

MINUTES OF THE MISSION COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

September 6, 2017

The Mission Community Development Committee met at Mission City Hall, Wednesday, September 6, 2017 at 6:30 p.m. The following committee members were present: Pat Quinn, Tom Geraghty, Arcie Rothrock, Nick Schlossmacher, Debbie Kring, Kristin Inman, Suzie Gibbs and Ron Appletoft. Councilmember Inman called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Also present were City Administrator Laura Smith, City Clerk Martha Sumrall, Assistant City Administrator Brian Scott, Public Works Director John Belger, Parks & Recreation Director Christy Humerickhouse, Capt. Dan Madden, Public Information Officer Emily Randel, and City Planner Danielle Sitzman.

Ms. Humerickhouse stated that Jenny Smith, Recreation Program Supervisor, was running late from a senior trip and asked that her presentation be moved to later in the meeting.

Resolution Designating Mission Parks and Park Facilities

Ms. Smith reported that staff has received several inquiries, by those wanting to use our parks, as to what can and cannot be done in Mission's parks. Our Municipal Code spells out the rules and regulations, including such things as hours of operation, noise restrictions, vehicle restrictions, and signage. In order to clarify what regulations or restrictions apply where, a resolution has been drafted that outlines our specific parks and parks facilities where these rules would apply.

Councilmember Inman asked where Birch Park is located. Mr. Belger stated that this is a small parcel of land at the end of Birch Street off 60th Terrace, backing up to the Mission Bowl. Councilmember Gibbs requested information on the cost to rent our parks. Ms. Humerickhouse stated that it is \$5 for residents for four hours and \$10 for non-residents for four hours. This is comparable to other cities. Councilmember Gibbs commented on a fun event she recently noticed in Legacy Park on Labor Day, and stated she is happy to see our parks being used.

Councilmember Gibbs recommended that the resolution designating parks / park facilities in the City of Mission be forwarded to Council for approval. All on the committee agreed. This will be a consent agenda item.

Final Plat Approval - Downtown Mission Lot 1 & 2, The Bar

Ms. Sitzman stated that this item from the Planning Commission will be presented to Council at the September 20th meeting. The recent subdivision of lots to allow The Bar to expand their parking lot has gone through the Planning Commission process, but in reviewing the plat prior to recording, Johnson County identified the need to amend the plat to include dedication language for the portion of Johnson Drive right-of-way abutting the plat. Council now needs to formally

accept the land to be dedicated to the City as right-of-way. There was no discussion on this item.

This item was informational only and will come before Council from the Planning Commission at the September 20th City Council Meeting.

Johnson Drive Greenspace and Sidewalk Use

Ms. Randel stated that she and Ms. Sitzman recently met with members of the Mission Business Partnership to provide information on the use of sidewalks and greenspace in the downtown district. The City is encouraged to see many of the downtown businesses taking advantage of the expanded outdoor spaces, but clear guidelines for their use do not exist. Staff is working to increase communication with businesses to let them know what is not encouraged in these public spaces. She stated that we do not want damage to the infrastructure and need to be sure that adequate passage is available on the sidewalks. The Mission Business Partnership has developed a packet for new businesses (shared a copy) and staff will be working to develop a checklist of City items/permits/licenses for new businesses. This will help new businesses to “start off on the right foot” and provide staff with a touchpoint for interacting with them. She stated that this was well received by the group.

Councilmember Quinn requested information on what is included in our Code regarding the use of this space. Ms. Randel stated that there are restrictions in the code, and if specific issues are hazardous, Code Enforcement would address these. Ms. Sitzman stated that staff will review the ordinance and bring back recommended revisions, but we would like to see what the businesses community is doing and what they would like to see prior to doing that. There may be uses that are automatically allowed and others that would involve an approval process. She stated that staff is in the early stages of reviewing the Code regarding this issue. Councilmember Gibbs stated that she would like to see specifics in the Code to assist with consistent enforcement. Discussion continued on specific businesses that are currently using the sidewalks to store inventory or for additional outside display area.

Councilmember Kring asked if staff has received any feedback on the Sunflower Festival, which was organized by the Mission Business Partnership. Ms. Randel stated that the event was very successful and well received, and they will be discussing “lessons learned” for future events. Many businesses participated in the event and there were great crowds.

This item was informational only and no action was taken.

