



MEETING MINUTES

JOINT MEETING OF THE COVENANT PARK ADVISORY COMMITTEES

MEETING INFORMATION:

Date: Monday, March 29, 2021
Time: 6:00 pm
Location: Virtual Meeting

PRESENT:

Members: Shea Abby, Betsy Artz, Emily Bridson, Robert Coughlin, Ron Drayer, Christopher Furner, Jill Gorkowski, Maurice Groce, Mike Guswiler, Fridah Kanini, Ed Kape, Tarwo Konbloa, Tom McKelvey, Dustin Moseley, Phillip Nguyen, Sam Nichols, Bob O’Callaghan, Darius Quinn, Paul Richards, Josh Sheldon, Laurie Sheldon, Doug Small, Michael Zoerhoff

Support Team: Leon Younger, Pros Consulting
Mark Rambo, Deputy City Administrator
Val Romeo, Parks & Recreation Director

ABSENT:

Members: Rick Baker, Brian Dokter, Mark Giles, Sanel Fazlic, Adetunji Ifaturoti, Karmen Johnson, Mimi Madden, David Moore, Sam Moore, Tim Mroz, Ram Ravikumar, Adam Shilling, Kevin Small, Billy Smith, Monica Sparks, Travis Tate

AGENDA ITEMS:

- I. **Call Meeting to Order:**
 - a. Commissioner Coughlin - 6:01pm

- II. **Welcome, Overview & Objectives:**
 - a. Mayor Kepley. Committee members were welcomed and thanked for their time and energy to serve on the Covenant Park Advisory Committees. This project is truly a community effort and will reflect the needs and wishes of the community incorporating a balance of nature, facilities, and sustainable funding. Covenant Park was gifted to the City of Kentwood in May 2020 by an anonymous donor. The city is truly blessed and grateful for this gift. Two committees have been appointed including residents, elected officials, business owners, sports & recreation associations, schools, City Commissioners, Parks & Recreation Commissioners. Committee #1 “Active and Passive Recreation”, Committee #2 “Regional Competitive Sports”. Committee goals include information gathering,

reviewing, and formulating a recommendation to the Kentwood City Commission that align with the current parks and trails master plan as well as with the City's economic business community. Covenant Park will be a valued recreation destination now and for future generations.

III. Introductions of Support Team:

- a. Leon Younger, Pros Consulting
- b. Val Romeo, Parks & Recreation Director
- c. Mark Rambo, Deputy City Administrator

IV. The Path Forward:

- a. Mark Rambo, Deputy City Administrator. The committees will meet one more time together via zoom. The committees will eventually break out and meet (hopefully) in-person outside at the site. A survey will be launched in advance of the next meeting.
- b. Val Romeo, Parks & Recreation Director. Thank you to the 26 committee members who toured the 109 acres at Covenant Park in March. This process will include the data collected from the existing Parks & Recreation Business Plan, Parks Master Plan, Non-Motorized Trail Plan, Plan Our Parks (POP) events, Parks, Trails and Advisory Committee recommendations, and community feedback. Committee members are encouraged to ask questions.

V. Introduction of Existing Business Plan Data:

- a. Leon Younger, Pros Consulting. Presentation attached.

VI. Committee & Community Survey Review:

- a. Leon Younger, Pros Consulting. A draft of the community survey was presented. Changes were recommended. Once complete, the survey will be available on the City's website at www.kentwood.us/covenantparkplanning. Discussion about ensuring a broader reach to ensure diverse demographic input. Survey results will be available at the next meeting.

VII. Public Comment:

- a. Commissioner Coughlin.
 - i. Maurice Gross: From the business plan data, please explain how water fitness is low cost? It was based on a smaller therapy pool.
 - ii. Betsy Artz: Will demographic changes be reflected in the survey? The survey results from the 2018 baseline survey will be compared and updated with the new 2021 survey results. Possibly extend the length of the survey time. Be sure to reach seniors, schools, parents, and under-represented groups. Is mailing the survey or providing drop boxes feasible?
 - iii. Dan Frayer: Please add trail running, cycling, mountain biking and disc golf to the list of program elements. Would like to share the survey when it goes live with family, friends, and neighbors.

- iv. Ed Kape: As the millage campaign chair, thanked the Mayor and Commissioners for the opportunity to keep discussions ongoing.
- v. Jill Gorkowski: Be sure to work with schools to get the survey out.
- vi. Darius Quinn: The survey has a very short time frame. Possibly extend it to make sure it gets out to under-represented groups in the community.

VIII. Closing Remarks:

- a. Mayor Kepley. Covenant Park is a valued jewel in the middle of the City of Kentwood. It is exciting to take on the important task of determining how the property will align with local parks and recreational needs while concurrently exploring regional competitive sport opportunities that could bring added value to local efforts.

IX. **Adjournment:** Meeting adjourned 6:48pm.

Meeting Schedule:

Monday, May 17, 2021 | 6:00pm | Location TBD

*Joint meeting of advisory committees.

Additional meeting dates will be added once the complete meeting schedule is set.

Committee documents and information can be found online at www.kentwood.us/covenantparkplanning

Ver. 4/14/21 LBMR