

MEETING MINUTES
ST. ALBANS CITY PARKS COMMISSION MEETING
Barlow Street Community Center
6:00 PM Tuesday, October 20th, 2020

Board Members Present:

Members: Jamie Pinkham, Stina Booth, Bill Doig and Kristen Poston

Board Members Absent: Angie Sturm, Joanie McGinn

Public Present:

Staff Present: Andrew Gratton: Recreation Program Manager

AGENDA

1. **Call to order:** Meeting called to order at 6:08 pm
2. **Public Comment**
3. **Pocket Park Discussion:** A few of the members have visited the area. If there was a park there would need to be separation to the house next to it would be necessary. Stina also mentioned that we would want to check with the PD about patrolling the area and make sure it was safe. Also would want to check with the neighbors about what they thought about a park going in there. Bill mentioned that we should come up with an idea and bring it back up to City Council for them to decide what they think. They can also talk to PD and the neighbors to see if it is something we could go forward with. Mention of using the space for a community garden area where people can buy/ rent spots and make their own garden spaces. Community garden can pay for itself and make money down the road. Jamie mentioned that we should put together a list of things that we need to do to clean up the lot and a bunch of different ideas for the space and bring that together to the council to see where we should go from here. Reaching out to the edible garden crew could also help us to keep the costs down if the community garden is the idea that we end of going with.

THINGS TO BE DONE

Remove fence and razor wire. Potentially replace as a boundary for the neighbors and the businesses

Remove some of if not all of the trees

Test the soil

All work could be done by PW potentially

Potential Ideas

Small toddler park (higher cost with potentially more to offer, depending on what the neighbors to that area think)

Community Gardens (lower cost with potential to bring money in)

4. Park Ideas for Each Park:

Barlow street:

Joanie mentioned getting the Baseball field sign hung back up. Andrew has spoken to PW about that.

Stina mentioned taking down the fence around the playground. As there are some parts that may not be up to code. ie to close to the climbing features.

The area where the stone benches are. Working on something that could be a good use of that space.

Talking to little league and seeing if they plan to continue to use the Barlow street field for softball or if the space would be better used for something else.

Volleyball court/ courts

Dream list: new playground features, Jaime mentioned a splash pad as well. That could be linked in with birthdays at Barlow to provide more value.

Houghton Park:

Splash pad for that area.

Pavilion or some type of shade for the area. If the baseball field that is not used could be removed and repurposed that would be a great space for a shaded space.

Seating for that area. Passive and otherwise

Snack bar area possibly for steelers and other events down there.

Should the art walls be removed for winter?

Should the St. Albans Parks have its own facebook page?

On the radar: re-surfacing of the court space.

Taylor Park:

Passive seating. Stumps, stone rock squares like on Main Street. Seating that would be used for concerts as well.

Safety Barrier for the area on the corner of Church and Fairfield street that would stop a vehicle that was out of control from going into the park.

Trimming and continued maintenance of trees in the park.

5. **Brochure Talk:** Stina worked on a brochure for parks a couple years ago that would offer a way for people to donate to the Parks of St. Albans.

What do we want to brochure to be?

Marketing of the parks

Mission statement

What are the parks and their location

Way to donate to the parks

Memorials for people to buy for loved ones (seating or tree)

List of improvements we have made

Future ideas or what would you like to see

Wednesday the 18th will be the next meeting. We will be switching to Wednesdays and stick to 6:00 pm.

6. **Adjourn:** Bill makes a motion to adjourn at 7:30 pm Jaime seconds, Passed unanimously.