

In light of the current public health crisis and the Federal, State, and County Emergency Declarations, and in accord with the provisions of Sec. 610.020, RSMo., the Parks and Recreation Commission recognizes that it would be dangerous and impractical, if not impossible, for its meeting to be physically accessible to the public. The Commission also recognizes the need for the public's business to be attended to in order to protect the public health, safety, and welfare. In order to balance both the need for continuity of government and protection of the health and safety of our residents, business persons, and employees, this meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission will not be open to public attendance in person. The meeting will be accessible by the public in real time ONLY by following the instructions in the box below.

You are invited to a Zoom webinar.

When: Sep 9, 2024 07:00 PM Central Time (US and Canada)

Topic: Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting

Please click the link below to join the webinar:

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Persons interested in making their views known on any matter on the agenda should send an email with their comments to the Director of Parks and Recreation at tsiering@claytonmo.gov. All comments received will be distributed to the entire Commission/Board before the meeting. Thank you for your understanding and patience as we all try to get through these difficult and dangerous times.



**City of Clayton
Parks & Recreation Commission Meeting
Monday, September 9, 2024
7:00 PM – via Zoom**

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----- Agenda Topics -----		
Topic		Notes
1. Call to Order	Jim Craig	
2. Addresses from the Audience	Jim Craig	
3. Approval of Minutes	Jim Craig	
4. Proposed Osage Nation Commemoration	Mayor’s Commemorative Landscape Task Force	
5. Shaw Park Tennis Center Lighting Project	Justin Whipple	
6. Director’s Report - Remembrance Park Update - Capital Project Update	Toni Siering	
7. Old Business/New Business	Jim Craig	
8. Adjourn		

Attachments:

Minutes – August 5, 2024

Notes:

**** Next Meeting: Monday, November 4, 2024 ****

Clayton Parks & Recreation Commission Meeting
Monday, August 5, 2024

Commission Members Present: Ben Beinfeld, Karen Berry-Elbert, Susan Buse, Paul Courter, Jim Craig, Matt Durham, Leo Human, Betsy Meyland Smith, Adam Weygandt, Jeff Yorg

Staff Present: Valerie Egel, Doris Patzius, Toni Siering, Justin Whipple

Meeting called to Order at 7:00 pm.

Approval of Minutes:

The minutes from the June meeting were approved as written.

Addresses from the Audience:

No comments from the audience.

Urban Night Sky Places:

Deb Grossman, Chair of the Sustainability Committee for the City of Clayton, and Cate Young, Washington University intern, provided a presentation on the Urban Night Sky Place Certification for Oak Knoll Park and Shaw Park.

DarkSky International is a global authority on light pollution with a mission to restore the nighttime environment and protect communities and wildlife. They carry out this mission through four different project areas, one of these projects areas is International DarkSky Places, which recognizes parks. DarkSky International certifies International Dark Sky Places as protected areas and communities that meet strict criteria for protecting the night sky and reducing light pollution.

Through the International DarkSky Places program, parks are recognized for their efforts to educate the public about light pollution and take steps to mitigate it. Light pollution has significantly worsened in recent decades, leading to detrimental effects on migration patterns of wildlife and contributing to the decline in insect populations. Addressing light pollution not only has environmental benefits but also saves energy and money, with an estimated \$2.2 billion wasted from streetlights alone.

The DarkSky designation aims to make our parks safer by setting parameters for our lights to reduce glare and be useful, targeted, and at a low level. It's important to control the lights with motion sensors or timers, use warm-colored lights, and shield them to promote better sleep quality and overall health.

The Sustainability Committee is planning to create Urban Night Sky Places - urban sites that promote authentic nighttime experiences despite having large amounts of artificial light. Shaw Park and Oak Knoll Park in Clayton are being considered for approval as Urban Night Sky places.

The Committee aims to complete the pre-application process for the Night Sky certification and submit the full application with letters of support. The pre-application process is completed and awaiting approval, while work on the full application is in progress. The full application process includes letters of support, maps of area, evidence of eligibility, a public access policy, a lighting inventory, a lighting management plan, sky quality measurements, and public outreach and education.

