

MEETING MINUTES
ST. ALBANS CITY PARKS COMMISSION MEETING
RECREATION DEPARTMENT, 39 BARLOW STREET, 2ND FLOOR
6:00 PM TUESDAY, February 19th, 2019

Board Members Present:

Chair: Tom Koldys, Members: Stina Booth, Angie Sturm, Jamie Pinkham and Bill Doig

Board Members Absent: Joanie McGinn, Alec Kaeding

Public Present: Chad Spooner, Josh Lareau, Michael Nicholas, Quinten Nicholas, Destiny Cadieax, Gillian Marchessault, Trisha Woodward, Karen Rouleau

Staff Present: Andrew Gratton: Recreation Program Manager, Tim Smith: Mayor

AGENDA

1. **Call to order** – Tom Koldys called meeting to order at 6:04 pm. Tom skipped to other business to mention that Mayor Smith will be coming by at 7:15 to propose something to us.
2. **Edible Landscape proposal**
 - a. **Discussion-** Introductions from everyone in the edible landscape crew. Destiny spoke about the group and how they came together and handed out the proposals to member of the commission. The group landed at Houghton Park as a location for the edibles because of the coming and going of the people in the park. There is a lot of programming in the park. Lots of families use the park. Review of the proposal and its contents. Josh added that there would be a walkway along the gooseberries to help people pass though the area. Destiny brought up the city's concern for security with anything added to the park. There would be motion lights added to help police identify people in the park after dark. Tom brought up phase 1 and phase 2 and asked what the edible landscape committee is looking for from the parks commission. Just about Houghton Park, or about Taylor Park as well? Stina mentioned that the motion lights were not in the proposed budget. Destiny mentioned that they would be in the next draft. Stina also asked what they would be doing to water the plants. Destine mentioned that she had heard we would be installing a fountain with access to water. This is what they would use to water their plants. Destiny mentioned that if the Parks Commission has an issue with any plants that were proposed they could be changed. Destiny mentioned letter of support from Blooming Minds as well as Council Member Chad Spooner. There is also plans to provide signage to help

people identify the area. Tom was curious about levels of commitment of people who are helping to take care of the gardens. Destiny said that everyone was strongly committed to helping out with the development of the garden. Chad mentioned that he is thankful the members came before the Steelers board and that the plan has come a was to be where it is. They are happy to partner with them on this project. Destiny was asked about funding for the project and confirmed that there was funding for the project. They are also looking for alternative funding. Chad then spoke as a city member and welcomed the idea of the landscape. He also mentioned excitement about the motion lighting and that there was multiple lights in the park that do not work anymore. Two light pole and well as a motion light on the north side of the building. Bill asked who would be responsible for making sure that people follow through on their commitment. The group confirmed they would be the people responsible for making sure the garden is maintained. Brief talk about types of fruits and trees and reasoning behind them. Tom wanted to make sure there is knowledge spread about what can be taken and when it can be taken. Karen spoke to having signage to help display that point and showing the kids when the fruit is ready. Michael from the public spoke about the fruit in the park and said the blueberry bushes would be a great addition to the park. He also mentioned concern about some of the fruit trees dropping excess fruit that may make a mess of the park and bring in excess animals. Josh said that a woman from RiseVT was planning on coming to glean the fruits and bring excess to the food shelf. Destiny was hoping to draw as much attention to the project, if approved, through different routes, front page forum, Facebook, the messenger and more.

- b. Next Steps (D&V)** – Discussion about the blueberries and how many and what kind there would be. Also discussion about the proximity of the gooseberries to the parking spaces and Tom mentioned concern with plowing and snow harming the bushes. Stina made a motion to support the project as proposed through phase 1. Seconded by Bill Doig. Motion passed unanimously. Tom is going to check in the Chip to make sure nothing else is needed going forward. Also talk to Public works about when they would be able to get the fountain installed.
- 3. Updates**
- a. Tree Inventory-** Tom spoke to Chip about a few questions from last meeting. Heartwood is not contracted currently with the city but they will be using them going forward for more tree work. They will talk to Heartwood going forward about the recommendations they made and make sure they are followed through with.
 - b. Additional commission members-** Tom brought this up with Chip and the Mayor. They are in support of adding an additional member. The alternate, the expert or the high schooler. No direction was provided. Tom will bring this to the council and see what they would like to see. The commission is on board with the

High School student and thinks there is a lot of benefit for the high schooler that was selected.

4. **Garbage + Recycling cans for Houghton Park (D&V)-**
5. **Little Library in Taylor Park? (D&V)-** Chelsea Phillips came to speak about the little library idea in parks in St. Albans. She would like to put the “little library” in Taylor Park. They would contain a variety of different books for kids and adults. She is willing to pay for the library but needs help with installation and the grace of the parks commission. Tom talked about obvious concerns or vandalism but with new lighting in the park he thinks this would not be a problem. Also Tom mentioned the he would like it to match the “motif” in the park. Jamie is very on board with the “little library” and loves the idea of making sure people have access to books. Michael brought up that he has one of these at his work. He brought up the concern with maintenance. Although it is minimal there would have to be people who sift through what is put in there and make sure it is appropriate as well as not overflowing. Talk about the location of where these libraries could go. Talk about involving the library in some ways. Michael mentioned the Boy or Eagle scouts would maybe be able to build one of these for free.

Angie made a motion to approve the proposal for a “little library” in Taylor Park contingent on design and location, seconded by Jamie and passed unanimously.

6. **Brochure elements-** Pushed back to next meeting.
7. **Other business – to be considered immediately-** Mayor Tim Smith visited to talk about a few things.
 - a. Mayors photo competition will move forward again this year. He is looking for the parks commissions blessing with the location of the photos. Theme this year is lakes, rivers and waterways.
 - b. He next vision for the park is a sunflower festival. Looking to plant flowers downtown, in barrels by businesses and in Taylor Park.

Angie brought up concern with the location in relation to the farmers market. As well as the species of sunflower. Tim mentioned that this is in the preliminary stages. Michael brought up the concern with re-seeding and if there is any plans for what would happen after this year. Tim mentioned they would be mowed if we did not want to continue with them after this year. The Parks Commission is fully behind the ideas and offered their support. Bill would like to see a visual of where they would be planted. Mention of putting the sunflowers around the Civil War monument. This would be discussed with the admiral before it happens.

8. **Other Business – to be considered for future agenda**
9. **Approval of meeting minutes: 1/15/19 (D&V)-** Bill made a motion to approve the minutes as they are. Stina seconded the motion, motion passed unanimously.
10. **Adjourn-** Chair Tom made a motion to adjourn at 7:47 pm.