

MEETING MINUTES
ST. ALBANS CITY PARKS COMMISSION MEETING
RECREATION DEPARTMENT, 39 BARLOW STREET, 2ND FLOOR
6:00 PM TUESDAY, February 18th , 2019

Board Members Present:

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

Board Members Absent: Angie Sterm

Public Present:

Staff Present: Andrew Gratton: Recreation Program Manager

AGENDA

1. **Call to order:** Stina calls meeting to order at 6:00 pm

2. **Public Comment:** None to hear.

3. **Skipped to agenda item 6 – Updates on potential new member**

Introduced Kristen Poston as the newest member to the parks commission. After an interview with Mayor Tim Smith and Andrew Gratton and a ratification by City council Kristen was approved. This is her first meeting. Kristen did a short intro about her and her life. Everyone introduced themselves to Kristen.

4. **Update on past items:**

Benches: Updated Kristen and Joanie on memorial benches that were brought up last meeting. Talk about offering 2-3 different options with varying prices. Memorial benches would be funded 100% by the individual and placed by the city. Talk about offering a granite option to match the other benches in Taylor Park. Could be more expensive.

Edible Gardens: The group that visited us last year stopped by and mentioned to Andrew that they would like to put another edible garden in different location. Andrew informed the commission that they thought maybe Hard'ack, the pool, or Barlow street. Bill mentioned that he thought there were some issues with the current garden and its upkeep. This was echoed by the commission. Members mentioned that they were not opposed to expansion but they have some concerns with what is in existence is not currently being maintained to the best.

Trash Cans for Houghton: Jaime mentioned the trash cans for Houghton Park and what is the status on that. Andrew will check with Marty again on these. Last thing we knew they were on back order.

Little free library: Andrew will check the woman who was championing the project to see if her husband can build them for us. If not we will post on social media to see if we can get them built. Rec dept will fund the project.

The Labyrinth was brought up. Andrew was pretty sure the Town School design is done. The commission will visit the site in the spring to see if it would be a good option for the unused space at Barlow.

5. Pocket Park - Andrew brought up the idea that the Mayor had an idea for a pocket park for 3-7 year olds (little kids) on a lot that the City owns between Pine and Maple street. Andrew mentioned that our playground guy Bob will be stopping up to visit the area and see if it is worth putting a park there. Jaime wondered if maybe it could be used as a community space. Gardens, picnic tables and community space? The commission seems to be in favor of it just needs more details and word from Playground Bob.

6. Look for 2020- Jaime mentioned that maybe we could have a person take on the head of each project so that we can each assume some responsibility and not leave it all on one person. Joanie said that a budget may be hard to put together but Andrew brought up that we could put together a budget based on the trash cans, water fountain and other things that we have worked on in the past. This would be an easy way to draft a budget that holds water.

Joanie said we should take time to focus on each park and address what we need in each place. Taylor park is hard because we do not know when parts are going to be implemented. Stina asked me to check on a timeline for Taylor Park. Bill was wondering who owned the Messenger street school and that it would be a great place for a park in the north east corner of the city.

Houghton park focus:

- Trash cans status
- Drinking Fountain status (check in spring)
- Stina would like to see if the pavilion could be moved to Houghton is the pool passes. We need shade down there and it would be great for events. The pavilion would also be a great way to possibly rent out and make money that could be turned into a budget for the Parks Commission.
- Andrew showed some design ideas for new playground pieces at Houghton Park. One was a design to add a handicapped feature to the park. And one was a design to replace part of the park with some outdated features. We were happy with the handicapped feature but not the sensory panels that were in the design. With our money we the parks commission thought about just adding the handicapped feature without the panels.
 - o More handicapped options besides the spinner?
- Pruning on new trees to make sure they grow properly.
- Conversation with little league about re-doing, moving or shifting the current fields there to make them more desirable.

Barlow

- Joanie brought up the idea of the playground and if it needs to be updated. Andrew said that the fence could be removed and that would change it up. The commission seemed to agree, if it not compliant it should not be there. Andrew should check with Kelly as well as the afterschool staff and day camp to see what their thought on the fence are.

- Move or remove the big picnic tables from the far north east corner of the park. Jaime mentioned that the bugs are crazy over there.

Lots of mention about the Taylor Park Master plan and timeline. Commission members wondering what the status is for its implementation. Is there a timeline? Source of funding?

8. Approval of November minutes - Joanie makes a motion to approve the meeting minutes as listed. Seconded by Bill and Unanimously approved.

Bill brought up updating the Parks commission website with the current names.

9. Adjourn - Joanie makes the motion to adjourn at 7:32, seconded by Stina. Unanimously approved.