

**Clayton Parks & Recreation Commission Meeting**  
**Monday, September 9, 2024**

**Commission Members Present:** Ben Beinfeld, Karen Berry-Elbert, Susan Buse, Jim Craig, Matt Durham, Leo Human, Betsy Meyland Smith

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

Meeting called to Order at 7:00 pm.

**Approval of Minutes:**

The minutes from the August meeting were approved as written.

**Addresses from the Audience:**

No comments from the audience.

**Proposed Osage Nation Commemoration:**

Michelle Harris, Mayor of the City of Clayton, presented a proposed Osage Nation Commemoration. The Mayor's Commemorative Landscape Task Force recommends a multi-dimensional, phased commitment to commemorating the history of the Osage people, who once lived in what is now Clayton. The Task Force is working closely with the Osage National Cultural leadership in Oklahoma on this project. The recommendation from the Task Force will go to the Community Equity Commission for review, the Clayton History Group for review, and then the Board of Aldermen.

Ms. Harris stated that we are honoring those who came before us and the Osage community today by recognizing this heritage. The Task Force recommends that Clayton move forward to add historical markers and interpretive signage in a public space to educate people about the Osage Tribe. The Task Force recommends the placement of public art or other interpretive content in a community park. Oak Knoll Park or other appropriate locations should be identified through collaboration with the Osage Nation. The recommended commemorations will start with a plaque. This effort is intended to provide a space where the tradition of this living culture can be reflected on.

**Shaw Park Tennis Center Lighting Project:**

Justin Whipple, Parks Superintendent, discussed the Shaw Park Tennis Center Lighting Project. Mr. Whipple noted that the City is collaborating with Lochmueller Group - a full-service survey, planning, engineering, and environmental firm - to conduct a lighting study and create a plan for upgrading the lighting. The primary focus is on ensuring that the lighting levels meet collegiate standards, do not intrude onto neighboring properties, and comply with Urban Dark Sky regulations. The new lighting system for the tennis center includes plans to install eight 50-foot poles around the court edges, as well as to use LED lighting for energy efficiency and better control. The lighting levels will be adjustable from 10% to 100%, and the system will include a timer and app control. Lighting levels at Shaw Park and Oak Knoll Park will be included in the study for future lighting projects.

**Director's Report:**

**Remembrance Park Update:** Toni Siering, Director of Parks and Recreation, announced that Remembrance Park is under development and is expected to be completed by mid-November. Alex Elmstead, Executive Director of the Clayton Community Foundation, has successfully secured an additional donation for the water feature in the park. The grand opening of Remembrance Park is anticipated to take place in the spring of 2025.

**Capital Project Update:** Ms. Siering announced that the renovations for fields 1 and 2 will begin soon. This includes installing new turf, irrigation, and covered dugouts. Additionally, the waterproofing for #1 Oak Knoll Park/Clayton Early Childhood Center is moving ahead as scheduled. The roof replacement is in progress, with an expected completion date by the end of the year. Updates for project information will be available on the City of Clayton website soon.

A presentation of the Livable Communities Master Plan will be presented on September 10<sup>th</sup> at 6 pm via Zoom at the Board of Alderman meeting.

The Shaw Park Aquatic Center is closed for the season. Ryan Harrison, Aquatics Supervisor, will present a report on the Shaw Park Pool summer season at the November meeting.

The next Parks and Recreation Commission meeting will be in person on November 4, 2024.

**Old Business / New Business:**

Ms. Siering stated that the City of Clayton website project page has been updated.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:53 pm.

Respectfully Submitted By: Doris Patzius

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