



WILDWOOD®

## Parks Action Plan Update Committee Minutes from the Wednesday, November 14, 2018 Meeting

### I. Welcome to Committee Members and Opening Remarks

The meeting was called to order by Chair Garrett at 6:35 p.m.

### II. Roll Call of Members

A roll call of members was taken, with the following results:

*Committee Members Present:* Napoli, Coverdell, McCune, Broyles, Pickett, Commission Liaison Beattie, Council Liaison Gragnani, Council Liaison Bertolino, and Chair Garrett

*Committee Members Absent:* Strand and Gillman

#### *Other Officials*

*and Staff in Attendance:* Council Members Shea and Woerther, Director of Planning and Parks Vujnich, Assistant Director of Planning and Parks Arnett, and Superintendent of Parks and Recreation Crews

### III. Review of Tonight's Agenda Items

Chair Garrett noted there is a group of the public in attendance and noted the agenda would be amended to address 'Public Comments,' after the minutes, but before the review of the rest of the agenda.

### IV. Review and Action on the Meeting Minutes from October 23, 2018

A motion was made by Committee Member Coverdell, seconded by Committee Member Broyles, to approve the October 23, 2018 minutes. A voice vote was taken on the minutes, with no opposition (Committee Member McCune and Commission Liaison Beattie both abstained), and the motion was declared approved by Chair Garrett.

### X. Public Comments

Laurie Meacham, 1470 St. Paul Road, noted she lives across the street from Belleview Farms Park. She read a written statement from the Sherman Community noting requests for modifications to the proposed changes to the plan. A copy of the statement is attached to these minutes, as part of the record. These questions and requests include: Recommendation #9 – is the 'desire of residents' referencing Wildwood residents or Sherman also? They want to ensure any proposal for Belleview Farms has the full support of the Sherman

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residents. They also want the deed referenced within the plan, as well as the intent for conservation preservation. Finally, they are seeking Sherman residents identified as a potential partner of the City.

The Chair asked for a show of hands in support of Ms. Meacham's statement. Three (3) persons in attendance raised their hand.

Donnie Heth, 384 Crest Drive, noted his property is adjacent to Belleview Farms. He noted the community of Sherman is unanimously opposed to the development of a mountain bike park on the Belleview Farms property. He believes the property should only be used as a wildlife preserve and noted the Sherman Community wants to be named as partners with the City in the development of this property. He submitted a copy of his comments for the record, which are attached to the minutes.

#### V. Presentation of Displays and Discussion of Format for Public Open Houses

Chair Garrett requested Department staff provide an overview of the displays for the planned public Open Houses. Director Vujnich noted consensus had been reached among the Committee, at its previous meeting, to have an Open House format with five (5) stations, each representing an Action Point. Each station would have the Goals and Recommendations of each Action Point and, where applicable, visual aids to accompany them. Attendees will also be given a copy of the proposed plan. He requested two (2) volunteers for each station to monitor and lead discussion with attendees. He also noted comment cards will be provided for additional input at the Open Houses.

Discussion was then held among the Committee Members regarding the following: the potential for adding photographs of Village Green examples at the station for Action Point #5; the desire to identify a specific date relative to the Parks Sales Tax in Action Point #4. Consensus was then reached to include words that say "preferably the April 2, 2019 date," as the ballot date for the Parks Sales Tax; the potential for two (2) sets of displays at each station, so attendees aren't overcrowded; the fact that people are starting to receive their postcards notifying them of the Open Houses; the Department's intention for promoting the sessions on social media, as well; the request to add details to the inset on Village Greens, noting Crestview Drive and identifying City Hall; the request on the inset showing City parks to add the Ward 5 park, as "proposed," on the map; the request for the display, in conjunction with Action Point #3, to show the Pruitt Property and proposed trail through Rockwoods Reservation; and the desire of the Committee Members to be as visual as possible and show examples of a splash pad (specifically, the facility at Missouri Botanical Garden), pocket park, etc., including any tables and/or definitions of types of park and park sizes.

The Chair asked for expected attendance of Committee Members at public Open Houses: all Committee Members noted they intended to attend both Open Houses.

Discussion was then held regarding the final items relative to the public Open Houses: could there be information on parks sales tax at Open House, especially if, after Tuesday's Planning and Parks Committee meeting, it is endorsed by its members; Staff noted they would find the fact sheet from the 2008 effort and update it for the Open Houses; and the Committee will use the Open Houses to listen and gain feedback, not for strong advocacy.

