

MEETING MINUTES
ST. ALBANS CITY PARKS COMMISSION MEETING
Barlow Street Community Center
6:00 PM Wednesday, September 23rd, 2020

Board Members Present:

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

Board Members Absent: Angie Sturm

Public Present: Kelly Wakefield, Keith Wakefield

Staff Present: Andrew Gratton: Recreation Program Manager

AGENDA

1. **Call to order:** Meeting called to order at 6:08 pm

2. **Public Comment:** Kelly and Keith Wakefield have come to the meeting to talk about some of the maintenance in the gardens in Taylor Park. Kelly mentioned about trimming/ pruning the cherry trees around the fountain to clean it up and raise them up a bit. She also mentioned a curcintium bush that is overgrown that she would like to cut down to the ground and let re-bloom in the following years. Keith mentioned the garden club growing the flowers for the round and long garden in the park. They were unable to do that this year and Kelly and Keith were able to get \$500 from Tim Smith out of the budget to get annuals for the year. They would like to get \$500 for the year coming to keep the flowers going. Andrew mentioned that they could try to work that into their budget going forward. All parks commission members agreed. All members also agreed that on the cherry tree pruning and the pruning of the curinthium bush as well.

3. **Review City Council Info:** The council invited us to come to 3 meetings or so a year to talk about the parks and update the council about what we would like to do and our plan for the parks. They mentioned that larger scale projects going forward can be brought to the council and discussed about how funding can be drawn for those (grants, city budget ect.). Joanie suggested putting together a list of projects that we have in mind in the fall to be presented for the following spring. In Kristen's email she mentioned a way for people of the public to provide input into what they would like to see in the park and input on things that could change in the park. All meetings are public and people are able to come whenever they would like to and discuss input about our parks. Bill mentioned writing up a thank you to Kelly and Keith for all the work they did in Taylor Park this year.

In letter to the council quarterly maybe we could have a list or accomplishments, goals and dreams. To keep them in the loop of what we have been up too.

Bill brought up that it would be great to have a response to our asks in a reasonable time to make sure that we can keep the ball rolling. A yes or no answer can help to keep the project moving or not and help to keep the parks commission on track. Having a time line would help to keep this process moving.

4. Discussion of Taylor, Houghton and Barlow Parks (Short and long-term priorities):

Andrew is going to look back for the old list of ideas we had for the parks and we can continue to build on those. As we are running low on time.

Extended talk about the art walls in the city and were they may go.

Jaime brought up the bench and tree dedications that we had discussed before. Joanie said we can talk to Tim Viens about some of the bench and tree dedications that they do and see if they have a model for that. Jaime mentioned that dedication of passive seating may be a good idea as trees may end of being moved or taken down in Taylor park for the master plan.

Jaime brought up rekindling the brochure that Stina was working on as a winter project for the commission. She also brought up the idea of a covered area or gazebo style feature in Houghton park that could be used and rented by the public going forward. It would be a good thing for the commission look at.

Talk about the little free libraries that City school and Danny DesLauriers offered to help build us with his students. Andrew will take pictures of the one Chad built at Barlow and will ask Chad for a list of lumber he may have used to see if we can get some donations of lumber.

Next week we will all come with some improvements to the parks both short and long term. Next meeting will be the 20th of October. Andrew will send out to make sure people can make it.

5. **Other Business:** Approval or August and July. Joanie makes the motion to accept both series of minutes. Seconded by Jaime. All in favor.

6. **Adjourn:** Motion to adjourn made by Joanie, seconded by Stina. All in favor. Meeting adjourn at 7:33 pm.