

Parks & Recreation Committee Meeting  
September 11, 2017

Present: Committee Members LeJeune, Fleck and Buxton; Council Member Sovinski; Safety-Service Director Hitchcock; Auditor Strawn; Law Director Moore; Joe Wolfe, Public Works Superintendent; Bill Kincaid, The Daily Standard; Kevin Sandler, WCSM and residents.

Committee Chairman LeJeune called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm for discussion of Eastview Park equipment upgrade ideas. Joe Wolfe reported he and the Mayor travelled to Indianapolis to look at their obstacle course equipment. They talked to the parks maintenance personnel to get his input on maintenance, vandalism, and liability. Indianapolis has had one vandalism incident and liability is similar to other park equipment. They have a lot of children and families that use the challenge course. Joe reported the equipment looked a lot more durable than he had expected it to be. Drainage will not be an issue on this particular playground if it is placed at the proposed location. Joe explained this equipment is big in size and will be challenging for both younger kids and high school aged kids.

There are other expenses planned at \$40,000 to do upgrades to diamonds in Eastview Park, which will include new batting cages.

This obstacle course is proposed to be located at the existing Eastview Park diamond #5, which is located closest to Carol Drive. No games were scheduled on the diamond this past season. Only one bantam league game was played here, which was a make-up game. Joe does not see any issues with scheduling baseball games if this field is eliminated. The playground in the middle of the park is also proposed to be relocated in the future.

CM Buxton asked what kind of maintenance this will require. Joe Wolfe explained there is no maintenance, other than going out with leaf blowers to clean it off. This will have a tight weave turf, stone and rubber fill.

CM Fleck asked how vandalism would be handled. Joe Wolfe replied money is put into his budget yearly for playground equipment repairs. If it meets the deductible, the repair costs could be turned into insurance.

Betty Lawrence, 1913 E. Livingston Street, stated her biggest concern is the terrible condition of Livingston Street from Grand Lake Road to the park. There are vehicles parked along the street making it difficult to travel to and from the park at times. She believes this street is an eyesore. We want to make the park nice, and it would be nice to have the street leading to the park looking good too. There are no sidewalks, so kids walk on the street creating a safety issue. Joe Wolf stated the problem with this street is that it is so narrow. We cannot widen the street because a portion is in the township, and he does not believe it would meet the setback requirements. There are no definite plans for repairs to this portion of East Livingston Street in the next two years.

CM Sovinski asked if this part of Livingston Street is included in the Livingston Street repaving project. Director Hitchcock responded it will depend on how the cost comes in. The funding will come from the OPWC grant and local funding. Livingston Street from Grand Lake Road to Eastview Park is included in the grant, as an alternate.

CM Lejeune reported a Parks Volunteer Board meeting was held a month ago. These members liked the idea regarding the obstacle course and toddler playground equipment. Joe summarized other ideas for the park. The Mercer County Sportsmen Club has offered oak and pine trees to the City. The trees will need to be relocated at the City's expense. They will be placed along the walkway and in the center of Eastview Park. A rough estimate of relocation cost is approximately \$100 per tree. The parking lot on the west side of Carol Drive will have gravel added to get it squared up and looking better.

Betty Lawrence showed pictures of Evergreen Bag Worms she has seen on the evergreen trees around the pond at Eastview Park. This worm will destroy the trees. Joe will look into spraying for these.

Bill Kincaid asked what the cost of the obstacle course and toddler playground would be. Joe Wolf responded the "Cadillac" course Pro 5000 Series is approximately \$260,000. It would be approximately \$215,000 for a smaller course Pro 4000 Series.

CM Sovinski asked where the money that will be paying from this will be coming from. The City received a State Line Item Grant to be used specifically for Eastview Park. There are no alternative options for use of the rest of the grant money. Director Hitchcock explained the grant amount the City received is \$350,000. Some in-house work can be conducted to help save money also.

CM Buxton made a recommendation to address at the next council meeting Option 1 Revision 3 Gametime Pro 5000 Series park equipment, seconded by CM Fleck. The recommendation passed with a voice acclimation vote 3-0 aye.

Chairman LeJeune adjourned the meeting at 6:40 pm.

Submitted by Joan S. Wurster, Clerk of Council