

Brookland Parks Committee Meeting

Monday, July 19, 2021 @ 6:00 pm

613 Holman at Brookland City Hall

- 6:00 Meeting called to order By David Loggins. Members present were Sharon Hopkins, Julie Thomas, David Loggins, and Justin Ladd. Mayor Jones was present and Brookland City Councilmember Pam McGee.
- 6:02 Minutes were read from 6/21/10 meeting. A motion was made by Sharon Hopkins to approve last month's minutes. A second was made by Justin Ladd. Minutes approved as presented.
- 6:05 Committee President David Loggins discussed the bond release on September 1, 2021. Mayor Jones added that Merchants Bank would be the bond trustee. Michael McBride is the contact person with Stephens, Inc. Mayor Jones also added the interest rate is less than 2 percent for 30 years with a projected 14-year payoff.
- 6:10 David Loggins reminded those present that he created a Facebook page for the Brookland Parks projects called Friends of Brookland. He mentioned that the committee members can add content to the page and share on social media. Loggins mentioned that he had been asked by community members about a dog park and the hopes of it being part of the Hayes Street Park. He mentioned the community requests and questions he had received about both a dog park and a toddler area included in our city parks. Sharon Hopkins asked questions about a basketball court going in at the sportsplex park. There was discussion about all three topics, but no final decisions made.
- 6:12 Justin Ladd discussed some things he had heard from community members regarding the addition of soccer fields to the city parks project because of the growth of interest in kids playing soccer. David Loggins presented ideas about the possibility of including a walking trail and fishing pond. Benefits and limitations were discussed with both. No final decisions were made.
- 6:15 Councilmember Pam McGee asked about parking availability at the sportsplex in the event of tournaments. She mentioned the need to incorporate suitable parking for those types of events. There was a question about the addition of turf fields to the baseball/softball fields at the sportsplex. Mayor Jones added that the final project depends on the costs of different components.
- 6:20 Sharon Hopkins and David Loggins discussed the addition of security measures at each of the parks and what might be appropriate. No decisions made. During discussion Mayor Jones stated that there would be a full-time parks director position to oversee these parks and their upkeep.
- 6:23 Mayor Jones discussed the process for creation of the parks from getting a title, conducting a land survey, and more. Justin Ladd asked about the engineer attending

meetings to help with technical questions and more. Mayor Jones responded that the engineer should be present at the next regular meeting.

David Loggins asked Mayor Jones how much input the parks committee will have on the creation of the city parks and Mayor Jones responded by saying that the parks committee will have a lot of input in the creation. Loggins asked the committee what we wanted to see in the smaller parks. Sharon Hopkins mentioned that the parks should be handicapped accessible.

6:27 Pam McGee asked if the small parks would have bathrooms. Mayor Jones replied that it was up to the committee on that design decision. Discussion included the pros and cons of including restroom facilities at the city parks. No final decision was made.

6:30 Mayor Jones suggested that we might incorporate a theme to each of the smaller parks such as "Heroes" or "Farmers" etc. The committee members discussed possible themes and thought it was a good idea. David Loggins asked Mayor Jones about naming rights for the parks and fields. Mayor Jones discussed the need to be cautious in allowing naming rights for the sake of managerial control. No final decisions were made.

6:35 Pam McGee brought up a possible fundraising opportunity with the sale of memorial bricks at a "Heroes" themed park. McGee also asked about including flag poles. Mayor Jones responded that the addition of flag poles also includes the responsibility for proper flag etiquette, including raising and lowering for official orders. No final decisions were made.

6:40 David Loggins suggested that veterans in the community might want to create a separate memorial apart from a "Heroes" themed park. Mayor Jones supported this idea.

6:45 David Loggins asked about the completion of the fields on the sportsplex. Mayor Jones discussed that the engineer explained the fields should be ready by the spring of 2022.

Justin Ladd asked about the budget for each of the parks. Mayor Jones explained the projected budget for the two smaller parks is \$250,000 and the larger park/sportsplex budget is \$3,500,000.

6:50 David Loggins explained the agenda for the next meeting would include deciding on park themes, selecting appropriate playground equipment, and deciding on fundraising opportunities. Sharon Hopkins said she had access to playground suppliers through her job at Brookland Pre-K and could help the committee find some options.

6:53 David Loggins reminded the committee the next meeting would be Monday, August 16 @ 6:00 pm, Brookland City Hall. Justin Ladd made a motion to adjourn. Sharon Hopkins seconded. Meeting adjourned at 6:53 pm.