



# MEETING MINUTES

## JOINT MEETING OF THE COVENANT PARK ADVISORY COMMITTEES

### MEETING INFORMATION:

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**Date:** Monday, August 23, 2021  
**Time:** 6:00 pm  
**Location:** Kentwood Library (4950 Breton Ave SE)

### PRESENT:

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**Members:** Shea Abby, Betsy Artz, Ron Draayer, Sanel Fazlic, Dan Frayer (Brian Dokter), Christopher Furner, Mike Guswiler, Karmen Johnson, Ed Kape, Mimi Madden, David Moore, Dustin Moseley, Sam Nichols, Kevin Polston, Josh Sheldon, Laurie Sheldon, Kevin Small, Bob Trout (Paul Richards)

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

### ABSENT:

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**Members:** Rick Baker, Emily Bridson, Robert Coughlin, Mark Giles, Jill Gorkowski, Maurice Groce, James Hayes, Adetunji Ifaturoti, Fridah Kanini, Tarwo Konbloa, Tom McKelvey, Sam Moore, Tim Mroz, Phillip Nguyen, Bob O'Callaghan, Darius Quinn, Ram Ravikumar, Adam Shilling, Doug Small, Billy Smith, Monica Sparks, Travis Tate

### AGENDA ITEMS:

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- I. **Call Meeting to Order:**
  - a. Mayor Kepley - 6:06pm
  
- II. **Overview, History & Context:**
  - a. Mark Rambo  
Handed out a timeline of park projects, goals, and accomplishments from 2014 through 2022. Reviewed past park improvements, department accomplishments and the committee work that resulted in a millage recommendation. Previous committee work indicated that a millage would provide a necessary long-term sustainable solution to improve and maintain park quality.
  - b. Val Romeo

- c. Ed Kape and Dustin Moseley  
Provided an overview of the park master plans that were created by the Parks, Trails and Recreation Advisory Committee that prioritized park projects over a 10-year time frame and emphasized the need for a millage to help fund these phased projects and maintain the parks. Covenant Park and the Walma property would be tied in with the existing park plan and be developed and prioritized along with the other parks.
- d. Mike Guswiler  
Gave a report on sports tourism which included data from the Meijers Sports Complex and data on the economic impact including travel spending, personal income, employment generator, and taxes (fiscal contributions). Importance of public-private partnership working with local clubs and organizations. Benefits of having a sports complex with tournament quality fields.

### III. Plan and Operational Trajectory:

- a. Mark Rambo, Deputy City Administrator  
Summarized committee discussion and plan for next meeting. The goal is to create:
  1. A **Base Project Layer** that will be added into the City's parks master planning efforts and any future millage effort. This will establish the foundational park and recreational amenities/aspects that are required to meet the needs of the community.
  2. **Opportunity Layers** to provide guidance for future economic development opportunities and/or partnerships which may include:
    - a. Space for the possible future development of a sports complex.
    - b. Improved access to the East Beltline.
    - c. Opportunities to expand the park in the future
- b. Val Romeo, Parks & Recreation Director

### IV. Next Steps:

- a. Mark Rambo, Deputy City Administrator.
- b. Val Romeo, Parks & Recreation Director.  
At the next meeting there will be hand sketched conceptual renderings of the various layers discussed. Discussed ability to potentially shift park assets around the city to best meet community needs. Covenant Park would be woven in with the development of the other parks, along with cost analysis, and amenities ranking. It is expected that any potential millage effort would touch all parks within the community. The City has been successful in acquiring grants to help reduce capital costs. The goal

to formalize a recommendation to the City Commission by October/November.

**V. Public Comment:**

- a. Mayor Kepley. None.

**VI. Adjournment:** Motion to Adjourn: Karmen Johnson, Supported: David Moore.  
Meeting Adjourned 7:15pm.

**Meeting Schedule 2021:**

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

Joint meeting of advisory committees.

- September 13
- October 4
- 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. 9/7/21*