

MEETING MINUTES
ST. ALBANS CITY PARKS COMMISSION MEETING
RECREATION DEPARTMENT, 39 BARLOW STREET, 2ND FLOOR
6:00 PM TUESDAY, August 20th, 2019

Board Members Present:

Chair: Tom Koldys, Members: Joanie McGinn, Angie Sturm, Jamie Pinkham, Alec Kaeding and Bill Doig

Board Members Absent: Stina Booth

Public Present: David Barber

Staff Present: Andrew Gratton: Recreation Program Manager

AGENDA

1. **Call to order** – Tom Koldys called meeting to order at 6:02 pm.

Public Comment- David Barber – green space created when modifying roadways could be used to create a pocket park by MRUSD. Could be a named park, currently not maintained very well (i.e. not the same mowing schedule as other parks). Interested in helping this to become a better space (i.e. spreading mulch or other work to help get it started. Intent is not for the city to spend money on it, rather to be a community / volunteer driven space.

- Angie – What is the status of this space? Park, greenspace, etc?
 - Joanie – Appreciates idea but does feel that if the city creates a park, it then needs to be responsible for maintaining it. Should start by contacting PW to improve current maintenance.
 - Bill – Has the alderman for this ward been contacted regarding any of this? (David – No, not yet).
 - Suggestions that an art wall, statue, or bench could be installed.
2. **Dog Park – Updates regarding the City’s Role:** Andrew has updated our public member from last month’s meeting.
 3. **Taylor Park**
 - a. **Little Free Library – Status:** We are waiting for clarification on whether the city will pay for the project or not. Also if Taylor Park is the place for the Little Free Library or if Houghton or another park is a better spot. Jaime brought an idea that is going in Swanton Park painted by Jon Young. It is a great nationwide initiative that everyone is getting behind and she thinks we should too. Andrew mentioned that maintaining it would be easier at Barlow and Houghton with him monitoring at

Barlow and maybe Chad Spooner checking in on the one at Houghton as he locks up the courts. Seems like the parks commission's sentiment is to shifting away from Taylor Park and into Houghton and Barlow. Thought to ask a local Building Trades teacher if he and his class could build 2 for us. Andrew will ask Ross about it.

- b. **Bench by instruments-** Becky Manahan was at the instruments with her children for over 2 hours and thought it would be a great addition to the instruments in the park. Angie brought up the idea of passive seating as the benches can be very expensive. That idea or a bench that needs to be fixed up at Houghton storage or City Hall. Andrew will look into that. Angie talked about experimenting with passive seating in new areas or moving benches to new areas so that we can test out new spots when the Master plan is enacted.
 - c. **Tree inventory update-** not much of an update. Waiting to hear answers on some of the questions.
 - d. **Walkway-** South side walkway has been removed and fixed with crushed stone. It is finally flat and walkable.
 - e. **Other-** Tree inventory and Master Plan update. Waiting to hear on these things.
4. **Barlow**
- a. **Labyrinth-** the labyrinth at Town School is done and looks good. We are not sure the material but people plan to visit and check it out.
 - b. **Other-** 2 new trees were installed on the property.
5. **Houghton**
- a. **Art Wall-** Reply emails between Tom, Chip and Donna petered out and nothing has come since the Parks Commission approved the idea at our meeting in June. SACA and Chad Spooner had the idea and are the drivers behind it.
 - b. **Plantings-** I few of the plantings are not taking well but most of them are fruiting and people seem to be coming and checking them out.
 - c. **Garbage/ recycling bins-** Talk about bins in Houghton Park. Lots of talk has happened over the last two meetings. We looked again and decided on a new cans that have recycling and trash bins in the same location.
 - d. **Other-** Tom brought up that the water fountain is not functioning. Andrew is aware and making the steps to get it fixed. It has been an ongoing problem. Jaime brought up the fact that people are parking in areas that make it unsafe. Lower Welden parking is to the point that people almost cannot pass though and residents are getting trapped in their driveways. Ambulance or Fire could not pass through the area. What are the parking ordinances in the area? Talk about inviting Chad Spooner to our meeting to talk about parking and possible solutions. David Barber brought up some more discussions about edible landscapes in St. Albans.

6. **Other business – to be considered immediately.** Tom would like to step down from the Parks Commission chairman. He feels like we are treading water a lot with projects and things we have going on. He, as well as the commission, feels that the city needs to have a clear mission for the parks commission. David Barber brought up that maybe we should go to the council and ask for a budget going forward as we work so hard to take recommendations from the public and work to fix them, but then need to jump through hoops to get the thing fixed. This would make this easier for us and for them going forward and is not much to ask as far as a discretionary budget. The commission was not sure of the rules or what to do going forward. Andrew will work to clarify this.
7. **Other business – for future agenda –** recruit a new member and appoint a new chair.
 - a. **Brochure elements-** Not discussed.
8. **Approval of meeting minutes 5/8/19 and 6/18/19 (D&V)** - May minutes are not done. June minutes were approved. Motion by Jaime seconded by Alec and passed unanimously.
9. **Adjourn –** Meeting adjourned at 7:39 pm.