisory Board endorse the proposed conversion of the Metter Park tennis court to two pickleball courts and recommend that the City Council direct staff to complete the project in the current fiscal year, subject to available funding. Upon a voice vote, all members present voted yes. **MOTION CARRIED 7-0.**

6. **NEW BUSINESS**

a. **Discussion of possible amendment to Park & Recreation Advisory Board bylaws.**

Vice Chairperson Bernhard opened discussion on the item by mentioning that he was originally appointed to the PLAY Commission, the predecessor of the Advisory Board, to serve as the representative of Columbia Khoury League. Since the league was dissolved into Columbia Athletic Association (CAA), which serves as an umbrella organization for local youth baseball, softball and soccer leagues, he thought CAA should have a dedicated position on the Advisory Board. Doing so would just require an amendment to the Advisory Board bylaws.

Mr. Dunakey added that CAA also has a field use agreement with the City and school district for the use and management of City-owned ball fields. Given these roles, he noted that a dedicated CAA position makes sense. The proposed amendment language would add the position to the dedicated school district position, by revising the last sentence of Part 2A of the bylaws to read: "One member shall represent Columbia CUSD 4 and one member shall represent Columbia Athletic Association, provided the respective organizations submit a candidate for consideration." Mr. Dunakey also said that all Advisory Board positions are now filled and that the dedicated position, if approved, couldn't be filled until the next vacant position opens.

The Advisory Board discussion indicated support for the proposed amendment.

MOTION: It was moved by Member Clarke and seconded by Member Boyer-Edwards that the Advisory Board amend their bylaws as submitted. Upon a voice vote, all members present voted yes. **MOTION CARRIED 7-0.**

b. Election of Park & Recreation Advisory Board officers for the current fiscal year ending April 30, 2022.

Vice Chairperson Bernhard opened a call for nominations, indicating that nominations could be accepted for individual officer positions or a slate of candidates.

There was discussion among Advisory Board members resulting in a group nomination of the following slate of candidates: Chairperson – Dave Bernhard; Vice Chairperson – Sarah Clarke; Secretary – Molly Williamson. With no further candidates offered, Vice Chairperson Bernhard closed nominations and asked for a motion.

MOTION: It was moved by Member Boyer-Edwards and seconded by Member Clarke that the Advisory Board elect the nominated slate of candidates as officers for the current fiscal year. Upon a voice vote, all members present voted yes. **MOTION CARRIED 7-0.**

7. STAFF REPORTS & COMMUNICATIONS

Chairman Bernhard called upon Mr. Dunakey present the staff report. Mr. Dunakey gave a brief update on video gaming tax revenues and the impact of COVID restrictions on available funding for park projects. He noted that COVID restrictions had kept the Advisory Board from being involved in the budget process this year, but that they would have the opportunity to provide input on the next budget. Mr. Dunakey also gave a status report on Creekside Park and informed the Advisory Board of the upcoming 2021 Songs 4 Soldiers benefit concert to be held at Bolm-Schuhkraft Park on September 17-18.

8. ADJOURN

With no further business to discuss, Chairman Bernhard entertained a motion to adjourn.

MOTION: Motion to adjourn was made by Member Clarke and seconded by Member Boyer-Edwards. Upon a voice vote, all members present voted yes. **MOTION CARRIED 7-0.**

The meeting adjourned at 5:50 P.M.