

**CITY OF MASON
COUNCIL WORKSESSION
MARCH 15, 2004**

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Beck.

ATTENDANCE

The following members of Council were present: Tony Bradburn, Steve Osborne, Tom Grossmann, Peter Beck and Victor Kidd. Charlene Pelfrey and John McCurley were absent.

A discussion took place among Councilmembers on the importance of attendance for Councilmembers at worksessions, committee meetings as well as Council meetings.

PARK FACILITIES

As a follow-up to the prior worksession, Scot Lahrmer presented a report on the various topics discussed at the last worksession regarding parks.

Lighting the fields at Heritage Oak Park: The cost ranges from \$850,000 to \$1,050,000 for fixtures and installation. That does not include the cost of getting the electric service installed. A discussion followed in which it was questioned how much this would increase the usage of the fields. The cost of operation as an ongoing expense was also mentioned. It was decided ball fields added at the new parks currently being planned would alleviate the problem. It was also noted the new t-ball fields were currently being installed at Heritage Oak Park.

Use of extra fields at Heritage Presbyterian Church: Scot reported the joint use agreement has been reviewed and the City is prepared to enter into a two year agreement with SAY Soccer and the church to mow and fertilize the area through contract services, provide trash cans and overseed the area with seed provided by SAY Soccer. It was determined the cost for these services ranges from \$6500 to \$8500. Council agreed with this proposal and suggested the City attempt to fund these efforts through SAY Soccer but if that is not possible, the City will still continue with the agreement.

Synthetic field surface for soccer: Approximate cost obtained from Park Board is \$700,000. The benefit is less maintenance. It is estimated the pay back for this expense is seven years and the life expectancy is 15 years. It also would help with scheduling, as the field would not be too wet to play. Council decide not to actively pursue this at this time but keep it in mind. It was suggested the Sycamore High School has one installed.

Scheduling use of fields with the schools: Steve Gayfield reported the meeting had gone very well with most groups being accommodated. He said the only group not scheduled was the Mason Fast Pitch and they were eventually accommodated by a compromise worked out between the other teams. He said rainouts will be played on Sunday with a few regularly

scheduled games also being played on Sunday. He added they do not share use of the varsity fields as special concern is given over the condition of those facilities.

Future Parks: Scot explained the RFP's are going out for estimates on the site specific plans for the Gould, Biehle and Castle properties. He stated once the firm is selected, site-specific plans will be developed with input from the various groups utilizing the facilities.

Youth Football: Currently they use the soccer fields at Heritage. Council expressed concern over being able to meet their needs in the future.

Partnership with Deerfield Township: Mayor Beck reported they had met with the Township and they are willing to cooperate with the City in sharing fields but they currently have none. He said the Warren County Parks owns the field in Landen and a deal has been reached with Kings Schools to allow them to use the fields while they are coping with the restoration of their facilities. He said a joint Skate Board Park was discussed and they are favorable to that idea.


It was suggested Chris Koob has property located across from Mitsubishi in Mason-Montgomery Road that he is willing to allow teams to use. He also said he will provide an area for parking. Steve Gayfield stated the soccer organization has already contacted Mr. Koob. Staff will contact Mr. Koob.

ADJOURN

A motion to adjourn was made by Councilmember Osborne, seconded by Councilmember Grossmann. VOTE: ALL YEAS

TIME: 7:07 p.m.


Clerk of Council


Mayor