

**SUMMARY MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL SESSION
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
City Hall Council Chambers 109 E. Olive Street, Bloomington, IL 61701
Monday, April 23, 2018; 5:30 PM**

Call to Order

The Council convened in Special Session in the Council Chambers, City Hall Building at 5:30 p.m., Monday, April 23, 2018. The meeting was called to order by Mayor Renner.

Roll Call

Mayor Renner directed City Clerk Cherry Lawson to call the roll and the following members of Council answered present:

Aldermen Dave Sage, Mboka Mwilambwe, Karen Schmidt, Jamie Mathy, Scott Black, Kim Bray, Amelia Buragas, Diana Hauman and Mayor Tari Renner.

Staff Present: Steve Rasmussen, Interim City Manager; Jeffrey Jurgens, Corporation Counsel; Cherry Lawson, City Clerk; Brendan Heffner Police Chief; Jim Karch, Public Works Director; Bob Yehl, Water Director; Jay Tetzloff, Parks, Recreation, Cultural Arts and MPZ Director; Bob Mahrt, Interim Director of Community Development; and other City staff were present.

Public Comment

Mayor Renner opened the meeting to receive Public Comment. The following citizen offered comments.

Elizabeth Binning	John Binning	Beverly Kirby	Terry Kirby
Todd Bugg	John Brandt	Jeff Lindsay	Carole Ringer

Consideration of approving the minutes of the Special Meeting of April 9, 2018. *(Recommend the reading of the minutes be dispensed and approved as printed.)*

Alderman Mathy stated there is an error in the minutes it just says that I was dialed in by phone on that one and I'll just like to have it amended I was actually here that night.

Motion by Alderman Mathy and seconded by Alderman Bray to approve the minutes of April 23, 2018 with amendments.

Motion carried: Viva Voce

Presentation with updates by GreenPlay Inc. for the Comprehensive Parks and Recreation Master Plan as requested by the Parks, Recreation and Cultural Arts Department. *(Recommend presentation and discussion prior to the final Comprehensive Parks and Recreation Master Plan*

document. The final Comprehensive Parks and Recreation Master Plan will be brought back and presented at a future Council meeting for adoption.) (Presentation by Jay Tetzloff, Director of Parks, Recreation and Cultural Arts, and Dylan Packebush, GreenPlay, LLC, 20 minutes, City Council discussion, 25 minutes.)

Mr. Tetzloff stated, the focused on the Comprehensive Master Plan (CMP) and provided history of the last approved CMP in 1997 with the latest update being a 2009, 2010. No funding has been allocated to the plan at this time; however, he is looking for grants and alternative funding.

Mr. Packebush provided a PowerPoint overview of the Comprehensive Master Plan as well as began some background planning with the O'Neil Park Master Plan, the Recreation Center feasibility and background work with that. He referred to the appendix that contains survey results, finalized trends and demographic reports. They did an inventory and level of service analysis, had a landscape architect and data collection firm in the park system to look at *grasp*. Grasp is a components-based inventory. Rather than grass and acres we look at things like trail heads and playgrounds and park benches. It gives a different quantitative score.

The first phase of these recommendations is about the ongoing existence of partnerships, being proactive in plan, and communicating with the other providers in the area. It is not in their opinion that Bloomington's responsibility to provide all recreation services in the area; however, it is the responsibility of our department to influence. A big theme is to look at the variety in park destinations, looking at the grasp analysis. The grasp analysis looks at the components, a person's access to components around their community. There was two different analysis. One was done as just a general neighborhood access, and another one was a walkability score about a one-third of a mile. One of the things that makes Grasp unique is barriers were added.

They engaged the community by way of survey of which are part of the recommendation. A narrative will be brought into the analysis of how you upgrade the current system. Some of those things are things like explore fitness stations for equipment on like loop trails or things like that. Fitness is obviously a huge growing trend in parks and recreation as is being outdoors and trying to find those.

The second list of the new trends are dog park skateboarding. They are not recommending a dog park in every park or put water access in parks that don't have water. It's their recommendation that, you can either influence, choose to influence how dog parks are provided in the community and where those are provided, or provide them yourself.

Other recommendations, are a good example of develop a program of standardized parks site furnishings, is really about creating administrative processes and systems in place that helps to cycle the lifetime of your park system assets, but also create a tracking system.

Mr. Packebush spoke of deferred maintenance and ADA standards, and accessible design stating the City needs to continue to move forward in this area. In some conversation with city staff, Ewing Park is not a geographical centrally located park. When you look at where population lives in the community, it becomes a high-density walk-able access park location. One of the recommendations is looking at that gathering space, not necessarily in downtown, but where the population has access,

a high number of population has access to it moving forward. This will come with a prioritized list of projects in the first three years.

The same grasp analysis was done in reviewing trail heads, and accessibility and connectivity to them. The recommendation, update what is in place including placement of signage, wayfinding and possibly fitness stations.

As a part of this planning process, they reviewed recreational indoor facilities. Indoor space in Bloomington for the public access is limited on a recreational level. The Town of Normal has planned to conduct a recreation center feasibility study. Although Bloomington does not have plans at this time to look at an indoor facility, that doesn't mean that you can't look at how to improve the programming that would happen within a recreation center. The City can still influence how programming happens within the community. We also actually did a grasp analysis of some alternative providers in the community, as a higher density of alternative providers exists than were not in the community.