#### VI. Memorandum to City Council on Park Sales Tax Proposal for April 2019 Ballot

Director Vujnich reviewed the memorandum provided to City Council, which noted a ¼ percent tax is projected to garner \$350,000.00 in revenue each year. A draft ordinance was also provided, which was

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preliminary and can be amended, but did provide the language of a potential ballot. He requested the Committee members provide any suggested changes/modifications to Staff within the next few days.

Discussion was then held regarding the following: Committee Member McCune noted her concerns with the amount of money, effort, and support, if the parks sales tax is on the April ballot. She is concerned that there is not enough time, or funding, and the rush now associated with it is wrong; the slim margin the tax was defeated by in 2008; the short timeframe, to place the issue on the April 2, 2019 ballot, which is not impossible; the minimal cost with placing an item on the ballot; the potential for placing the tax on the ballot, even if there is not a Committee to support it; the ultimate decision for the placement of the tax on a ballot is up to City Council; and the potential for using a property tax, instead of a sales tax.

Public Comment: Tammy Shea, City Council Ward 3, noted the tax should be on a ballot, when the group is more prepared, and her belief that, without an organized effort the tax, will not pass.

Motion was made by Committee Member McCune to not proceed with parks sales tax request to City Council for April ballot. Commission Liaison Beattie seconded the motion.

Discussion was then held regarding presenting the tax to City Council, but not providing a date to it.

A voice vote was taken on the motion, with a count of 2 to 7 in opposition (McCune and Pickett voted nay), and the motion was declared failed by Chair Garrett.

A motion was made by Committee Member Coverdell, seconded by Committee Member Napoli, to present a parks sales tax to the City Council, with the hope it will be on the April 2, 2019 ballot, but to let them determine if the appropriate date is 2019 or 2020.

The maker of the motion, and second, then amended it to present a parks sales tax to City Council with them determining the appropriate ballot it should be placed on. A voice vote was taken on the amended motion, with a vote of 8 to 1 (Committee Member McCune opposed), and it was declared approved by Chair Garrett.

The Committee then requested the Department amend the language of Action Item #4, Recommendation #1, to reflect the language of the motion.

#### VII. Presentation of Final **Draft** of Revised "Citizens Committee for Park Progress Action Plan 2007" – Pages 1 through 46

Director Vujnich reviewed the compilation of changes recommended by the Committee, now all of which were shown in bold red font. He noted the Department was not seeking action, but wanted to ensure the Committee thought the revised form was legible and appropriate for the upcoming Open Houses.

Chair Garrett noted the Committee would discuss the modifications at its December 5<sup>th</sup> meeting.

#### VIII. Next Steps, Including Final Actions and Public Forums/Open Houses

Consensus was reached to maintain the Public Open House schedule (November 27<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup>) and the next Committee meeting would be held on December 5<sup>th</sup>.

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X. Public Comment

Paul Koeppel, 18615 Hardt Road, noted the latest edition of Terrain Magazine had a readers' poll and Wildwood was voted the 3<sup>rd</sup> best Outdoor City in the region.

IX. Next Meeting Dates – Public Open Houses: November 27, 2018 (Tuesday) & November 29, 2018 (Thursday); and Committee Meeting: December 5, 2018 (Wednesday)

No changes to upcoming schedule.

XI. Other Items of Interest

Committee Member McCune requested information in response to the Sherman residents' statements: Director Vujnich noted their comments can be added with other Open House input and all will be discussed on December 5<sup>th</sup>. This meeting could be the final of the Committee, but only if they determine it. If another meeting is needed to finalize all comments and have time for discussion, it could be scheduled at that time.

Staff noted they would send out a reminder Monday, before Open Houses, which would include logistics and additional information.

It was noted that, if Committee Members had a station of their preferences please let Kathy know. Otherwise, staff will fill in, where help is needed.

XII. Closing Remarks and Adjournment

A motion was made by Committee Member McCune, seconded by Commission Liaison Beattie, to adjourn the meeting. A voice vote was taken, with unanimous approval, and Chair Garrett declared the meeting adjourned at 8:02 p.m.

## Kathy Arnett

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**From:** Krista Taves <revkristataves@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 13, 2018 4:34 PM  
**To:** Kathy Arnett  
**Cc:** Laurie Mecham; Schuyler Hagglund  
**Subject:** Statement from Sherman residents regarding the Parks Action Update Plan to be discussed 11/113/18

Hi Kathy,

Gary suggested that I contact you. Our community will be present at the Parks Action Update Meeting tomorrow night. We have a statement that we will present tomorrow night, but I wanted to send this on ahead of time so that the committee could have a chance to review it, given that we have several suggestions that we would like considered. So would you please send this on to the team?

