

# City of Aurora Park Board

Aurora City Hall  
City Council Chambers  
2 W. Pleasant

Aurora, Missouri

Thursday, March 16th, 2023 6:00 PM

3/16/2023 - Minutes

## 1. CALL TO ORDER

*President Deb Dillman called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM*

### 1.I. ROLL CALL

- President Dillman – *Present*
- Vice President - Vacant
- Board Member Brammell - *Present*
- Board Member Kennedy – *Present*
- Board Member Murray – *Present*
- Board Member Pettit – *Present*
- Board Member Williams – *Present*
- Councilwoman Pettit – *Present, ex officio*
- City Manager, Jon Holmes – *Present, ex officio*
- Interim Parks Director, Travis Wittenborn – *Present, ex officio*

*President Dillman introduced the newest board member, David Brammell.*

## 2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

### 2.I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

City of Aurora Park Board Meeting - December 15, 2022

*Board Member Pettit made a motion to approve Park Board Minutes from December 15, 2022. Board Member Williams seconded the motion. Motion passed with votes documented as follows:*

- President Dillman – *Aye*
- Vice President - Vacant
- Board Member Brammell - *Aye*
- Board Member Kennedy – *Aye*
- Board Member Murray – *Aye*
- Board Member Pettit – *Aye*
- Board Member Williams – *Aye*

## 3. NEW BUSINESS

### 3.I Election of Vice President

*President Dillman explained the main duty of the Vice President is to serve as acting President in the absence of the President of the Board. Board Member Kennedy nominated herself to be Vice President of the Board. Board Member Pettit made a motion to elect Board Member Kennedy as Vice President, and Board Member Williams seconded the motion. Motion passed with votes documented as follows:*

- President Dillman – *Aye*
- Board Member Brammell - *Aye*

- Board Member Kennedy – Aye
- Board Member Murray – Aye
- Board Member Pettit – Aye
- Board Member Williams – Aye

### 3.II MPRA Conference Reports

- *Interim Parks Director Travis Wittenborn, Vice President Kennedy, Board Member Williams, Council Liaison Pettit, and President Dillman each shared the highlights and insights learned in the varying classes attended at the MPRA Conference, as pertaining to the Aurora Recreational Center and the Aurora City Parks.*
- *Council Liaison Pettit's notes attached*

### 3.III Staff Updates

- *Interim Parks Director, Travis Wittenborn gave an update on the City's Youth Basketball League and Youth Soccer League. For the City's first Youth Soccer League, over 100 children (ages 3 – 11 years old) have been broken up into 10 teams with 8 businesses participating as Sponsors. The Parks Department is working on the fields and getting all the facilities ready for the upcoming season. The Grand Opening of the Aurora Dog Park is scheduled for April 22<sup>nd</sup> and a Parks Clean-Up Day is scheduled for May 6<sup>th</sup>.*
- *City Manager, Jon Holmes addressed concerns about Legion Field. Legion Field is in a flood plain and is rarely used due to frequent flooding and moisture. City Manager, Jon Holmes sought agreement of the Park Board to present the idea to Council of beginning the process of disassembling Legion Park; removing fencing, bleachers, and other useful items, as plans are to move the fields to Baldwin Park in future. The Park Board then voted unanimously to present said idea to Council.*
- *City Manager, Jon Holmes continued to update the Park Board on grants both received and submitted and how they are being used and will be used as for the City of Aurora Parks, Recreational Center, trails, and bridges. ARPA grant money is currently being used to extend Wi-Fi to City facilities, the property for the Aurora Rec Center, Maple Park Cemetery, and City Parks.*

### 3.IV Plans for Summer and Fall Activities/Events

- *Plans for Summer and Fall Activities and Events were then discussed. The Aurora Youth Soccer League will end mid-May, ushering in Adult Softball Leagues for the Summer and another Soccer League for the fall. Several other ideas were mentioned for sports leagues and tournaments, including 3-on-3 basketball tournaments and disc golf tournaments.*

### 3.V Update from Decision-Making Team

- *Councilwoman Pettit gave a brief update from the Decision-Making Team. Soil samples will be taken for a detention pond on a portion of the Rec Center property. The Decision-Making Team also decided to reduce the size of the overall floorplan from 9,000 sq ft to 7,600 sq ft, reducing the overall cost to fit within the \$12M budget.*
- *A traffic study has not yet been completed pertaining to the entrance to the property from Hadley.*

### 3.VI Operational Feasibility Study

- *Councilwoman Pettit continued with an update concerning the Operational Feasibility Study. Ballard King and Associates and the City of Aurora have signed an agreement for Ballard King and Associates to assist the City in generating ideas for programs to begin with, the cost of running the Aurora Rec Center, staffing, etc.*
- *A meeting will be held at City Hall on Wednesday, March 22, from 2PM-6PM with Ballard King and Associates and City of Aurora Council to further discuss these plans.*

## 4. ADJOURNMENT

*Vice President Kennedy made a motion to adjourn at 7:50 PM. Board member Pettit seconded the motion. Motion passed with votes documented as follows:*

- President Dillman – Aye
- Vice President Kennedy - Aye
- Board Member Brammell - Aye
- Board Member Murray – Aye

3/22/23, 12:20 PM

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- Board Member Pettit – Aye
- Board Member Williams – Aye

