



# MEETING MINUTES

## JOINT MEETING OF THE COVENANT PARK ADVISORY COMMITTEES

### MEETING INFORMATION:

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**Date:** Monday, June 14, 2021  
**Time:** 6:00 pm  
**Location:** Kentwood Library (4950 Breton Rd SE)

### PRESENT:

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**Members:** Betsy Artz, Emily Bridson, Ron Draayer, Christopher Furner, Jill Gorkowski, Maurice Groce, Mike Guswiler, James Hayes, Karmen Johnson, Ed Kape, David Moore II, Dustin Moseley, Phillip Nguyen, Paul Richards

**Support Team:** Stephen Kepley, Mayor  
Mark Rambo, Deputy City Administrator  
Val Romeo, Parks & Recreation Director  
Lorraine Beloncis, Parks & Recreation Assistant Director  
Leon Younger & Scott Vollmer, Pros Consulting  
Lisa Taylor, Sabo PR  
Tiffany Smith, MC Smith & Associates, Inc.

### ABSENT:

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**Members:** Shea Abby, Rick Baker, Robert Coughlin, Brian Dokter, Sanel Fazlic, Mark Giles, Adetunji Ifaturoti, Fridah Kanini, Tarwo Konbloa, Mimi Madden, Tom McKelvey, Sam Moore, Tim Mroz, Sam Nichols, Bob O'Callaghan, Darius Quinn, Ram Ravikumar, Josh Sheldon, Laurie Sheldon, Adam Shilling, Doug Small, Kevin Small, Billy Smith, Monica Sparks, Travis Tate, Michael Zoerhoff

### AGENDA ITEMS:

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- I. **Call Meeting to Order:**
  - a. Commissioner Groce - 6:02pm
  
- II. **Meeting Overview & Context:**
  - a. Mark Rambo, Deputy City Administrator.  
During the pandemic in 2020, the community re-engaged and rediscovered Kentwood Parks. The Park Master Plan was complete, when the City received the generous donation of the 109 acres known as Covenant Park. Two committees have been appointed to gather information, review, and formulate a recommendation for Covenant Park 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. Committee goals are to seek a balance in the park design by looking at the larger canvas of all the Kentwood Parks and their current amenities.

### **III. Overview of Survey Data & Stakeholder Interviews:**

- a. Leon Younger, Pros Consulting
- b. Scott Vollmer, Pros Consulting

An overview of the data collected from the community survey was presented. Information was gathered from stakeholder interviews, a statistically sound survey direct mailed to random Kentwood residents, and a regional on-line survey. The presentation can be found at [www.kentwood.us/covenantparkplanning](http://www.kentwood.us/covenantparkplanning) - "Survey Results Presentation".

### **IV. Discussion & Questions:**

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

This process will result in the committees making their recommendation to the City Commission which could serve as the foundation of a future millage proposal.

Discussion & Questions:

- Data shows that most people learn about Kentwood Parks & Recreation programs/events through social media and the brochure. This was the first brochure that was mailed to every individual apartment in Kentwood.
- Project budget TBD. Will use both private & City funds.
- Important to get it right, this is a piece of the larger puzzle.
- Look at resident sentiment and community investors.
- Park used as an educational tool.
- Work with a "yes-and", not an "either-or" philosophy.
- Understand funding options by exploring private-public partnerships.
- Any sports fields would be multi-purpose use, not single purpose.
- A variety of amenities can fit on the property by looking at the number and size proposed for each including passive/active trails plus assets for regional competitive sports play.
- Survey answers that jumped out:
  - Spend money on park maintenance. Maintain what we have. Plan future amenities that the City can maintain. Parks need to look good and not get trashed.
  - Make sure the amenities serve the population.
  - Best to balance indoor & outdoor spaces.
  - Fit the needs into the full picture of all the parks.

- Powerful signature park. All about the experience, level of service, and opportunities to celebrate the parks.

**V. Next Steps:**

**a. Mark Rambo.**

The Covenant Park recommendations might change the current park master plan. The committees will work to create a design scenario to present to the Kentwood City Commission in November 2021. The meeting schedule was discussed. Both committees will attend on the scheduled meeting dates, break out in separate committee groups, and come back together as a whole. A map of the park will be used to explore a variety of amenity options and design layout.

**VI. Public Comment:**

**a. Commissioner Groce. None.**

**VII. Adjournment:** Motion to Adjourn: Betsy Artz, Supported: David Moore II. Meeting Adjourned 7:24pm.

**Meeting Schedule 2021:**

Covenant Park Clubhouse (3724 Shaffer Ave SE) | Mondays at 6:00pm

\*Joint meetings of advisory committees.

- July 19
- August 2
- August 23

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

*Ver. 7/16/21*