

City Council Committee Reports for 2023

Date: March 21, 2023 Recorder: Jane Snow/McCauley

Community Service Committee

Councillors Attending		Others Attending	Address
James McCauley	<i>m</i>	<i>Anita Greenwood</i>	<i>On line</i>
Jennie Donahue	<i>m</i>	<i>Jane Snow</i>	
Connie Preston	<i>m</i>	<i>Kristen Farrell</i>	<i>On line</i>
Byron J. Lane		<i>Sophie Korpics</i>	<i>On line</i>
Ed Cameron		<i>Mike Hennessy</i>	<i>Parks Mgr</i>
Heather L. Shand		<i>Ted Boretti</i>	<i>Ch Parks Comm</i>
Afroz Khan		<i>Kim Turner</i>	<i>SPM</i>
Bruce L. Vogel		<i>Andrew Levine</i>	<i>CoS</i>
Christine E. Wallace	<i>x</i>	<i>Phil Cootey + 2</i>	
Sharif I. Zeid		<i>James Jones</i>	
Mark Wright			

AGENDA ITEMS

ACTION TAKEN

<i>Approval of Previous Minutes</i>	<i>3-0</i>
<i>APPT 386 3-13-23 Anita Greenwood to Parks Commission</i>	<i>Approve 3-0</i>
<i>ORDR 422 2-1323 NCOD Bylaws (amended)</i>	<i>Approve 3-0 as amended</i>
<i>ORDR 431 3-13-23 Parks Bench Policy</i>	<i>Approve 3-0</i>
<i>ODNC 145 3-13-23 Amend Ch11-5 Rules Park/Playgrnd</i>	<i>Approve 3-0</i>
<i>ODNC 147 Amend Muni Fee Parks/Rec</i>	<i>Approve 3-0</i>
<i>COMM 471 3-13-23 Resident Ltr/Petition Pickleball at Atkinson</i>	<i>R+F 3-0</i>
<i>Discussion with Ted Boretti Chair of Parks Commission</i>	<i>No action</i>

Recording

You can copy the recording information below and share with others

https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/MC_w5_dPJarydQaXFhBluJLGyjN-Y6w11g-jGOq9-3Cg4HnubJLxW7ZEmyLCl-ES.CXgnDP864luRmnTI

Agenda Items

Chair Cllr McCauley, Cllr Preston, Cllr Donahue

Approval of Previous Minutes 3/7 Committee: Approved 3-0

APPT 386 Anita Greenwood to Parks Commission

APP00386_03_13_2023 Anita Greenwood to Parks Commission - moved to Nbpt. 2019
Interested in supporting and enhancing our parks. Cllr Preston- how would you respond to someone saying you are too pickleball. Anita- I have only been playing for 3 years, but support multi-use courts. My roll, is to listen to all sides of an argument and feel I am a fair-minded person who could do that. Cllr Donahue motion to send to council for approval. Passed 3-0.

Order 431 Parks Bench Policy

Mike Hennessey- policy is to provide order and process for acquiring benches. Have 173 benches in parks. Reviewed city ordinances in other municipalities to form this. Ten yr. deadline to bench as that is point in time they need to be renovated. Have standard size plaque and two phrases to choose from. Cllr Preston- how do you consider renovation vs maintenance. Mike- existing benches are grandfathered to 2028, but need to be redone. Didn't feel bench should be in perpetuity. Cllr Preston- have you considered a longer period as an option? Response No. Cllr McCauley- do you have a plan B if you get push back on any of this such as migrate from bench to being placed on a website. Mike- need to discuss this with commission. Cllr Preston- motion to refer to whole council passed 3-0

ODNC 145 Amend Ch 11-5 Rules Parks/Playgrounds

Changes made are mostly administrative. Kim Turner- prior rules refer to Parks Director so it needed to be changed. Other changes were made to update ie clarification as to no alcohol in parks without coming before Parks Commission and Licensing Committee. Also changed -no parking on lawn, put up inflatable items or staking items. Cllr Preston refer to full council for approval. Passed 3-0

ODNC 147 Amend Muni Fee Parks/Rec

ODNC00147_03_13_2023 Amend Muni Fee Parks/Rec.

