

Meeting Minutes for May 4, 2015

Diane Fenton called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone

In attendance: Brad Epperley, Diane Fenton, Jim Williamson, Mike Saylors, Mike Harris, Doris Oliver, Tonia Winn, Mike Barber, Tammy Caldwell, Pam Peyton, Kyle Theodore (Wood Partners), Trevor Kimzey (Gay and Neel)

Approved last month's minutes

No citizen comments

Diane Fenton turned meeting over to Brad. Due to time constraints Brad will not go over the progress report, but if anyone has any questions please feel free to come ask him. Brad introduced Ana who will be doing an internship through the Parks and Recreation Department soon.

Very busy day today working with Gay and Neel along with Wood Partners Inc. working on the Truman Wilson Park. This morning we went throughout the Town and toured all of the facilities and parks that we currently have within the Town. Then we went to an internal steering committee which is comprised of the Chief of Police, Director of Public Relations, Human Resources, Planning, Finance, Public Works, IT, and Engineering. All involved had great ideas. Right before the commission meeting there was a public input session and had a tremendous response to the public input. Baseball, softball, lacrosse, football, soccer, senior and special population groups along and neighbors of the Truman Wilson property were all here, very good turnout with mostly positive comments.

Brad turned meeting over to Trevor Kimzey Director of Engineering with Gay and Neel and Kyle Theodore from Wood Partners Inc. for their presentation. Trevor Kimzey introduced his team that they have put together to help Master Plan the Truman Wilson property. Trevor showed everyone a map of the 62 acre property and where the gas line runs through the property, north side of the gas line there is 34 acres and 26 acres to the south and there is a 2 acre easement for the gas line that cannot be changed and everyone will have to work around when developing the Truman Wilson property. The Master Plan process is the big picture and will take until the fall of 2015 to complete. After the process there will be one consensus Master Plan that will let everyone know what work that we will be doing and the cost of that work. Later in the process we will be designing and building once the money is available for the project. The first phase of the project would take about 4-6 months to design and a 12-18 month to build that phase. The Master Plan process is essentially different steps with the Kick Off meeting being task one of touring what the Town currently has which are good quality and well taken care of facilities and then having a public open house to receive feedback (both of which were completed today). The other step in this task is the Market Assessment to understand the business behind the Truman Wilson property concerning a business plan as we move forward is crucial. Is this park supposed to be designed for the wants and needs of the community with no economic purpose is one end of the spectrum, or the park can be entirely different like a pure sports tourism money making park? We will also have to have the experts look at the traffic study and see what is going to have to be done on that end of the spectrum to help with the flow of traffic. This will all be brought back to the steering committee and get feedback from them to get to the consensus Master Plan. From there the cost will be determined for the different phases. Turned over to Kyle Theodore for feedback from the Recreation Commission. Starting with Cultural Attractions and the desire for Town events music venue (amphitheater), then the passive use recreation facilities (components that don't include ball fields that have regular tournament use), the idea of rectangular fields (with the idea of using new style turf), the signature playground (that is very unique with a broad appeal) for children with all abilities, splash pad, fields set up similar to Harkrader Sports Complex, a dog park, the ability to connect to the Huckleberry Trail, a paved loop trail that connects, croquet,

shuffleboard, beach volleyball, possibly tennis courts, picnic shelters, and an open green space passive park area are all some interests that have been brought up. We want to be able to incorporate as many users as we can in this park and using the topography to our advantage to make a memorable experience for people. To be able to incorporate other things for families to do while at the sports tournaments is a big goal, nice family areas that make people want to come back. Some of the neighbors have been asking about the lighting and noise levels for the park, we ideally would like the lighting and the louder facilities (like ball fields and amphitheater) closest to the commercial side of the park so as not to disturb and be intrusive to the neighborhoods that surround the park. Another idea is like the Salem Jaycees, they built a smaller amphitheater that is used for smaller events and Salem also has a portable amphitheater that is amazing. It can be moved anywhere and this makes it more usable for a different variety events. There is a growing interest in bocce ball and horseshoe pits which would be a permanent structure, whereas shuffleboard and croquet could be moved around the park to different open grass areas. Maybe we could have one location in the park like an activity hut for people to be able to pick up equipment for different activities to do in the open areas (like bike rentals, corn hole, bocce ball, etc.). We also are going to need to take a look at Wi-Fi and the IT aspects of the park to have these things available for citizens. It was asked of everyone, "If there was one thing that you could accomplish in the park what would that one thing be?" Some of the answers were: the family aspects of the park for families to be able to come and just be able to hang out, some neat ball fields that would make people from far away want to come here and play, to have some great rectangular fields for our area, open space for playground and splash pads, an overall feel that we have a place where someone can do multiple things, a paved trail around the park that would connect to our Huckleberry, to have different items for children to do when they are here for their siblings games, something to benefit everyone, something to keep the seniors active, picnic shelters that could be used for programs and rentals, the turf rectangular fields so they won't get as torn up as quickly. The group will come back to the Recreation Commission for review and input; the next step will be a bubble diagram from the feedback. The Commission was asked to start thinking about the funding and that will help determine the priorities for the park. This will also be something that has to be discussed with Town Council for different funding options. It has been great to hear the different mindsets and ideas from everyone.

Meeting adjourned

Next meeting will be June 1, 2015