Tuesday, February 14<sup>th</sup>

**1:00 p.m. – 2:05 p.m.**

**Getting a "GRASP" on Scholarships- Theresa Pettit**

1. Presented from Grandview Rec Center
2. GRASP – Grandview Recreation Assistance Scholarship Program.
3. Started as challenge from City Council
4. Get grass roots from community support.
5. Get school involved and ensure they share costs.
6. Child 20/ month or \$200 a year
7. Adult \$55/mo or \$550/ year
8. Scholarships based on free or reduced lunch letter from schools
9. 50% on programs and 75% on swim lessons (life Skill)
10. Brochures and application sample
11. Qualify if 17 and under. Cap the # of scholarships available. Each participant capped at \$170 / year. Apply yearly. Participant can do 2 programs.
12. Funded by:
  - a. Grants/ Gala/ "Round up" on memberships/ Dine&Donate / individuals\*\*Other attendees recommended
  - a. Volunteering in already organized fund raisers to get "piece of the pie" (Turkey Trot)

**2:20 p.m. – 3:25 p.m.**

**Design-Build Method vs Traditional Design-Build Method- Theresa Pettit**

1. Instead of hiring an architect, construction crew – they do it ALL
2. Able to do so by new MO statute 67.5060
3. Overall fee less (3% V 10%)
4. Turn key operation – do it all
5. Presented by Byrne & Jones

**3:40 p.m. – 4:45 p.m.**

**Sensory Programs that just Make CENTS- Theresa Pettit**

1. Each Thursday of month to have a sensory day.
2. Example of a sand or water table available. Focus on 2-5 year olds
3. Sensory path.
  - a. Different things found on the walking paths. ID:
    - i. ABC's
    - ii. Feel good phrases.
    - iii. Games to play (hop scotch)
    - iv. Tell a story on path
    - v. Paint animals and have signs to read about them
    - vi. Different foliage to identify
4. Nixa won MML innovation award for this.

Wednesday, February 15<sup>th</sup>

**8:00 Roundtable discussion**

**9:00 a.m. – 10:05 a.m.**

*Inclusify Your First Aid-*

1. Focused on diversity of inclusion of LBGTQ group.
2. Concern with delay in treatment when gender revealed.
3. Some may want "same gender" to help
4. Encourage non gender specific language. Use their instead of he or she
5. Have inclusive 1<sup>st</sup> aid kits (varied skin tone bandages etc)
6. Variety of ways to communicate. White board, markers, visual card etc.

**10:20 a.m. – 11:25**

**Improving Construction Site Soil Conditions with Cover Crops Theresa Pettit**

1. Presented by certified arborists
2. Used very natural way to restore soil after construction
3. Instead of hard chemicals, used plantings and recommend native plantings.
4. Example of instead of bringing in new top soil,
  - a. planting rows of corn and native plants between rows (turnips/ carrots)
  - b. could harvest vegetation in fall
  - c. "roll over" foliage in the fall and replant on it in the spring
  - d. Native plants will give deeper roots for water absorption
5. Suggested planting times and getting soil tested.
6. Youtube – Gabe Brown – No till farming
7. Some plant modification to make plants "glow in the dark" to use along trails

Thursday February 16<sup>th</sup>

**9:00 a.m. – 10:05 a.m.**

Meaningful Placemaking for outdoor spaces.

1. May is skin cancer awareness month. Most skin damage before age 10.
2. sales pitch
3. Reduces heat on surface
4. Structures easier to manage than trees. (<maintenance, leaves, growth, leaves, storm)
5. Span 60-80 feet
6. Structure to hold up to 5# snow load and 90 mph wind.
7. several types of material lasting 10-30 years.
8. Pricing 50-\$75 / sf

**10:20 – 11:25 AM**

**The National Digital Trails Project**

1. Goal to connect ALL trails thru US government
2. Build nationwide trail
3. Stay off private land
4. Slope / grade 3-15%

**1:00 p.m. – 2:05 p.m.**

**Amphitheater Anatomy- Theresa Pettit**

1. Presented by RDG
2. How landscaping can bring community together
3. Determine what events will be hosted at amphitheater
4. Stage can be constructed to use different ways for big or small events
5. Performers easy in and out.
6. Bands need 30 x 50 stage
7. Plan for semi truck delivery of performers items
8. Use experience is HUGE to be successful.
9. Biggest money makers are country with beer sales BUT a lot of clean up
10. MOST built with private funding
11. Consider how many seats will determine how many bathrooms

**2:20 p.m. – 3:25 p.m.**

*EAP as a Benefit Solution*

1. SALES pitch from MIRMA
2. Employee Assistance Program
3. Primary focus was mental health , substance abuse, family counseling
4. Employees pay 100% of additional premiums for benefits (disability, accidental, life)
5. Promote better attendance and retention and reduced injuries

**3:40 p.m. – 4:45 p.m.**

**What's the Purpose of your F.A.C.E.? Theresa Pettit**

1. Decide who is responsible to put info into your system.
2. Can use program to keep track of equipment maintenance.
3. More detailed information put in the better use it is for reports
4. Another program is Playground Guardian / Manager plus – Spfd uses
5. Provide inspection records
6. Show age of equipment and warranties.
7. Tree Keeper – a software for trees.
8. Tree memorial area.

**Roundtable post conference**

1. Missouri Common Ground Alliance – held in Spfd. Big on safety. Sign up in Summer
2. With town surveys—5% response is good.
3. Consider marijuana tax on ballot.
4. Homelessness / vandalism – use of cameras and police presence considering mental health issues.
5. Narcan should be in 1<sup>st</sup> aid kits.
6. Encourage safety training. “stop the bleed”
7. Load securement – MOSHP teaches it – how to secure things to haul.
8. Heidi in Lamar will reach out to Travis about SWMO softball league

### Suggestions

To decrease expense:

1. arrive day of conference since it starts in afternoon.
2. Leave day of conference.

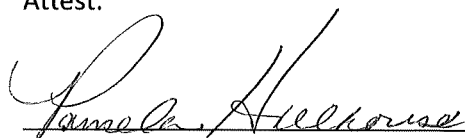
Approved:



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**Deb Dillman, President**

Attest:



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**Pamela Hillhouse, Secretary**