



# MEETING MINUTES

## JOINT MEETING OF THE COVENANT PARK ADVISORY COMMITTEES

### MEETING INFORMATION:

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**Date:** Monday, November 15, 2021  
**Time:** 6:00 pm  
**Location:** Covenant Park Clubhouse (3724 Shaffer Ave SE)

### PRESENT:

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**Members:** Shea Abby, Ron Draayer, Dan Frayer, Christopher Furner, Jill Gorkowski, Maurice Groce, James Hayes, Karmen Johnson, Ed Kape, Clarkston Morgan, Dustin Moseley, Laurie Sheldon, Reyna Shorts (Sam Nichols), Travis Tate, Bob Trout (Paul Richards)

**Support Team:** Stephen Kepley, Mayor  
Mark Rambo, Deputy City Administrator  
Valerie Romeo, Parks & Recreation Director  
Lorraine Beloncis, Parks & Recreation Assistant Director  
Melinda Whitten, M.C. Smith & Associates, Inc.

### ABSENT:

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**Members:** Betsy Artz, Rick Baker, Robert Coughlin, Sanel Fazlic, Mark Giles, Mike Guswiler, Adetunji Ifatureti, Fridah Kanini, Tarwo Konbloa, Mimi Madden, David Moore, Sam Moore, Tim Mroz, Phillip Nguyen, Bob O'Callaghan, Kevin Polston, Darius Quinn, Ram Ravikumar, Josh Sheldon, Adam Shilling, Doug Small, Kevin Small, Billy Smith, Monica Sparks, Michael Zoerhoff

### AGENDA ITEMS:

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- I. **Call Meeting to Order**
  - a. Mayor Stephen Kepley - 6:14pm
  
- II. **Overview & Recap**
  - a. Mark Rambo, Deputy City Administrator
    - i. Provided a historical recap. The Parks, Trails, and Recreation Advisory Committee had finished their work on the park master plan and started the millage campaign development before the COVID-19 Pandemic hit and put everything on hold. Park improvements were identified for approximately \$27 million.

- ii. In 2020, the 109-acre Covenant Park was generously donated to the City of Kentwood. The Covenant Park Advisory Committees were formed to take community input and survey data to create a master plan for Covenant Park and add it to the overall park master plans and millage campaign. The Covenant Park master plan, as designed, will cost approximately \$35 million. Projects will be prioritized over a 20+ year period.

### III. Planning and Prioritization

- a. Mark Rambo, Deputy City Administrator  
Priority exercise results from previous meeting were discussed.

### IV. Estimated Cost Model

- a. Mark Rambo, Deputy City Administrator
  - i. The document titled Appendix A: Estimated Cost Model was presented for planning purposes only. The document includes:
    1. 15-year estimates for Revenue (grants, donations, partnerships, bond, general city funds), Capital Expenses, and Ongoing Expenses.
    2. Millage Calculation Table – Permanent dedicated millage of one mill.
    3. Estimated full time staffing.
    4. Estimated part-time staffing.
    5. General Overview of Improvements by facility/park with estimated costs.
  - ii. If a millage were approved, the committee has established a goal to touch every park with improvements in the first five years and to have full reconstruction within the next 10 years (with the exception of Covenant Park which will take longer). Trail improvements and construction planning would commence in the first year. In the second year, the City Hall Campus and Community Center projects would begin. Phase I of Covenant Park would begin in the third year. This was pushed out because it is a highly grant-eligible park due to its natural area in a urban setting. This will allow time for city staff to seek out grants and partnerships.

### V. Recommendation - Covenant Park Advisory Committees

- a. Mark Rambo, Deputy City Administrator
  - i. A draft Resolution to Recommend Park Improvements and Funding was presented to the committee for discussion. It was based upon their work in previous meeting. If the recommendation is approved, it will be presented at the December 7 City Commission meeting.
  - ii. Ed Kape made a motion to approve the resolution as presented. Supported by Dustin Moseley. Motion carried unanimously. .

- iii. It was further requested by the committee that the City Commission approve the proposal as soon as possible to allow for extra time for a resident group to form and educate other residents on the proposal.

**VI. Public Comment**

- a. None

**VII. Adjournment**

Motion to Adjourn: Dustin Moseley, Supported: Karmen Johnson.  
Meeting Adjourned 7:07pm.

Committee documents and information can be found online at  
[www.kentwood.us/covenantparkplanning](http://www.kentwood.us/covenantparkplanning)