Thank you so much,  
Krista Taves  
1470 St. Paul Road  
Ballwin MO 63021  
(417) 343-8657.

To the Parks Action Update Committee:

Those of us in Sherman have carefully reviewed the Parks Actions Update Plan, particularly the portions that pertain to Belleview Farms Park. This statement reflects the wishes of our community:

First, we would like to thank you for your careful consideration of our concerns regarding the potential of developing the park into one restricted to intensive mountain bike use. We feel that you have listened to our concerns and we thank you for that.

We do have a few aspects of the proposed action plan that we would like addressed in the final version that goes to Council.

In the section identified as Recommendations, #9, pertaining to Belleview Farm Park, the language of the recommendation is this: "Allocate adequate City resources to meet future costs associated with the opening and operation of Belleview Farms for public use, such being consistent with its environmental characteristics, desires of residents, appropriate and desired programming, and heritage restrictions, thereby allowing this park site to become part of an interconnected network of trails and properties that link Castlewood State Park and the Al Foster Memorial Trail to Route 66 State Park."

Language similar to this also appears in Acquisitions Policies and Programs.

We would like to address the following:

When you refer to "the desire of residents", are you referring only to Wildwood residents, or also to Sherman residents? We would like you spell out specifically that any plan for the public use of Belleview Farm Park must have the support of Sherman residents, not only because this land has a unique place in the identity and history of our town, but because Sherman residents have been pivotal in identifying other partners and potential funding sources.

Secondly, with the mention of "heritage restrictions", which pleases us, we would like clarification that these restrictions are identified specifically in the deed which transferred ownership of the land to St. Louis County. We would like that deed named in the plan.

Thirdly, we would like the wording, "conservation preservation" to be part of the vision for Belleview Farm Park, preferably in recommendation #9 as well as in Acquisition Policies and Programs.

Fourthly, in the supplemental factors section of the proposed plan, you identify many partners with whom you can work to develop parklands in the Wildwood region. We would like to be identified as one of the partners with whom you will work for the development of Belleview Farm Park.

We look forward to hearing from you in the near future that our requests have been considered and will be integrated into the proposed plan that will be presented to City Council.

Sincerely, The Sherman Community.



Ann Heth &lt;dave.ann.heth@gmail.com&gt;

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**Donnie's speech for tonight**

1 message

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**Silverzion** <silverzion31@yahoo.ca>

Wed, Nov 14, 2018 at 4:52 PM

To: Ann Heth &lt;dave.ann.heth@gmail.com&gt;, Laurie Mecham &lt;laurie.mecham@att.net&gt;, "shagglund@gmail.com" &lt;shagglund@gmail.com&gt;

I've stood before this committee several times. I'm Donnie Heth. I live in Sherman. I share a property line with Belleview Farm Park. And I speak for our whole community when I say, and you know this already, that we are unanimously opposed to turning Belleview Farm Park into a park restricted for intensive mountain bike use. We knew Mr. Donnelly, who simply gave this multimillion dollar parcel of land to the county for nothing because he wanted it preserved. It is to be, in his words, "a wildlife and nature preserve, and nothing else." And we in Sherman aren't going to stop until we are assured that this will be the case.

We are very pleased with how we have been received by you. We are very pleased that the Planning and Parks Committee unanimously approved a multiyear environmental and wildlife assessment. And they could do this because we Shermanites did all the leg work to find the resources and connect you to them. This assessment that is happening because of our work. We helped put it in motion and it will lead to a clear conservation preservation plan for the park. We have offered many times to help with this work, especially removing the invasives, which could start immediately once we get those waivers to sign that we keep asking for.

What is most important to us is that we are seen as full partners and that any plan for this park meets with our community's approval. While you have rented this park for a few dollars a year for just a few years, our taxes still pay all the services to that property, all the infrastructure that you would use. Our taxes pay for the portions of the trail that you want to connect Belleview Farms to – Al Foster and Stinging Nettle which run through Sherman Beach Park and Castlewood State Park. We want to be named in this plan as partners and we want to go beyond showing up at these meetings and hoping you'll listen to us. We want a seat at the table.

So thank you for the work you have done so far. It is a good beginning but we're not quite there yet. We look forward to building a stronger relationship with you as we move forward.

I would like to enter my comments into the official record.

***"Of two evils, choose the prettier." (Carolyn Wells, 1870-1942)***