A motion to support the application for Shaw Park and Oak Knoll Park as Urban Night Sky Places was approved by the Parks and Recreation Commission.

Director's Report:

Lifeguard Update: Toni Siering, Director of Parks and Recreation stated that according to MPM, the current number of lifeguards is in the 60s, which is half of what they would consider fully staffed. There were reports of some algae in the Shaw Park Aquatic Center pool. MPM did address the issue, and it has almost disappeared.

Capital Project Update: Ms. Siering stated that the renovations of the North shelter, South shelter, and Oak Knoll Park rest rooms are now complete. These areas have new partitions, toilets, soap dispensers, flooring, and fresh paint. Additionally, Shaw Park Aquatic Center has a new HVAC system.

Livable Communities Master Plan Update: Ms. Siering stated that consultants are currently working on the Livable Communities Master Plan to finalize the plan and develop some recommendations. They will be presenting their final draft to the Board of Aldermen on August 27th. The recommendations will also be shared with the Parks and Recreation Commission regarding the ice rink space.

The contractor has commenced work on the waterproofing project at #1 Oak Knoll Park and is expected to finish in a couple of weeks.

The Shaw Park Fields 1 and 2 project will start after Labor Day and should be completed by next spring.

The construction of Remembrance Park is back on track and the irrigation work is close to completion.

Ms. Siering stated that we received a Municipal Park Planning Grant in the amount of \$10,000 to help offset the cost of lighting study for Shaw Park Tennis Center, Oak Knoll Park, and Shaw Park.

Ms. Siering stated that an end of season report for Shaw Park Aquatic Center will be presented to the Commission after the season has ended.

Ms. Siering stated that the Board of Aldermen has appointed Jim Craig as the new chairperson of the Parks and Recreation Commission. We also have three new commission members: Paul Courter, Leo Human, and Betsy Mayland-Smith.

The next Parks and Recreation Commission meeting will be September 9, 2024.

Old Business / New Business:

Nothing to report.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:46 pm.

Respectfully Submitted By: Doris Patzius

Mayor's Commemorative Landscape Task Force

RECOMMENDATION: Commemorating Clayton's Osage Community

Guiding Principles

- 1. Commemorative objects should align with our community's highest aspirations, including as these relate to truthfulness, equity, and inclusion.***
- 2. When considering existing or proposed commemorative objects, the City of Clayton should seek to honestly and productively engage history, and never to erase it.***
- 3. When considering inherited and new commemorative objects, both past and present contributions and impacts of the representation must be given careful consideration.***

Evaluation Criteria

- 1. Is the principal legacy of the namesake and/or is the subject depicted fundamentally at odds with current community values? If yes, please explain.***
- 2. What was the context at the time and is that something we want to continue to honor and embrace?***
- 3. Does the place name or commemorative object celebrate a part of history that we believe is fundamental to who we are and what we value?***
- 4. Does the place name or commemorative object make a nuanced, complex history accessible to the public, or provide an opportunity to educate the public?***
- 5. Does the place name or commemorative object restore histories that have been erased or not adequately represented, or provide an opportunity to educate the public?***

Summary

The Mayor's Commemorative Landscape Task Force recommends a multi-dimensional, phased commitment to commemorating the history of the Osage people who for Millennia lived in what is now Clayton.

Dating back to 1350 AD, Osage territory covered the entire state of Missouri. There are trails throughout our state, some of which went through what is now the City of Clayton. As French traders and settlers moved into the area, they established ties with the Osage who taught them how to trap beaver for their fur trade. They worked together, became business partners, some even married. But the fur trade dwindled and after the Louisiana Purchase the United States government decided it was imperative to move all tribes farther west to make way for European settlers to take over the land and build a new country. Under pressure, the Osage ceded their land in Missouri in 1808. They were paid one cent for every six acres ceded.

“By applying the egocentric logic of assumed superiority, Western civilization rationalized the usurpation of Indian sovereignty and the seizing of Indian territory...

