

MINUTES OF THE PARK & RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD
OF THE CITY OF COLUMBIA, ILLINOIS
HELD TUESDAY, JULY 27, 2021 IN THE CITY HALL AUDITORIUM

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Park & Recreation Advisory Board meeting of the City of Columbia, Illinois held Tuesday, July 27, 2021 was called to order by Vice Chairperson Sarah Clarke at 5:00 P.M.

2. ROLL CALL & ESTABLISH QUORUM

Roll was called with the following attendance noted.

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

Members Absent: Dave Bernhard, Chris Grode, Molly Williamson

Quorum Present.

City Staff & Officials Present: Scott Dunakey (Director of Community Development), Mary Ellen Niemietz (Alderman)

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes of the Tuesday, June 22, 2021 Parks & Recreation Advisory Board Meeting were submitted for approval.

MOTION: It was moved by Member Boyer-Edwards and seconded by Member Hunt to approve the minutes of the Tuesday, June 22, 2021 Park & Recreation Advisory Board meeting as submitted. Upon a roll call vote, all members present voted yes. MOTION CARRIED 6-0.

4. PUBLIC INPUT

Vice Chairperson Clarke asked for public input. None was received.

5. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

6. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Resolution of Support for a Grant Application to the Illinois Department of Natural Resources Seeking Funds for the Creekside Park Trail.

Vice Chairperson Clarke called upon Director of Community Development, Scott Dunakey to present background information about the project and grant application. Mr. Dunakey discussed the previously awarded OSLAD grant that had to be returned due to timeline constraints. Upon being notified of the current year's OSLAD program funding cycle, City staff requested and received City Council authorization to apply for funds to complete the Creekside Park Trail project as Phase 1 of Creekside Park. This resolution will be included in the application packet to show the Board's support for the project.

Vice Chairperson Clarke asked Mr. Dunakey to explain the differences between the declined OSLAD grant and this application. He stated that the first grant awarded \$400,000 out of the \$1 million plus cost estimate to develop all of Creekside Park and that bonds were issued to cover the City's portion. The Phase 1 project will only include the trail, a pedestrian bridge, entrances, site grading, and some limited recreational amenities. City staff expects the project cost to be about \$400,000 and the request to be approximately \$200,000. Actual project costs will be estimated by the design consultant and the request will be 50% of the estimate, which is the required match.

Member Melching asked why the Board did not have the opportunity to determine if this was the best use of grant funds or if there were other park projects that would be better investments. Mr. Dunakey responded that there were two main reasons. First, the application deadline is September 1. Early City Council authorization allowed work to begin on the Phase 1 design plans, which was necessary to meet the deadline. Second, the Creekside Trail is Phase 1 of the Creekside Park development project, which had previously been authorized by City Council and budgeted. So, a recommendation from the Advisory Board was not needed. Mr. Dunakey added that the Board would be directly involved in the park component of the upcoming comprehensive plan project, including prioritization of future park improvements.

MOTION: It was moved by Member Boyer-Edwards and seconded by Member Darr that the Advisory Board approve the Resolution of Support for a grant application to the OSLAD program to fund Phase 1 of Creekside Park. Upon a roll call vote, all members present voted yes. MOTION CARRIED 6-0.

7. STAFF REPORTS & COMMUNICATIONS

None.

8. ADJOURN

With no further business to discuss, Vice Chairperson Clarke entertained a motion to adjourn.

MOTION: Motion to adjourn was made by Member Hunt and seconded by Member Boyer-Edwards. Upon a voice vote, all members present voted yes. MOTION CARRIED 6-0.

The meeting adjourned at 5:31 P.M.