

ST. ALBANS CITY PARKS COMMISSION

MEETING MINUTES

APRIL 4, 2017 6:00 PM

RECREATION DEPARTMENT, 2ND FLOOR

In Attendance: Tom Koldys, Angie Sturm, Alec Kaeding, Joanie McGinn, Stina Booth & Jeff Young.

Absent: Barbara Weinstein.

Staff Members Present: Andrew Gratton, Program Manager.

1. Call to order.
The meeting was called to order at 6:02 pm.
2. Reminder of meeting time and process.
Reminder to stay on task, keep to meeting time.
3. Update on Josh Lareau's permaculture installation at Houghton Park.
 - Josh suggested a slight design tweak for tree layout.
 - Spot near southwest of playground chosen.
4. Update on CCV environmental science class tree and understory installation at Houghton Park.
 - A meeting with Josh and his teacher occurred 3/30.
 - Quantities and loose outline were discussed as well as general layout 30-60ft out.
 - Josh will be presenting options on 4/11/17 at 5:30 prior to the parks steering committee meeting.
 - BFA science students, possibly City School students, possibly Steelers will be enlisted to help.
5. Update on commission requested tree plantings at Houghton Park.
 - No issues with the list we presented.
 - Joanie asked in we needed permission from City Council, Tom answered it was not an issue.
 - Trees will be installed later in May probably after Josh's class does the work.
 - Jeff is concerned about the timing and expense of installation if a contractor is used, also mentions we will need soil samples once the weather permits.
 - Jeff proposes having a Houghton park subcommittee focused on planting, upkeep, etc., Tom will explore the possibility.
6. Consider benches to purchase for installation at Houghton Park (D&V).
 - Consider installation of benches at Houghton Park.
 - Angie asks if we've determined quantities and placement and if we should consider only doing a few at a time.

- Alec mentions using cast iron and wood benches in Burlington's parks.
- Current inventory includes, the odd leftover bench, one bench near the south end and one picnic table.
- Cast iron and composite benches cost ~\$800.
- Discussion about short term vs. long term needs, more expensive and permanent options makes sense to hold off until the park's design is more complete.

A motion was made by Joanie McGinn; seconded by Jeff Young to have public works build 4 six foot standalone backless benches. Motion passed unanimously.

7. Consider installation of drainage under wood chips surrounding the 2016 Houghton playground Installation (D&V).
 - Solutions are limited by drainage options, the soil is bad, there's no place to drain to.
 - Discussion about options, French drain, raising the playground, putting concrete underneath.
 - Tom will contact the original installer to see if they know of other options.
 - At a minimum the city should remove the existing mulch that's moldy and replace it with new.
8. Continue reviewing Angie's List.
 - a. Briefly review each item.
 - i. Those requiring further conversation will be considered for a future agenda.
 - Discussion about the various items, items added to spreadsheet to track progress.
9. Special meeting Tuesday, 4/11/17 at 5:30 pm, City Hall.
10. Consider approval of meeting minutes: 3/21/17 (D&V).
A motion was made by Jeff Young; seconded by Joanie McGinn to accept 3/21/17 meeting minutes. Motion passed unanimously.
11. Other business – to be considered for future agenda.
 - Jeff shares image of public restroom across from Echo.
 - Joanie asks for clarification on goal of steering committee list and mission of next meeting.
12. Adjourn.
A motion was made by Tom Koldys; seconded by Joanie McGinn to adjourn meeting. Motion passed unanimously.