No reasonable mind could deny that the technology or hardware of Western civilization was superior to that of the Indian civilization. However, in matters of cultural intangibles, there are valid reasons to question the superiority of Western civilizations over Indian civilizations.

There is no doubt that in 1500 a higher percentage of Indians enjoyed better housing, better nutrition, better clothing and greater freedom than the conditions that prevailed in Western civilizations.”

Burns, Louis F. [A History of the Osage People](#), The University of Alabama Press, 2004

Across St. Louis and throughout the United States, forced removal of Indigenous populations has been accompanied by erasure and misrepresentation of their histories, cultures, and continued presence. Today there are efforts underway across greater St. Louis, the State of Missouri, and nationwide to address this erasure by commemorating and embracing local Indigenous community histories and cultures. Following initial consultations with Osage elders and community representatives, we recommend that Clayton join this effort through a multi-dimensional, phased approach to the recognition that our city stands on land that was once part of Osage nation. This would be an on-going effort, working with the Osage Nation, CCF, staff and appropriate committees and commissions as determined by the BOA to find ways to tell this story, and acknowledge Osage heritage in the area that became Clayton. At this stage we seek a commitment in principle to the proposed commemorative effort, outlining the rationale and recommended approach.

Below we provide more detail on this commemorative recommendation with reference to our evaluation criteria.

Evaluation Criteria

1. Is the principal legacy of the namesake and/or is the subject depicted fundamentally at odds with current community values? If yes, please explain.

- a. *This history of the land that became the City of Clayton long pre-dates the arrival of European explorers and settlers. There was a culturally rich and sophisticated society of people who had inhabited this land, with their own customs and belief systems. The United States maneuvered to displace communities and destroy their native culture under the guise of ‘civilizing’ the native people who lived and thrived on these lands. By acknowledging that we are on the traditional homelands of the Osage, we pay respect to elders, both past and present, thank them for their stewardship of this land, and pay greater respect to this Osage heritage.*
- b. *When we understand our past, we are able to create a better future.*

2. What was the context at the time and is that something we want to continue to honor and embrace?

- a. *The Cahokian culture, centered around the present day city of Cahokia, Illinois was the dominant culture from about A.D. 1000 to A.D. 1350. The Osage were part of that development. When that society collapsed (for reasons that can only be speculated on), the Osage moved to Missouri.*
- b. *The Osage inhabited virtually every part of what is now the state of Missouri, living in long arched lodges made of bent hickory poles. They built hunting camps, established hunting sites, established burial sites and designated sacred sites in accordance with their belief system.*
- c. *After the Louisiana Purchase in 1808 the United States government decided that all of the Indians who lived east of the Mississippi had to relocate west of the Mississippi. At that point there were tribes who had lived on that land for many centuries. This set off many battles.*
- d. *Ultimately the U.S. negotiated a series of treaties in which the Osage ceded their land:*
 - i. *Treaty of 1808 - 50,000,000 acres*
 - ii. *Treaty of 1818 - 1,800,000 acres*
 - iii. *Treaty of 1825 - 45,000,000 acres*
 - iv. *TOTAL ACREAGE CEDED: over 113,000,000 acres*
- e. *In total the Osage were paid \$166,100 in case, annuities, livestock, horses, farming equipment and merchandise. **This comes to a payment of one penny for every six acres.****