Mission Summer Camp Wrap-up

Jenny Smith, Recreation Program Supervisor, presented information on the 2017 Mission Summer Camp and Tween & Teen Camp, including:

- The Mission Summer Camp (MSC) had 125 campers between the ages of 5-10, and 24 camp staff. Forty-two percent were from Mission families and parent surveys showed 85% positive feedback.
- The Tween & Teen Camp (TNT) had 55 campers between the ages of 10-15, and 12 camp staff. Thirty-three percent were from Mission families and parent surveys showed a 90% positive feedback.
- Add-on programs/lessons were available this year including swimming, tennis, guitar, basketball skills, art/drawing, LEGO program, robotics/video game design, and soccer skills. These were all very popular and will be added to in 2018.
- Highlights from specific camp weeks including various field trips and camp themes.
- Overview of finances, including total expenses of \$126,983.84 and total revenues of \$201,544.84 resulting in a profit of \$74,560.99

Discussion by the committee included the number of campers that attend multiple weeks (approximately 90%), the number of boys vs. girls attending, the statistic that less than 50% of the campers are from Mission and reasons for this attendance (consistent with past years, convenient for parents driving through or to Mission for work to drop their children off), and whether there is a way to encourage more Mission children to attend. Laura Smith noted that Mission residents are given an opportunity to enroll prior to this being opened up to non-residents. Jenny Smith also noted that both Rushton Elementary and Antioch Park provide outside day camps. Councilmember Geraghty asked how the profits from this program are used. Laura Smith stated that these offset the overall cost recovery of the Community Center.

Ms. Humerickhouse stated that this was one of the best camp years to date and praised Jenny Smith for her work to make camp so successful. Jenny Smith stated that there were substantial saving realized from her work to get the lowest price on buses (\$6,000 savings) and by ordering camp snacks from Cisco Food Service.

This item was informational only and no action was taken.

Other - Department Updates

Ms. Humerickhouse reported that the indoor pool is currently closed for maintenance/deep cleaning, and offices were painted and reorganized. Patrons have been able to use the outdoor competition pool during this time.

The Pool Party for Pooches was held on September 5th in the outdoor leisure pool and approximately 61 dogs attended.

Other - Pole Signs

Councilmember Appletoft stated that Council received a memo from Ms. Smith outlining the history of pole signs and current regulations. When voting on recent ordinance changes, he

was not aware of the major issue regulations regarding pole signs has caused for a specific business and he would like to explore this issue again. Councilmember Geraghty stated that he does not want to discuss this issue again as Council has made a decision on pole signs and he does not support possible changes for one business/person. Councilmember Quinn agreed, stating that the business in question still has a pole sign that should be down, and they must abide by the current Code. Councilmember Appletoft again asked if Council would be open to considering this issue again. Discussion by the committee continued on the following:

- Councilmember Inman stated that Casey's Auto has received a Business Improvement Grant to take down their current pole sign and add additional signage to their canopy, but this has not yet been done.
- Councilmember Quinn provided committee members with a handout with various pictures of pole signs in other locations of businesses located in Mission (Culver's, Five Guys, Freebirds) and stated that they do not have a pole sign in Mission but are thriving. He does not feel we can make an exception now when there are other businesses that were denied this opportunity.
- Councilmember Schlossmacher stated that he does not favor changing the ordinance for one business, but asked if there is any exception allowable.
- Councilmember Appletoft stated that Casey's Auto had the expectation that this sign would be allowed to remain. Councilmember Gibbs agreed and stated that she would like something worked out so that this "historic" sign can remain.
- Councilmember Kring expressed her concerns with granting an exception and stated that we must have a level playing field.
- Councilmember Gibbs stated that she has heard concerns from Village Inn Restaurant and Discount Sales Outlet regarding their pole signs.
- The committee discussed the code changes that allowed Mission Bank to reface their sign when the name was changed to Security Bank (same ownership).
- Ms. Smith provided history of the BZA process for Casey's Auto and options for changes to the Code.
- Pete Heaven, Land Use Attorney, stated that there are a variety of changes Council could adopt if they would like to allow Casey's Auto to reface their current sign. Discussion continued on the original request regarding this sign, which was more than simply refacing the current sign (new shape and size).
- The committee discussed the time frame for this pole sign to be removed (past due), and the need to utilize the Business Improvement Grant awarded to the business.
- Councilmember Gibbs stated that she would like to sit down with the business owner to discuss this issue. Discussion continued on the pros and cons of this with several committee members noting that options would need to be available for this discussion and that we should not "give them hope when there is none" to keep this pole sign.
- The previous exception to pole signs that were outlined in the memo were discussed (Keystone Auto in 2009 and surrounding area signs), and the elimination of these exceptions in recent ordinance changes to ensure a level playing field for all.

It was agreed by the majority of the committee members that there was not consensus to move forward with continued discussion on this item. No action was taken.

Meeting Close

There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting of the Community Development Committee adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Martha Sumrall
City Clerk