**Park Board Partnership Subcommittee**

**Meeting Minutes**

**Friday June 11, 2021, 1:30 p.m.**

**Held in-person at Scout Shelter in Kirkwood Park**

**111 S. Geyer Road**

**Kirkwood, MO 63122**

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Kathy Paulsen (Chair), Jordan Weinke, Alvin Reid. Parks and Recreation Director Kyle Henke and staff member Laura Thal Horton.

1. **CITIZEN COMMENTS**

None

1. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**
   1. Alphonse Smith Memorial Update: Alvin Reid gave an update and has been in continued communication with the family of Alphonse Smith.
2. **NEW BUSINESS**
   1. Greentree Legacy Program Memorial Benches: Staff member Laura explained that the Parks Department gets several inquiries monthly about donating a Greentree Legacy Program Memorial Bench at Walker Lake. She has had to explain that there are no available benches at the Lake. No wait list or official record is kept of requests. Kyle Henke said that the Parks Department can’t continuously install benches. Staff wants an interpretation of the 15-year clause in the Greentree Legacy Program Brochure, which states, “Due to wear and tear, park renovation and updates, benches are only guaranteed for 15 years.” Laura suggested releasing some benches by starting with the oldest benches around Walker Lake. Laura also said that the current $1500 price barely covers the cost of a bench & installation. She recommends that the price be increased to $1600 - $2000.

Board member discussion: Jordan Weinke discussed the limited opportunities for residents who love the parks to have a bench around the lake and she believes the bench holders should be limited in time. Kathy Paulsen discussed knowing the circumstances related to individuals participating in the program who have commemorated the death of a loved one and is concerned about the emotional impact of restricting time to a specific number of years.

Jordan suggested limiting benches to 15 years for a purchase of $2000 or a bench adoption of $500 for 5 years. She suggested sending current bench holders a letter informing them of the new policy and she offered to write up the recommendations. Alvin objected to sending a letter, as it would be too “IRS-like.” Kathy suggested considering a 20-year time frame, and trying to understand circumstances which would lead to a bench being “extinct”.

Increasing the cost of a bench to $2,000 is comparable to other communities and the board agreed that it sounded reasonable. The committee will meet again to discuss possible changes to the Greentree Legacy Program. Date TBD.

* 1. Other Matters - none

1. **ADJOURNMENT** – Committee adjourned the meeting at 2:30 p.m.

Attached:

Park Memorial Bench Comparison spreadsheet 6-11-2021 (Kathy Paulsen)

Greentree Legacy Program (brochure)

Agenda

Submitted by Kathy Paulsen