**Source: Osage Nation presentation at MCLTF meeting*

- 3. Does the place name or commemorative object celebrate a part of history that we believe is fundamental to who we are and what we value?**
- a. *Part of the Osage Trail runs right through Clayton. The exact location is not shared by the Osage Nation in order to protect the land from being looted or otherwise desecrated, but it is very much a part of our City.*
 - b. *By recognizing this heritage, we are honoring those who came before us as well as the Osage community today. When we tell the true story of the Osage Nation, we can begin to understand and embrace their history and legacy as part of the story of Clayton. Informed by our history, good and bad, we move forward to build a better future together.*
- 4. Does the place name or commemorative object make a nuanced, complex history accessible to the public, or provide an opportunity to educate the public? (Add, Remove, Amend)**
- a. *Add: We recommend that Clayton move forward to add historical markers and interpretative signage in a public space to educate people about the Osage Tribe, the original inhabitants of our land we sit on today.*
 - b. *Add: We recommend the placement of public art or other interpretive content in a community park or other appropriate location.*
 - c. *We recommend that this work be done through collaboration with The Osage Nation.*
- 5. Does the place name or commemorative object restore histories that have been erased or not adequately represented, or provide an opportunity to educate the public?**
- a. *The displacement of Indigenous people was accompanied by the erasure and misrepresentation of their history and culture.*
 - b. *Many communities in the region and across the U.S. are taking steps to commemorate and embrace their local Indigenous histories, through engagement with Native communities.*
 - c. *We seek to honor and acknowledge the Indigenous people who historically occupied, nurtured and thrived on these lands. This commemorative effort is intended to provide a space where the tradition of this living culture can be reflected upon.*



Recreation & Event Calendar

September 2024

St. Louis Art Fair

September 6-8

The St. Louis Art Fair takes place in Downtown Clayton all weekend and will feature beautiful artwork from around the country as well as great food, drink, and entertainment. Produced by Cultural Festivals.

Wine, Whiskey & Beer Walk

September 13, 6:00 pm – 9:00 pm

In partnership with the City of Brentwood, get ready to join us for the Wine, Whiskey & Beer Walk at Brentwood Park! Walk the new Brentwood Park, enjoy the trail, and have a date night with wine tastings, whiskey and beer. The \$40 registration fee includes unlimited tastings of wine, whiskey, and beer. Each participant will also receive a goodie bag with palate cleansers and other fun items. Charcuterie boxes are available from Across the Board 314 for an additional \$16 and must be preordered. Meet at the Event Pavilion at Brentwood Park located at [2924 Brazeau Ave.](#), in Brentwood, MO 63144.

Hanley Fall Festival

September 19, 5:00 pm – 7:00 pm

Mark your calendars for the annual Hanley Fall Festival on Thursday, September 19 from 5:00-7:00 p.m. at Hanley House! Be sure to bring your lawn chairs and blankets to enjoy live music and delicious food from a local food truck. Beer will be provided to those 21 years and older.

Musical Nights

September 22, 5:00 pm – 7:00 pm

Join us for the final 2024 Musical Nights in Oak Knoll Park concert series event with Zydeco Crawdaddies. Bring blankets, lawn chairs, and snacks to enjoy with live music near the pond. Access to parking is off Big Bend. Sponsored by the Clayton Community Foundation.

Fall Scavenger Hunt

Sunday, September 23-October 7

Get ready for an adventure this autumn with the return of our Fall Scavenger Hunt from September 23 through October 7, inviting families to explore the beautiful parks around Clayton and win exciting fall-themed prizes!

Bow Wow BBQ & Brews

Sunday, September 25, 5:30 pm – 7:30 pm

Join us for our annual Bow Wow BBQ & Brews event on September 25 from 5:30-7:30 p.m., where dog park members can bring their dogs to socialize, renew memberships, and enjoy a family-friendly evening with a local food/beer truck and dog-themed vendors like Lola & Penelope's. Welcome Desk staff will be available to process renewals, new registrations, and answer any questions.

Clayton Jazz Festival

Saturday, September 28, 5:00 pm – 10:00 pm

The City of Clayton is hosting the fourth annual Clayton Jazz Festival, presented by Autumn Hill Records. Join us for an evening of fantastic music, food, and drinks. Admission is free, with food and adult beverages available for purchase. **Please note that outside food and drinks are not allowed, except for water.** This year, we're excited to introduce a Hydration Station where guests can refill their water bottles with fresh, clean water! Tables and chairs will be provided on a first-come, first-served basis, and guests are welcome to bring their own lawn chairs. We can't wait to see you there! NEW! Festival Location at N. Brentwood Blvd between Forsyth and Maryland Ave. Clayton, MO 63105