Public Comment on Fee Schedule – motion to approve and send to full council. Passed. 3-0

COMM 471 Resident Ltr/Petition Pickleball Atkinson

Letter from Philip Cootey asking that Pickle ball not be put in Lower Atkinson Park. Dec 2011 Order 211 Morrill foundation donated \$40,000 for development of 3 Pickleball courts at Lower Atkinson. During Public process community disapproved of Parks Commission putting Pickleball on a small area between 3 Youth Fields. ORDR 400 city is now considering a Multi-Use Court and asked if the name change was acceptable. Asking that city intervene and halt plan. Friends and Families of Lower Atkinson Gathered 154 signatures Would like new fields for athletic activities- pickleball.

Mr. Cootey Was given the opportunity to speak about his letter. He gave overview and thanked councilors for allowing us to present our position. Pioneer League is not opposed to pickle ball. Opposed to place and timing. Pickle ball needs a place. Our fields have the lowest amount of space in the county. Have no place to practice. Fields lost to Sr Center. Have more people but fewer fields. We need to collaborate together to find new spaces for all activities. Would like to find solutions. Cllr Preston- in favor of multi-use spaces. All tax payers should have use of all

municipal properties. Feel there is a way to pull it together and utilize spaces. Feel all courts should be multi use courts. Cllr Donahue- feel it would be inclusive step to take make all courts inclusive. Public Comment- Phil Cootey Philips Dr. lot of voices in our committee. Don't feel we should use all courts as multi-use. We don't have room on field – unsafe. No place to warm up. Need to talk about more space for everyone. Jacob & Julia Cootey Fields are always used so no place to practice or warm up. Basketball courts are the same. All are busy and signed up for teams- no place to just play. Christian Ferral Spafford St. is it being considered after improvements. Safety concerns might be addressed by that. James Jones USA pickleball assoc. Thank Phil and families for expressing their concerns and wishes to collaborate. Mentioned safety. Would not have organized play during game. Would urge Parks Commission to post times when court could not be used as games being played. Willing to compromise. Cllr Wallace- right now do not having funding for Merrimac St – unsafe area. Don't think anything new should be put in there until area is safe. Need funding for updates to street. Concern about having activity from 9am to 9pm and also Day Care and accessible playground in park. Park was meant to be passive. Lower Park created with baseball folks. Doesn't have sidewalks. Cllr Preston- Pickleball would only be on existing space. Don't see why it can't be used. Cllr Wallace- park is not vacant. Families there using area as there isn't a neighborhood park. Cllr McCauley- first pass was to look at funding which council did. Council can be involved in safety measures. Need separate place for kids to play. Organized play is a chargeable metric. Not an easy answer. Abutters have a say and they are concerned about an extended day. Cllr Preston feel this is for parks commission and vote to recommend to council to rec and file. Passed 3-0

Order 422 NCOD Bylaws (Amended)

Rules for Disability Commission. Cllr Preston applauded group for having by-laws. Need to realize what you put in by-laws is what you have to do. Did read thru and make some comments. Wanted to really define NCOD as advisory as charter makes that clear. Had that elected official should be on board and KP law has stated councilors can't be member. Chair McCauley- any questions or comments from committee. Cllr Donahue- would it be reasonable to allow a chair to hold position until chair filled? Cllr McCauley- our charter is clear one can't if they are not a resident. Public Comment: Kristen via Zoom other municipalities allow officers to remain until a replacement is found. I do not believe we influence the taxpayer dollars as Cllr Preston said. Feel it is nice to have. We got this from our charter so would like to keep if possible. Cllr Preston- motion to present to full council. Passed 3-0

Discussion with Parks Commission

Department Speaker: Ted Boretti, Chair Parks Commission. Commission will advise Mike as to needs for parks. Most exciting project is Bartlett Mall. Working with Engineering team. Excited to have lifeless pond cleaned up. Historical gem. Feel we have good team in place. Know there are many other projects for the city. Money is there. Hopefully now is the time. By end of summer should enjoy new park. Fully accessibly playgrounds will also be a draw. Lower Atkinson – will some of the improvements like fixing drainage issue be addressed. Parking and new playground in works. Recognize value of multi-use courts. Cllr Wallace: I haven't seen a plan for playground or parking. Getting it to residents as early as possible is best. Working closely with parks alliance – they are fund raising and helping to organize volunteers. Applied to CDC for off road bike riding at Woodman Park. Constantly trying to find home for pickleball. Constantly on look-out for new venues.

Motion to adjourn 3-0.

Additional Public Comment



Response to
Mr_Cootey's Letter PE