



# MEETING MINUTES

## JOINT MEETING OF THE COVENANT PARK ADVISORY COMMITTEES

### MEETING INFORMATION:

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**Date:** Monday, August 2, 2021  
**Time:** 6:00 pm  
**Location:** Kentwood Library (4950 Breton Ave SE)

### PRESENT:

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**Members:** Shea Abbgly, Betsy Artz, Rick Baker, Emily Bridson, Robert Coughlin, Ron Draayer, Dan Frayer, Christopher Furner, Jill Gorkowski, Maurice Groce, Mike Guswiler, Ed Kape, Tarwo Konbloa, Mimi Madden, Dustin Moseley, Kevin Polston, Melissa Seif, Josh Sheldon, Laurie Sheldon, Bob Trout, Mayme Vlietstra.

**Support Team:** Stephen Kepley, Mayor  
Mark Rambo, Deputy City Administrator  
Val Romeo, Parks & Recreation Director  
Lorraine Beloncis, Parks & Recreation Assistant Director  
Leon Younger, Pros Consulting  
Tiffany Smith, M.C. Smith & Associates, Inc.

### ABSENT:

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**Members:** Brian Dokter, Sanel Fazlic, Mark Giles, James Hayes, Adetunji Ifaturoti, Karmen Johnson, Fridah Kanini, Tom McKelvey, David Moore, Sam Moore, Tim Mroz, Phillip Nguyen, Sam Nichols, Bob O'Callaghan, Darius Quinn, Ram Ravikumar, Paul Richards, Adam Shilling, Doug Small, Kevin Small, Billy Smith, Monica Sparks, Travis Tate.

### AGENDA ITEMS:

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- I. **Call Meeting to Order:**
  - a. Commissioner Coughlin - 6:04pm
  
- II. **Meeting Overview & Context:**
  - a. Mark Rambo, Deputy City Administrator.
  - b. Val Romeo, Parks & Recreation Director  
Committee introductions. The three design and operational assumptions created at the last meeting will be reviewed and tested tonight. The goal is to mesh the sports and community needs to build a consensus by incorporating the survey results and the 3 operational plan assumption scenarios.

### **III. Establish Design and Operational Assumptions:**

#### **a. Leon Younger, Pros Consulting**

Leon Younger presented in detail the three Operational Plan Assumptions For Community Sports Park. The data presented includes:

1.1 Operational Plan Assumptions for Community Sports Park – Scenario’s 1, 2 & 3. Current level of Service for Kentwood with a population of 55,549.

1.1.1 Hours of operation, Operational & Pricing Philosophy, Pricing and Revenue Strategy

1.1.2 Staffing Levels

1.1.3 Additional Operational Costs, Maintenance Standards

1.2 Pro Forma

1.3 Amenities Matrix

The documents can be found at [www.kentwood.us/covenantparkplanning](http://www.kentwood.us/covenantparkplanning)

Discussion included having a plan that has wide appeal where residents can see themselves in the park vs. a narrower focus that might have less support; who benefits and who doesn’t; the survey’s three most important amenities include nature center, walking/biking trails, and greenspace; funding would have to come from a millage and be approved by voters; cost recovery; lack of indoor space; lack of rectangle space-fields must be multi-use; broader master plan question-can desired amenities be incorporated into other parks; community diversity; Kentwood Public School lack of sports fields available for varied seasonal use; sports tourism benefits to City of Kentwood and Kentwood businesses; benefits of a regional sports destination vs. a local community destination signature park; impact on property values and business tax revenue; park activation through recreation programs.

### **IV. Next Steps:**

**a.** Mark Rambo, Deputy City Administrator.

**b.** Val Romeo, Parks & Recreation Director.

M.C. Smith and Associates Inc. is tasked with putting together one draft of a Covenant Park layout from the Pros Operational Plan Assumption Scenarios, surveys, community priorities and committee discussion. What amenities are put into this park design might impact the master plans of other parks, City Hall campus, and Walma property. The goal is to have a successful plan that is all inclusive and will require open mindedness and willingness to compromise.

### **V. Public Comment:**

**a.** Commissioner Coughlin. None.

**VI. Adjournment:** Motion to Adjourn: Ed Kape, Supported: Dustin Moseley. Meeting Adjourned 7:35pm.

**Meeting Schedule 2021:**

Kentwood Library Community Room (4950 Breton Ave SE) | Mondays at 6:00pm

Joint meeting of advisory committees.

- August 23
- Additional meeting dates will be added as scheduled.

Committee documents and information can be found online at

[www.kentwood.us/covenantparkplanning](http://www.kentwood.us/covenantparkplanning)

*Ver. 8/23/21*