

**Service & Recreation Committee Meeting of Council
City of Richmond Heights
April 5, 2022**

Chairperson Lewis called the meeting to order at 8:20pm

Roll Call: Alexander, Nelson, Lewis, Lentine

Council also present: Jordan, Bell, Ursu

Acceptance of Minutes of March 1, 2022- Motion by Lentine to accept the meeting minutes, seconded by Lewis; passed 3-0. (Alexander had stepped out at this time)

Guest: Christel Best: Belle Oaks Update:

- Will come to present and give information monthly.
- Every 2 Tuesdays out of the month will do K9 training in Regal Cinemas location. Will be about 15 dogs and handlers working there.
- Heading into grass/weed season and plan to keep up on that. Keep us posted if you see it unkempt anywhere on the property.
- Current tenancies- working with them to relocate them.
- Meier is finalizing designs with ARB in 4-6 weeks with project
- Groundbreaking dates are possibly late summer. Finance term sheets in discussion. The water easement and sewer are issues working on with county. It is a two-part deal.
- MBE- Minority Business Enterprise participation is important to them and conversations ongoing. Meeting with Marous Bros on the typical practice.
- Demo bids- hoping out by spring April/May. Will depend on water/sewer issue.
- Lentine said he had concerns on the sewers and what must be done? NCA had a lot of questions back and forth. Issues surrounding EPA and county. Very slow in dealing with them. Not a lot of track record and takes time to get through. City and Dealpoint- working with county on documentation. Ms. Best said a lot of progress was made just last week.

REPORTS:

Mayor Thomas: No further report.

Building Commissioner, Jim Urankar: No report.

Economic Development Director, Brian Gleisser:

- Drainage issue at Desan- move installation to Summer. Will meet grant deadline.
- Update on new grants- block and supplemental. On April 12 it is on the county agenda, waiting anxiously on this.
- Lentine asked about outdoor furniture at Lodge. Mayor working on Lodge issues.

Service Director, Don Kerniskey:

- Leasing with Enterprise program- would like to answer any questions and want to move it forward to Council for approval.
- Mayor said they have worked out the info on this and legal approves as well.
- Alexander asked why the City would want to lease? He said it would be better for the city to purchase and own their own rather than lease. Would be better off than leasing and you could own

4 new trucks. Leasing does not give you options at the end. Once you start you are locked in. Kerniskey said they can buy them out after a year or more and can get out of the lease at any point. Alexander said Enterprise is making money out of this; fears this will come back to haunt the city in the future. Kerniskey said the city needs more than 4 vehicles. This leasing program will make city look better, have more manpower, something that's been lacking for years.

- Lentine had similar financial concerns as Alexander. Leasing is done if you don't have the money to purchase. Unsure on how many vehicles are needed but favors purchasing them over leasing.
- Nelson contacted other cities who have been leasing and got some responses via email. The cities who responded to her were Ron Strauser/Wickliffe, Scott Miller/Medina, Jeff Armbruster/North Ridgeville, and Jeffrey Wade/CMHA who all responded with positive results using Enterprise. Kevin Kostelnik/Eastlake also responded saying simply that they do not use that program.
- Kerniskey said the city can cancel after 2 yrs. if not working well.
- Lentine asked why the Service Dept can't start a similar program like the police car program, who buys two vehicles each year on a rotation.
- Lewis added that once you pay for a car, gets older and starts breaking down. But with leasing we can trade these back each year and get new ones.
- Kerniskey said that the 10 vehicles and resale value was already researched ahead of time. Explained program and said this is not going to be costing us money in repairs as the city will be turning them over each year.
- Mayor commented on the fact that if decided to purchase our own, trucks would not be here for at least a year. With leasing, we will have the trucks very quickly. She said that Law Director Todd Hunt did express that this is a win-win situation.
- Jordan said that in future these fleets will probably all be electric and leasing. Big proponent of morale in the city and to see nice vehicles for Fire and Police, why not Service. Just trust the investigation on this by Nelson and others and in favor of this leasing.
- *MOTION to authorize the agreement with Enterprise for the Service Dept and create legislation on this for COW by Nelson, seconded by Lewis. Tie at 2-2 (NAY- Alexander and Lentine), President Jordan voted to break the tie and voted YAY, so motion passed 3-2.*
- Lentine explained that his Nay vote was for favoring the purchasing of vehicles and not leasing. Want Service to get new vehicles but not thru leasing.

City Engineer, Lee Courtney:

- Road Striping- Kerniskey would like to see whole city striped. Needs to be done professionally. It is a safety issue and a problem, needs to be done.
- Mayor is also considering going out for bids on new City Engineer. Will also consider Courtney & Co. Not sure we can proceed on this now.
- Alexander asked what does the City Engineer have to do with the fact we want to do road striping? Chris Courtney said it is a matter of moving money from one category to another. There is unperformed work in there to look at.

Recreation Dept: New Rec Director will be hired soon. Council to meet candidate next week. Will send bios over to Council.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. **Security Cameras:** Security Survey and Threat Assessment for Community Park, Desan Park, Kiwanis Lodge and Greenwood Farm – not set up yet. AT&T- 4 stages to complete and in first stage/phase. Need infrastructure first.
2. **Update on any Old or New grants:** Gleisser report.
3. **Service Dept.:** Enterprise Leasing
4. **Ad Hoc Pool Committee:** Will wait on update from this from new Rec Director. Mayor Thomas said there were 550 questionnaires completed from residents and they want a pool. What will this look like? Want to bring in a consultant on this. Look at surrounding areas (such as Mayfield Village) ---asked Gleisser and Rachel to investigate consultant on this. Gleisser said the Rec Board has also been discussing this. There is a \$50K fee for consultant. Discussion on pool/aquatic center/spray grounds. Survey done last fall.

Lentine said the city needs to look at overall picture of this. When we had a pool, the number of people coming was very low. Had concern on the amount of money needed for a new pool.

Jordan said if you put some color and new stuff there, the people will come. There was a reason the people did not come to the old pool as it was like an old bathtub. We do need to be conscious of the money, but also need to give residents what they want and deserve.

Mayor is asking for Service to drain the pool. Totally in disrepair and muddy with some water in it still. It is a safety issue.

Dorrie Mittinger, resident- commented on the pool status. The city started off wanting to replace the pool but turned into something larger. It does cost a lot of money and pools never break even financially. But, a real negative to this city is to not have a pool. May not need a very large pool but look forward to having a pool. Alternative for now is to investigate how residents can be able to go to another city pool in the time being.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Nelson- announced that high school senior \$10,000 scholarship- at Dollar Bank- online scholarship

Lentine—this Saturday at Lodge is the Easter Egg Hunt 10am at park near tennis courts and Kiwanis Pancake breakfast 9am-1pm this weekend. Proceeds go to scholarships for the kids.

Ursu- Would like to see state basketball champions in the city with signs posted in city “State Basketball Champions 2022” that can be added to the signs in city. Set funds aside to do that. Such as “Welcome to RH Home of State BB Champions 2022”.

Wednesday April 13 at 1pm- Lodge festivities and parade – for the Basketball Championship.

NEW BUSINESS: -none-

AUDIENCE:

Pat Ackerman, resident: Commented on having e-sports in city Rec Dept. With the new Rec Director coming, city should expand their view of recreation in today's world. Today's children are screenagers and that is why e-sports matters. E-sports teams can be linked to schools. City should think about offering e-sports to children in the city. Kids can get to college on scholarships through e-sports too.

Chairwoman Lewis adjourned this meeting at 9:26 p.m.

Meeting Minutes taken by Betsy Traben