

**Raytown Park Board  
Minutes  
October 19, 2020**

**Attendance:**

**Park Board:** Dave Thurman, Brian Morris, Jennifer Perkins, Robbie Tubbs, Brent Hugh, Loretha Hayden, William McClendon and George Mitchell.

**Staff:** Dave Turner, Ron Fowler, Mike Conrad and Mary Ann McCormick

**Guests:** Mayor Mike McDonough, Chief Robert Kuehl, Alderman Greg Walters, Alderman Janet Emerson, Tony Jacob, Jane Loulos, Khadijah Hardaway, Mindy McDaniel, Jim DeLong, John Daugherty

A quorum was declared present and the meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm.

**Public Participation:**

1. Jane Loulos – Jane’s house was hit with bullets back in 2019. She is concerned that this is getting out of hand and will continue happening just not in the parks but in the community as well. What can be done?
2. Tony Jacob concerned about having Zoom meetings and public not being able to comment, need to meet with Police Chief and let him know our concerns, when are we going to start having meetings in person again? How much violence is too much? How many people need to die on your watch before it becomes important? Would it matter more if they were white victims?
3. Khadijah Hardaway has lived in Raytown for 12 years. Last Saturday, there was a violent fight between two women and 6 shots were fired. Police were called. What is the cost of police patrol vs cost of homicide? What about hiring a park ranger?
4. Mindy McDaniel has lived in Raytown since 1992 and has seen an increase in violence in the parks. This needs to be addressed.
5. Jim DeLong has lived in Raytown since February 1983. He has talked to Parks Department several times and new signs have been posted at the parks some not in a good spot. People are always parking on the grass and not following park rules and nothing is being done.
6. John Daugherty has lived in Raytown since 1986 and all rules need to be enforced city wide.

Brian Morris made a motion to approve the minutes from September 21, 2020. Loretha Hayden seconded and the motion passed. Jennifer Perkins made a motion to approve the Buildings & Ground minutes from September 28, 2020. Brent Hugh seconded and the motion passed.

**Reports of Officers:**

President – no report

Vice President – no report

**Reports of Standing & Special Committees:**

**Personnel** - no report

**Finance** – no report

**Program** – committee met October 15<sup>th</sup> to discuss upcoming events and fee schedule.

**Buildings & Grounds** – committee met September 28<sup>th</sup> to discuss projects and maintenance needs in the future.

**Rice Tremonti** – Brian reported that the porch is complete.

**BMX** - no report

**Staff Reports:**

**Director** – a written report was distributed

**Superintendent of Parks** – staff sealed concrete around Rotary plaza and flagpole and poured 2 concrete pads at Kenagy Park.

**Recreation** – a written report was distributed.

**New Business:**

1. Security issues at Colman Park. Chief Robert Kuehl reported that he has lived in Raytown for 35 years and understands the problems the city is having. He hears gunshots from his house 5 out of 7 nights a week. No one can guarantee your safety. In Raytown, there have been 303 shots fired from January 1, 2020 through October 15, 2020. 10 of those have been tied to Colman Park with no assaults, property damage, etc. This is a regional and country wide problem not just a Raytown problem. Non-compliance with all rules is a reality. Three additional officers have been added for FY2020-21 that will be assigned as an Impact Squad. 67% of our officers are allocated to patrolling the City. The Police Department is announcing a Violent Crime Initiative on October 22, 2020 at 1:00 pm at Kenagy Park. Public is invited to attend. When police do show up at calls where there has been an assault, etc. 80% of victims will not cooperate with police. They will take care of the matter themselves. This needs to change. To hire an off-duty police officer would be approximately \$45/hour to patrol just our parks. Calling 911 gets first priority vs calling non-emergency calls. Sometimes when you call 911 depending on which cell tower you are closest too, you might get Kansas City Police Dept. If this happens, please hang-up and call the non-emergency number. If you call 911 – 3 times the computer notices and dispatch will call you back regardless. The Raytown Police have met with several neighbors and have had many conversations with the Parks Department. We are working on solutions.
2. Program Committee:
  - A. Brian Morris made a motion to approve not having Youth Basketball program this fall/winter due to Covid-19. Jenny Perkins seconded and the motion passed.
  - B. George Mitchell made a motion to approve the Parks Department getting involved with the Bi-Centennial Celebration next September. Brent Hugh seconded and the motion passed.
  - C. Brian Morris made a motion to approve the Heart of America Senior Softball group to use our facilities during FY20-21. Loretha Hayden seconded and motion passed.
  - D. Robbie Tubbs made a motion to approve the Schedule of Fees and Charges for FY20-21. Loretha Hayden seconded and the motion passed.
3. Asset Management from City Works. Public Works wants to implement asset management – it includes 4 parts – Fleet, ROW/Sewer, Buildings/Facilities and Parks Assets. Cost initially would be \$193,000 to purchase and that includes all data entry. Annual payment in 2021-\$31,600, 2022-\$47,400 and park portion would be \$11,850, 2023-\$63,200 and parks portion \$15,800. Tech support would be an additional expense.
4. Security lighting at Parks. Evergy just replaced all the lights at Kenagy Park with LED bulbs. Most lights in our parks are old and will need to be replaced. Staff will call Evergy and get pricing on updating all the lights.
5. Mayor Mike McDonough thanked the Park Board, Chief Robert Kuehl and Alderman Janet Emerson for all the hard work they put in.
6. Robbie Tubbs made a motion to adjourn. George Mitchell seconded and the motion passed.

The November 16, 2020 meeting will be a Zoom meeting.