**Kearney Park Board Minutes—Tuesday, November 15th, 2022 meeting**

On Tuesday, November 15th, 2022the Kearney Park Board met for its monthly meeting in-person and via zoom. Dan Holt called the meeting to order. Members present were Dan Holt, Kristi Mayo, Ali Jorn, Lisa Cheesebrough, Jon Costa, and Greg Gillahan. Staff members present were Ryan Marcotte.

Park board minutes from the October 18th, 2022 meeting were presented, with Lisa Cheesebrough, making a motion to approve the corrected minutes, and Kristi Mayo seconding the motion…the motion was approved unanimously.

**Public Requests & Petitions:** Charlie Brown of 3721 S. Hocker St, Independence, MO – representing the Boy Scouts North Star District came before the board to request usage of Jesse James Park for a Friday night overnight campout and Saturday “Klondike Derby” event in the park on Feb 3-4, 2023 (later changed to Feb 10-11). Dan Holt asked what their trash policy would be, and Charlie told the board that they always try to leave the space better than they found it. Lisa commented that the BSA has always done a great job cleaning up after themselves. Ryan confirmed that there were no events in the park that weekend. Ali Jorn made a motion to approve the “Klondike Derby” event, with Greg Gillahan seconding…the motion was approved unanimously.

**Old Business:**

**Splash Park**: Ryan stated that PowerPlay from Oklahoma sent an individual up to work on the splash pad bucket, but was not prepared to work on the bucket in the air. Ryan stated that he was working with PowerPlay to reschedule the repair. He said he anticipates the bucket being fully repaired by early December.

**Hall Park:** Ryan said that the city had submitted a LWCF grant application for the Hall Park project, and that staff had met with Steve Casey the previous week to make sure everything was in order with the application. Ryan stated that he was cautiously optimistic about the city’s chances of receiving the grant. Dan Holt asked if the grant was for the full amount, and Ryan confirmed that the parks department was asking for the full $500,000 amount. Ryan mentioned that the restroom had been moved in the design from the north side to the south side of the park, at the request of the northern residential neighbor. Ryan mentioned that staff had a feedback session at the Kearney Sr Center, and that a concern was raised about the park being a hangout for teenagers, and Ryan responded that there would be a perimeter fence with the only entrance being on the western side of the park. This ensures that people visiting the park are doing so purposefully. He also mentioned that there would be full security cameras set up in similar fashion to the ones in Lions Park.

**New Business**

**Pickleball**: Staff told the board that progress is going at a fast pace with the great weather we have had. Ryan said that the skate park piece of concrete had already been poured and tensioned, and that the western half of the pickleball courts had already been poured. He said the eastern half was scheduled to be poured the following Monday. He said the retaining wall on the SE side of the pickleball courts would start soon, and that sidewalks and curbs would be going in after the eastern slab had been poured. Dan asked how the water retention portion of the project had come along, and Ryan responded that they were about 80% to where they needed to be. Ryan said there was vast noticeable improvement on the right field side as well as the dugouts with regards to drainage. He also mentioned that there was some drainage issues outside the scope of the city’s project along the scoreboard area that the school would likely pursue on their own.

**Winter Sports:** Staff mentioned that basketball signups were finishing up and that there would be a coaches meeting in a few weeks, with practices starting in December. He mentioned that the basketball program was nearly full, and that we’ve never had that many kids in the program before, with 160 signing up.

**Pool Project:** Ryan reminded the board that Water’s Edge Aquatics was selected as the pool architects / designers, and that there would be an open house in December to demonstrate concepts for the space at 19th Street in 33 Hwy. Ryan said that there would likely be a December park board meeting on December 19th specifically do a plan review, and pass along recommendations to the board of aldermen for approval, and an eventual ballot initiative in April, 2023, which would need to be submitted before February. Jon Costa asked if there where were any capacity estimates, and Ryan stated that there weren’t any capacity estimates, but he estimated the pool itself would take between 1.5-2 acres. He said that there would be a preliminary design in early December, and that things were moving fast. Greg Gillahan asked if there was a budget, and Ryan indicated there wasn’t yet. Jon Costa asked how many HOA’s have pools, and Ryan said he believed that there were 4 HOA pools in Kearney. Ryan said the amenities at the aquatic complex would be what sets it apart from the competitors. Greg Gillahan commented that a pool facility would draw from the surrounding areas. Jon asked how the voters would know what to vote for with regards to pool design, amenities etc. Staff said that there would be heavy surveying early on in the process to determine what is important to the constituents, which would influence what would be offered to the public. Dan mentioned that the city paid for a survey with the YMCA several years ago for a possible collaboration project, and Ryan mentioned that it was specifically for an indoor pool. Greg mentioned that he thinks the city has changed in perspective and desire since the YMCA survey, and that a pool offering multiple recreation opportunities might be more favorable towards voters. Jon Costa asked if the lifeguards and pool staff would be city employees. Ryan said that it was undetermined, as the city could hire a lifeguard staffing company. He said that no matter what, the city’s biggest cost would be pool personnel. Jon then asked what insurance for a pool facility might cost, and Ryan indicated that he wasn’t sure at that time, but was confident that the cost of insurance wouldn’t keep the project from moving forward. (Note: the open houses and overall project were put on hold, as it was discovered a April 2022 ballot initiative was not feasible. Staff’s current plan is to pursue an April 2023 ballot initiative while working with Water’s Edge aquatics in the meantime.)

**Board Comments-** There were no board comments.

**ADJOURNMENT**

With there being no further business on the agenda, a motion was made by Greg Gillahan and seconded by Ali Jorn to adjourn to Thursday, January 23, 2023. The motion carried.

**Approved: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Connie Crawford Chairperson**

**Julie Jones\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Secretary**