

**CITY OF WARREN PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
FEBRUARY 3, 2015**



The meeting was called to order at 4:35 PM, February 3, 2015. Members present were Jackie Angove, Dennis Crandall, Todd Ristau, Kirk Johnson and Mike Suppa. Judy Wilson and Mark Zavinski were absent. Also attending was Mary Ann Nau, City Administrator; David Hildebrand, Planner/Development Administrator; and Sandy Larson, Clerk.

VISITORS

Robert Anderson – WTO
Celia Knapp – Master Gardener
Josie Gerardi – Street Landscape Committee

MINUTES

Upon Motion by Mrs. Angove and second by Mr. Suppa, the minutes of the November 4, 2014 were unanimously approved with the changing of the date on the header from October 7 to November 4.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

The Commission unanimously agreed to postpone the election of officers until the April 7, 2015 regular meeting.

STAFF REPORTS

Betts Park – Mrs. Nau stated that the Betts Park updates are progressing with the plan of keeping the concession stand with upgrades to the restrooms for ADA compliance.

In response to Mr. Crandall's question, Mrs. Nau stated they the electricity for the ball field lights are paid by the City and she will look into the times for the lights.

BUSINESS

Street Landscape Committee. Josie Gerardi addressed the Commission regarding planting sites in several parks within the City. The following was discussed:

- Clemons Park – Remove the current shrubbery and have new and more appealing shrubbery planted.
- DeFrees Park – Plan a row of shrubs for privacy by the sandbox.
- Wetmore – The Landscape Committee would like to plant the 2015 Arbor Day Tree in this park.
- Liberty Park – Mrs. Gerardi stated that an employee from McKissock recently passed away and a group of employees would like to do a memorial planting along the back of the Santa house. The Commission discussed the condition of the Santa house and the possibility of it being removed.

Upon motion by Mr. Ristau and second by Mrs. Angove, the Commission unanimously approved to recommend the memorial to City Council for consideration.

Community Garden. Mrs. Knapp asked if there was a City Park that is not currently being used that could be turned into a City/Community Garden. Mrs. Knapp further stated that the park must have sun at a minimum of 6 hours per day, water supply would be a plus along with ample parking. Mr. Knapp stated that a Committee would need to be formed along with advertising to get the word out.

Mr. Hildebrand stated that the majority of the City parks are developed and are pretty full. Mr. Hildebrand asked if they have considered the State Hospital grounds.

After further discussion about the State Hospital Grounds being an ideal location, however, it may be hard to obtain cooperation with the State.

Mrs. Nau stated that another option would be any vacant lots within the City. Mrs. Knapp stated that she would have to find out who the owner is and approach them with the idea.

Mrs. Knapp stated that once the weather improves, she will walk around and look at different places. Mrs. Nau stated that she will get a list of passive parks for her review.

Mrs. Nau stated that a dog park was suggested and is desired, however, it is tough getting things started. Mrs. Nau further stated that a Community Garden could be tough due to vandalism and lack of respect.

Mrs. Nau stated that another possibility would be the property on Fourth Avenue which is owned by Whirley.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Commission, Mr. Crandall declared the meeting adjourned.