Mayor Renner asked about the grasp, would that include something answering the question of why, as at some point they came with the current facility. Mr. Packebush stated it was done. Mayor Renner asked if Normal has a pool design as well. Mr. Packebush stated yes it was done with the existing facility, it was completed six months ago.

Mr. Packebush stated the City has another big opportunity as there are already many special events in the community. People want more. Special events is a huge trend in Parks and Recreation. The opportunity for more ties back into that Ewing Park idea of you probably need a bigger space if you're providing larger community events. This may not be the "right this second" opportunity, but as funding becomes available, this is an area the City may wish to explore.

They reviewed funding opportunities with Mr. Tetzloff and Mr. Veal to determine the appropriateness of partners and sponsors, cost-recovery study to review best practices from business, direct expense, and direct revenue, and how do you most appropriately balance tax supplementation with the ability to recover cost; as well as, marketing and the communication and service delivery from public input.

Alderman Schmidt asked whether the feasibility study for O'Neil Pool will be provided in a separate document, will it contain some ballpark financials, and how fitness stations can be incorporated into current trailheads. Mr. Packebush stated, comprehensive plan might just address overall opportunities at O'Neil Park, and will have its own section or chapter that is the O'Neil Park Master Plan, and the GIS components within the park site, and general assessments from the landscape architects would determine the quality and the budget of adding fitness components.

Alderman Schmidt spoke of the how the concept behind the recreation center came forward, and whether there are different opportunities from other agencies that provides some of our recreational needs. Mr. Packebush stated it was part of our scope. As we went through the process for the comprehensive plan, you know, direction, tenure, strategic plan of the department, I mean, it started to be brought up by the community.

Mayor Renner, the only general indoor space the City have is the Lincoln Leisure Center which is hardly in great shape. He asked of cities roughly our size, what proportion do have recreation centers. It is not unusual to find a city of 4,000-5,000 that has a recreation center. Mr. Packebush stated a very broad generalization is that at some point the recreation industry would say for every 60,000 people, a recreation center. However, that depends, on the growth level.

Alderman Sage expressed concern over ensuring a service was provided rather than who provides the service. Mr. Packebush stated it depends on the philosophy of the community. Their general philosophy as a company is to promote the idea that the government is in place to provide for service gaps to make sure that people aren't missing out on a service. He addressed the various types of youth activities where there is a pay to play system in place, and how not all families can afford those activities. If those service gaps are not available, then we think that the Parks and Rec Department has the obligation to start to fill those types of need.

Alderman Mwilambwe inquired about what a recreation center would have within it, such as indoor facility. Mr. Packebush said there are big components of a recreation center. When surveys are conducted, generally the major categories are highlighted: fitness space, which is free weights and classroom space; skill-building or educational classrooms, arts, programming. There is generally a community area whether that's a community gathering space in the center, or like a rental meeting hall, or a multi-purpose classrooms. It is an aquatics area, gymnasium, and opportunities to add other components like an indoor track and/or loop track space, an ice center should Council wish to pursue those.

Alderman Buragas is looking forward to seeing the final report. She asked about the overall park recommendations and the grasp study findings as it relates to population density and level of service per acre and population per acre. When it is stated per acre, is the study referring to acre as a park or acres of community. Mr. Packebush replied, acres a park. Alderman Buragas asked for clarification regarding the level of service that Bloomington currently provides in comparison to other communities. Mr. Packebush stated other communities that have gone through grasp, your threshold is a little bit lower. There's no standard level of service that Bloomington, Illinois needs to provide based on their population.

Alderman Bray inquired about the central location concept and how the study led to the recommendations, and Ewing Park 3 recommendations to follow. Mr. Packebush the idea of a Central Park, it is a growing trend in recreation to say that people want to get out of their neighborhood and get into their community which wasn't the case probably 15 to 20 years ago. There is a big push in recreation to build neighborhood parks and to focus on the neighborhood so people could stay within the mile. There is now a "generation minc" that wants a bigger experience like festivals or other big community events that happens in centralized locations.

Alderman Black stated his comments are focused on what comes next in this process, concepts, pool or recreation center. Based on a Parks Master Plan, are we expecting to see some different pricing options for various big-ticket items that we might see coming forward. Mr. Tetzloff stated when we spoke about O'Neil pool last time, staff come back with four different options to include proposed outdoor, proposed indoor, what we currently have indoor or what we currently have outdoor. In terms of O'Neil, we have those four-option pricing.

Mr. Tetzloff commented on the possibility of a recreation center stating there is a feasibility study for the sports complex and indoor space.

Alderman Black spoke of collaboration with community partners to the north as well as with the County. He discussed the need for joint meetings where the City can discuss some of these things and put dollars to the discussion. He shares the same sentiment with this Council that we can do these sorts of things, but we should be strategic in how we do them to avoid duplicating services.

Alderman Mathy asked for clarification on the question posed by Alderman Buragas. Is Bloomington below other communities of our size in terms of total acreage of parks? Is that something you are looking at?

Adjourn (Approximately 6:30 p.m.)

Motioned by Alderman Hauman and seconded by Alderman Painter to adjourn the meeting, 6:26 PM

Motion Carried. Viva Voce

CITY OF BLOOMINGTON


Tari Renner, Mayor

ATTEST


Cherry L. Lawson, City Clerk