

City of Merriam Park & Recreation
Advisory Board Meeting Minutes
Tuesday June 27, 2017
6:00 pm

Roll Call

The June meeting of the Merriam Parks & Recreation Advisory Board was called to order at 6:01 pm, by Chairperson Tom Heffron. Board members in attendance included: Kathy Stull, Grant Getzlow, Katie Leary, Thelma Fowler, Suzanne Downey and Billy Crook. Absent: LaVera Howard. Staff members in attendance included: Anna Slocum, Director; Dave Smothers, Assistant Director and Sara Thompson, Recreation Supervisor.

Public Comments

No guests.

Approval of Meeting Minutes

Katie Leary made a motion to accept the May meeting minutes and Billy Crook seconded the motion; motion passed unanimously.

Staff Reports

Director's Report

Park Sign Update

Park signs are complete at Werner, Quail Creek, Waterfall and Campbell Parks. Landscaping will be installed in the fall.

Facilities Update

City Council passed the resolution to place building a new community center on a mail-in ballot.

An educational campaign is in place with speaking engagements on the calendar and a rack card with explanations of the concept available soon. Groups targeted include home owners' associations, civic groups, and MPRD special events throughout the summer. Around August 25, registered Merriam voters will receive a ballot via postal service. Return date is noon, September 15 to the election office.

There was discussion about advocacy groups and yard signs. There has been research completed regarding advocacy groups that will be forwarded. In addition, the City code has strict rules regarding signage. Staff will investigate the code and send requirements once known to all members.

Seasonal Facilities Report

This report is generated monthly for City Council to review attendance numbers of the Merriam Aquatic Center and the Farmers' Market. Due to public health concerns, the aquatic center was closed due to fecal contamination on June 18 and 19. Since all pools drain through one filter all areas had to be closed and super chlorinated.

Recreation Report Winter/Spring

This report compares registrants and participation for 2016 and 2017 for Winter/Spring sessions. Attendance decreased slightly, staff attributes this to losing the theatre program Stage Bound and cooler weather for Turkey Creek Festival. Daily visits and rentals were also slightly lower. Adult programs and senior programs held steady.

Assistant Director's Report

Updates

Farmers' Market

The report in the packet does not include the numbers from Saturday, June 24 with 920 in attendance that day. To entice families to the Market there are Food Trucks on Wednesday evenings, special events for children such as planting flower pots and a vegetable food factor. The Season attendance has decreased 40% in comparison to 2016 however; vendor participation has increased 13%.

Quail Creek Playground Update

Main playground has shipped and will be at Public Works, the palmetto swings from Germany will arrive mid to late July. There was a piece that was damaged that had to be returned and replaced. After the July 21 Party in Your Park, the old playground will be demolished with the goal that the new playground will be ready by Labor Day.

Upcoming Events

Art Gallery

Thursday, July 6, 2017 is the next art gallery opening night reception "Past, Present, Future with works by LD Herman, Pam Matthiesen and Robert Matthiesen.

Recreation Supervisor Report

Updates

Turkey Creek Festival Evaluation

Festival has new sponsors, new concessionaires, new locations for various activities and a record high participation of runners registered in the 5K. The weather was rainy and cool with attendance at 4,556. Coffee News KC was a new marketing piece this year and FinditKC (Facebook®) still proves to be the most noted promotion, billboard expenditure will be reviewed. Dot Survey used to allow families to give feedback. Expenditures Aggreko increased by \$500 however using the stage thru Box of Chalk was \$500 less than KCMO boomer wagon. Strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and thoughts were discussed along with questions.

June Summer Sunday Evaluation

There were not as many attendees as May event, but still a good turnout and a great band, The Collective featuring Brother John. Wind was severe enough the inflatable company could not tether and stake the inflatable. Staff will have a back-up activity for future windy weather conditions.

Party in YOUR Park-Brown Evaluation

Special thanks for Councilman Scott Diebold and Park Board Member Grant Getzlow for canvassing the Brown Park neighborhood with half sheet fliers. Activities were yard games, face painting, inflatable, Facility Master plan information, meal of walking tacos, watermelon, water and lemonade. There was a ribbon cutting of the new pavilion. Attendance was 189.

CSI Merriam

This is the second year for Merriam Police Department and Merriam Parks and Recreation Department to collaborate on the morning workshop. The workshop allows youth to interact with the police and see some of the equipment they use in investigations.

Upcoming Events

Party in YOUR Park-Quail Creek

The party is scheduled for Friday, July 21, with music by Pasttense. There will be yard games, walking tacos, watermelon, beverages, face painting and Facility Master Plan information. Katie Leary lives in this ward and has volunteered to take fliers door to door. Councilman Pape will also be contacted.

Frosty Pop with a Cop

This is the second year for Merriam Police Officers to be at the pool to visit with families and distribute frosty pops to pool goers.

Thank Goodness it's Food Truck Friday

This is the third year to coordinate Food trucks to be present during Flags4Freedom. In 2015, there were 504 diners with mild weather, in 2016 it was the day after the 4th and many people were off work and out of town, attendance at 231. Staff hopes to changing it to Friday there will be better participation.

New Business

Discussion regarding the social media tool "Next Door in Merriam". Park Board and Staff are to direct people to the mprfacilities.org page for positive and factual information as it explains what a YES vote means and what a NO vote means.

Other Business

The Kansas Recreation and Park Association traveled to Blue Valley's new Recreation Center on Friday, June 10 and interviewed two Merriam families. The Heffron and the Rodriguez families shared their experience about their involvement with Merriam Parks and Recreation. KRPA staff also visited the Farmers' Market Saturday June 11. Staff will share the video release date when it is known.

Adjournment

Kathy Stull moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:35 pm and Thelma Fowler seconded; motion was approved.