

August 17, 2020

Members present: Swanger, Schaber, Daniels

With a quorum present, Mrs. Swanger called the meeting to order at 7:53 PM.

Minutes:

Schaber made a motion to approve the minutes of 03/02/2020; Daniels 2nd; Roll Call: Ayes – Swanger, Schaber, Daniels; Nays – none

Minutes of 03/02/2020 approved

Old Business:

New Business:

Item 1. RESOLUTION ASKING THE MARION CITY COUNCIL TO APPROVE THE COLLABORATION OF THE MARION PEP CLUB WITH THE MARION CITY PARKS DEPARTMENT

Service Director Chaffin explained that this partnership will result in removing and installing a new playground at McKinley Park. Marion Pep Club would take the lead with the approval of the city.

Christy Neff explained that The Marion Pep (Parks Enhancement Project) Club was formed out of the Marion Area Chamber of Commerce's 2018 Marion Leadership Program. She serves as the Chairperson of the 7-member board. Their project started as making a new park and then changed to be a support system for the existing parks. There are 19 parks in city. Their mission is to work with the Marion Parks Department to enhance and beautify existing parks. They have established a 501c3. They work closely with Mike Chaney and have done small projects so far, i.e. mulching. They are collaborating with Rotary who wants to support this through their 100-year project. This formal collaboration would help them to move forward with the proposed project and potentially allow naming rights.

Mike Chaney explained that this is a great opportunity for the Parks Department. He has been working with the PEP Club to establish capital needs. The 501c3 will give them the opportunity to apply for grants that he has missed in the past due to lack of matching funds. The City will have some costs for some of the projects, especially in-kind, but the cost to the city will be much less than the overall cost. Much of what they do would replace an annual maintenance activity. Project Playground is 28 years old.

Christy Neff said that the structure is ADA compliant and designed for all abilities. One main structure 5-12, 2-5, swings and small structures the surfacing will be "poured in place" surfacing so it will allow anyone with mobility issues to access the playground

Ratliff asked for clarification regarding the "retaining the naming rights" comment. Neff explained that they may want to change name based on a large donor. They would

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need to have approval of county commissioners. Ratliff said he is not sure that county commissioners be involved. He cannot support if it is contingent on name change or at least retain the final say. Mrs. Neff said it was the board of park commissioners. Mrs. Swanger asked about maybe retaining the park name but having a sponsor sign in front of the equipment. She assured that this would be "proposed", and they would bring several proposals before the commission. Mrs. Swanger said if this passes, they have the right to name the playground not the park. Chaffin assured that they would come back to council regarding any proposed changes.

Schaber asked if they had funds, or are they trying to get funds? Mrs. Neff said that this resolution would allow them to commit to donors because they would have approval/permission to place things/work on City property.

Brandy Downes (631 Cherry Street) asked about the handicapped accessibility. Is it beyond surfacing? Neff replied yes that this does include equipment that is adaptive to individual user needs.

Schaber clarified that resolution will give permission to seek funding, build apparatus (with no plans provided), and give you permission to name it (and we will not find out until later). Chaffin said that this is not a blanket approval. It is a step by step process throughout the project and Council will be kept in the loop as things occur. This is the first step and will allow access to funding that the City cannot obtain on its own. The structure they are considering would cost the City \$250,000. This is not approval to do anything they want. We will be communicating back and forth all along. This will give them credibility with funders and shows that they are part of a true partnership with the city.

Neff said that what they are looking at is about a \$500,000 but can save up to \$130,000 if they can show the partnership with the city.

Mayor explained that this is not a new concept for the City. He appreciates the efforts of the class of 2018 to take the initiative to get a 501C3, which is not an easy thing to do.

Motion made by Schaber to send to council with an emergency clause added; Swanger 2nd. Ayes – Swanger, Schaber Nays -- Daniels

Legislation recommended to council (2-1)

Other Business:

With no other business to be heard, the meeting was adjourned at 8:15 PM.

Chairman Swanger

Clerk of Council