

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

Commission Members Present: Ira Berkowitz, Karen Berry Elbert, Susan Buse, Jim Craig, Matt Durham, Daniel Henke-Cilenti, Gary Pierson, Eric Schneider

Commission Members Absent: Ben Beinfeld, Adam Weygandt

Staff Present: Lucas Goodsell, Valerie Egel, Lori Rice, Doris Patzius, Toni Siering, Justin Whipple, David Willey

Meeting called to Order at 7:00 pm.

Approval of Minutes:

Minutes from the January meeting were approved as written.

Addresses from the Audience:

No comments from the audience.

Shaw Park Tennis Center End of Season Report:

David Willey, Athletics and Facilities Supervisor, reviewed the Shaw Park Tennis Center End of Season Report. Season highlights include tennis programs, revenue, and renovations. Mr. Willey stated that Clark Taylor, President of 5th Set, LLC is our contractor for Tennis Center operations.

Nearly 900 tennis court reservations were made through the Playbycourt app through 5th Set, LLC. 85% of season pass holders and participants utilized the Playbycourt app to reserve tennis courts or register for programs. In addition to program registrations taken through the City of Clayton, 5th Set registered \$80,371 in adult clinics, \$36,514 in junior clinics, and \$59,801 in group/private lessons. A conscious effort was made to add programs during low usage times so public court space would not be impacted. Rather than increasing the size of classes, additional times were offered to give more participants the opportunity to join.

Mr. Willey stated that on the City side, 2023 revenue for season-passes, daily admissions, programs, and rentals was \$87,766. Expenses for maintenance, contractual services, and commodities was \$24,513. While revenue for programs dropped, daily admission fees, season passes, and rentals increased compared to 2022. Contractual services dropped about 30% and commodities increased compared to 2023. Tennis Center revenue for 2023 was 80% for programs, 15% for season passes, 4% for daily admissions, and 1% for rentals. Tennis Center 2023 season pass sales for residents were 63%, non-residents were 23%, and corporate residents were 14%. Tennis Center 2023 expenditures were 87% for contractual services, 10% for commodities, 3% for maintenance, and 0% for personnel. In summary, all gross revenue is split 25/75 by the City of Clayton and the contractor, 5th Set, LLC, with the contractor retaining 75%. All personnel were covered by the 5th Set, LLC. Overall revenue for 2023 was \$266,172. Prior to contract services, the average revenue from 2008 to 2011 was \$65,000.

The fence repair on bank three has been completed, all 10 courts were resurfaced, and a new high-efficiency HVAC system was installed in the tennis shop. The Tennis Center plan going forward includes court lighting upgrades, pickleball instruction, a court communication and monitoring system, and family programming. The Commission discussed the possibility of adding shade structures at the tennis courts and adding additional pickleball courts to the space where the ice rink was. Toni Siering, Director of Parks and Recreation suggested the Commission wait until recommendations of the Master Plan are received before moving forward with a definite plan for the space.

Lighting Study – Shaw Park, Tennis Center and Oak Knoll Park

Justin Whipple, Parks Superintendent reviewed the Lighting Study for Shaw Park, Tennis Center, and Oak Knoll Park. Ms. Siering stated that the City has funds in the Capital budget for lighting upgrades at the Tennis Center and in Shaw Park. The Shaw Park project will straddle two fiscal years. There are funds in the Capital budget for 2025-26 for lighting upgrades at Oak Knoll Park. Ms. Siering consulted with one of the City of Clayton's on-call consultants from Lochmueller Group to discuss applying for a Municipal Park Grant of up to \$10,000 for a lighting study. Mr. Whipple stated that he is working with the on-call contractor who put together a lighting study. The main goals for the project are to improve public safety with lighting, improve efficiency and improve design within compliance with the dark sky parks as much as possible.

Director's Report:

Toni Siering, Director of Parks, and Recreation, reported that the Ameren issues at Remembrance Park have been resolved. There is an electrical line that needs to be buried by Reinhold Electric in the next couple weeks before excavation. Ms. Siering stated that we are working with the contractor and SWT Design Group to make sure all materials are available and functionable. The project is expected to take approximately two to three months to complete.

Mr. Whipple and his team have been working on the shelter enhancements at the North and South shelters at Shaw Park and comfort station in Oak Knoll Park. The Splash Pad renovation at Shaw Park next to the Treetop playground has been delayed due to a broken mold for one of the pieces that needed to be fabricated. Park season opens on April 1.

Ms. Siering stated that the next Livable Communities Master Plan Open House will be March 28 from 5 pm to 8 pm. We hope to have some recommendations and a plan by the end of summer.

Ms. Siering reported that an offer to a full-time pool manager position for Midwest Pool Management and the City of Clayton has made an offer to a full-time aquatic supervisor. An update on the nationwide lifeguard shortage will be given at the next meeting.

Old Business / New Business: No old business / New business.

The next PRC meeting will be March 4, 2024.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:04 pm.

Respectfully Submitted By: Doris Patzius