

**St. Albans City Parks Commission
Minutes of Meeting
Monday, November 3, 2014
Barlow Street Community Center**

A meeting of the St. Albans City Parks Commission was held on Monday, November 3, 2014, in the Barlow Community Center at 6:00 pm.

Commission Members Present: Peter Chevalier, Chair; Angie Sturm, Brianna Haenke, Barbara Weinstein & Joan McGinn.

Commission Members Absent: Jeff Young & Wendy Stous.

Staff Present: Kelly Viens, Director of Recreation.

1. Call to Order, Peter Chevalier, Chair.

Peter Chevalier called the meeting to order at 6:02 pm.

2. Review SWOT Analysis, Identify Priorities.

a. Taylor Park Priorities

Each member of the commission provided their top priorities (weaknesses and opportunities) for Taylor Park.

1. Electrical/utilities.
2. Garbage cans/recycling bins, security measures, trees.
3. Access to drinking water, garden maintenance.
4. Electrical/utilities, lighting, garbage cans.
5. Loitering, additional lighting, garbage cans, signage, ongoing security, condition & adversity of trees.
6. Electrical/utilities, condition of walkways, garbage cans.
7. Increased lighting (lamp posts matching streetscape), garbage cans, more events.

The general consensus of the commission for Taylor Park priorities are additional trash receptacles and lighting to match the streetscape of the downtown and to decrease loitering in the park, some of which will be reduced with additional lighting.

b. Houghton Park Priorities

Each member of the commission provided their top priorities (weaknesses and opportunities) for Houghton Park.

1. Cost of Maintenance in playground, replacement needed in playground, fencing.
2. Increased programming and presence, \$20,000 to spend on improvements and increased police presence.
3. Repair/replacement of playground, benches and shaded area, fencing.
4. Lighting, investigate conservation effort, drinking fountain.
5. Maintenance of playground, fencing, lighting.
6. New playground with fencing, rubber chips and matching grant, tables & benches, reassess overall maintenance, snow removal efforts and security needs.
7. Repair/replacement of playground, shaded area, overall maintenance of playground.
8. Drinking water, conservation efforts, increased programming.

The general consensus of the commission for Taylor Park priorities are repair/replacement of playground, cost and maintenance of playground, shaded area, increased programming & presence, drinking fountain, conservation efforts and lighting.

c. Barlow Park Priorities

Each member of the commission provided their top priorities (weaknesses and opportunities) for Barlow Park.

1. Parking, maintenance of playground, bathroom.
2. Making better use of property corridor along street, expand playground, police presence.
3. Maintenance of playground (rubber chips), bathroom.
4. Parking, maintenance of playground, bathroom, better use of property and police presence.
5. Review security plan, move tables, minor repairs and expansion of bathroom, inventive community art project.
6. Art display, make better use of property, move tables, landscaping.
7. Larger play equipment for older children, bathroom, maintenance of playground.

The general consensus of the commission for Barlow Park priorities are maintenance and expansion of playground, police presence/security and the bathroom.

Discussion ensued about having the representative from the playground company attend the December meeting and provide outlines of three playgrounds that he has built that would fall in the same price point that is available at the Barlow Park. Ms. Weinstein also asked that he speak about the pros and cons of rubber chips. Ms. McGinn recommended taking a site visit to see some of the playgrounds built in the City's price range.

3. Review Grant Application.

Ms. Weinstein noted the Kaboom grant and asked if it would be worth having Chip Sawyer apply for it. Ms. Viens responded affirmatively.

Ms. Viens confirmed that the pre- grant application has been sent in and staff will be contacted for a site visit in the near future. The final application will be submitted in February. Ms. Weinstein asked what percentage the grant will match. Ms. Viens responded that there is a 50% match.

4. Consider approval of meeting minutes: 10/6/14.

A motion was made by Peter Chevalier; seconded by Barbara Weinstein to approve meeting minutes from 10/6/14. Vote was unanimous, 5-0.

5. Other Business.

Mr. Chevalier reminded everyone of the Board Banquet at Twiggs on November 6th.

Discussion ensued about moving the next meeting from December 1st to December 8th if the representative from the playground company cannot attend on the 1st.

Barbara Weinstein commented that if appropriate, she would like her 7 year-old granddaughter to attend a future meeting to view playground plans when ready.

6. Adjourn.

A motion was made by Joan McGinn, seconded by Barbara Weinstein to adjourn. Vote was unanimous, 5-0.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kristen Smith
Administrative Coordinator