

PARKS COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

MONDAY JULY 30, 2018

PRESENT: C. Sprague, T. French, S. Sutton, M. Genung, Alderman Doliver, Mayor Carnrike

Guests: Hannah Baker, Kathleen Campbell

A meeting was held at South Broad Street Park in response to correspondence received from Ms. Hannah Baker regarding her proposal for the creation of a dog park and willingness to raise funds for the project. The primary cost of the project is fence materials and labor for installation. Estimates for the proposal as drawn ranged from \$9,000 to 15,000 for fence installation.

Ms. Baker reviewed the drawings of her plan with the Commission and the group walked the area in the northwest corner of the park approximately where the proposed fencing would be installed. Afterwards, lengthy discussions were held on numerous topics including potential impact to the park's neighbors, City property lines, the size of the fenced area, it's position and orientation in the park, the type of fencing that might be used, doggie bags, mowing logistics, and potential rules and regulations to be posted on site.

The Commission is generally pleased with the proposal, but the general consensus was that the enclosed area might not be big enough, especially the area for the larger dogs. The possibility of removing the basketball hoop was raised. This basketball court is a half-court and is underutilized and may be better off if moved to a more visible area at another park. Removing the basketball hoop would allow the fenced area to include the majority of the rear of the park, staying behind the existing playground equipment. This would substantially increase the size of the dog park, as well as the cost.

In regard to potential neighbor concerns, Mayor Carnrike suggested that Alderman Caldwell may be interested in going door to door with Ms. Baker to speak with each of the parks neighbors to get a sense of what might be done to ease any concerns. The possibility of using privacy fence or planting trees for a screen was mentioned.

A motion was made by S. Sutton to send Ms. Baker's proposal for the creation of a dog park in South Broad Street Park to the Common Council for preliminary approval so that she may begin fundraising. T. French seconded the motion and with no further discussion, all ayes.

Alderman Doliver reports that he has had very good success with the Free Library project. Presently there are Free Libraries installed under the pavilions in Kurt Beyer, Weiler, and South Broad Street Park. He is requesting on behalf of the Guernsey Library to install a fourth Free Library in the pavilion in Greenway Park. M. Genung motions to allow the addition of a Free Library to Greenway Park. The motion is seconded by T. French and with no further discussion held, all ayes.

The sign at Auburn Park is in disrepair. The plan was to replace the sign for the renaming of the park to Carnrike Park when the donated parcel to the south was completed. However, the closing has taken longer than anticipated due to other legal priorities and the sign may need to be taken down in the meantime. An estimate, if not already obtained, will be requested on the construction of a new sign in the same style as the other parks.

C. Sprague was notified by a concerned neighbor about a potential campsite in the far northeast corner of Rotary Park. Alderman Doliver and Mayor Carnrike said they would have the police investigate. A discussion followed on the necessity of an ordinance against camping in the city parks, but it was determined that it was not needed due to the current ordinance regarding closing hours of the parks. S. Sutton raised the possibility that camping could be allowed with a permit, and that this had been discussed in the past for special events.

With no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:05pm.