

City of Olivette  
**MEETING MINUTES**  
**PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION**  
JANUARY 18, 2023 | 7:00 PM

1. **Call To Order** at 7:02 PM; Quorum established  
Present: HANSEN, RICH, PERSON, LEE, BUDKE, HEUERMANN, NEEL  
Also in attendance, but not counted towards a quorum, were:  
Council Liaison, Missy Waldman  
City Manager, Barbara Sondag  
Parks & Recreation Director, Beverly Tucker Knight.  
Parks & Recreation Assistant Director, Don LaChance
2. **Hearing From Citizens** – None
3. **Written Communications** – None
4. **Barbara Sondag** – Sondag notified the commission of her retirement on April 3, 2023 and thanked them for their dedication and hard work..
5. **On a MOTION by: RICH SECOND by LEE the regular meeting minutes of DECEMBER 22, 2022 were APPROVED (7-0).**
6. **Director's Report**  
Assistant Director LaChance provided a report on recent activities:
  - a. A winter-themed Kids Night Out was held Dec 9 at the City Center with 10 participants.
  - b. Recreation Programs:
    - i. The new mobile library program was suspended by St Louis County citing a staffing shortage.
    - ii. The Inaugural PuzzlePalooza was held Jan 11 with 11 teams at the City Center
    - iii. Holi Festival returns on Mar 4 at Stacy Park after a two year hiatus during the Pandemic.
  - c. Camp Preview
    - i. Camp O Summer Day Camp registration opens Jan 27; Spring Break Camp with Mad Science is offered Mar 20-24 at the City Center. Specialty contract summer camps offered this year will include soccer, science, and Lego options.
  - d. Youth Sports Update
    - i. Youth Basketball games began Jan 7 with 24 teams ( in Grades K-Second. Micro Basketball for Pre-K begins Jan 23 with 30 participants.
  - e. Relocation Update
    - i. The old community center was completely cleared out by the Parks Crew and Recreation staff. The grueling task took five days, but all is set-up for a smooth move-in to the new Parks Operations Building upon it's completion. Supplies, tools, and equipment are temporarily stored in the Stacy Park storeroom., Public Works warehouse, temporary storage containers, and the City Center.
  - f. Park Division Update
    - i. A prescribed burn was conducted for the Stacy Park tall grass prairie ahead of winter seeding. The community volunteers was thanked for assisting with the burn: Burn Boss Gerald Axelbaum, Ellen Schaefer, Ed Kastner, and Jim Person.
    - ii. Park Equipment Operator Cody Stewart was congratulated for passing his CDL examination and road test on the first attempt!

## 7. City Council Report

Update from City Council Liaison, Mayor Maxine Weil

- a. Waldman complimented Sondag on an excellent job and years of service to the city.
- b. Mentioned elections are upcoming in April. Weil and Carl will run unopposed
- c. Council will be taking on the task of how best to hire a new city manager.

## 8. Parks & Recreation Commission Annual Work Plan

PERSONS discussed the draft 2023 PARC goals and Commissioner assignments. PERSONS asked for volunteers to self-appoint to various items on the task list. The following listings are the results.

**Goal 2.3** - Monthly walks in the parks, 2.3.1 Create a Template for visits. BUDKE, PERSONS, & HANSEN

**Goal 3** - Field Rental Study, LEE, HANSEN, HEUERMAN

**Goal 5** - Park Competition Celebration. It was decided to break out into sub-committees for each park and bring it back to the full commission for implementation.

## 9. Park Master Plan Implementation

- a. The Project Dashboard Community Center and Warson Park were reviewed. Director Tucker Knight notified the commission of an add-on to the project was approved by Council Friday, January 13<sup>th</sup>, to cover additional asbestos abatement of the old Community Center's original roofing layer discovered as abatement progressed.
- b. The Project Dashboard for Stacy Park, Villa Park, Indian Meadows Park, and Irv Zeid Parks were reviewed and the updated completion timelines for each park were shared. The dog park will remain closed to allow the new grass to grown and build healthy roots. Opening is anticipated to be in mid to late April 2023, dependent on growing conditions.

## 10. Future Agenda Items

- a. Annual Work Plan Commissioner Reports-ongoing
- b. Park Master Plan Implementation- ongoing
- c. Indian Meadows, Irv Zeid, Stacy, and Villa Parks dedication celebrations in spring 2023

## 11. Upcoming Dates of Importance

January 16	Youth Baseball registration opens
January 19	Energy Assistance Enrollment Workshop
January 21	Weed Warriors at Stacy Park
February 4	Mosaic Project
February 11	Weed Warriors at Warson Park
February 12	Mosaic Project
March 4	Holi Festival at Stacy Park (Mar 11 weather backup day)
March 6	Youth Baseball Registration closes
March 11	Weed Warriors at Warson Park
March 20-24	Spring Break Camp with Mad Science

**On a MOTION by HEUREMANN SECOND by HANSEN the meeting adjourned at 8:14 pm (7-0)Creating Community Through People, Parks & Programs**

