



# CPPS Meeting Minutes

July 14, 2021

6:00 p.m.

**Ex Officio:** Chuck Adams  
**Members:** Thurman Gardner      Amber Duren      Bonnie Sandburg  
                  Kenny Shaw            Wayne Snider      Troy Thompson

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## 1. Approve minutes of minutes of June 9, 2021

- **Motion:** Board President Snider made the motion to accept the minutes of the June 9, 2021 meeting.
- **Second:** Board Member Gardner seconded the motion
- **Vote:** Passes 6-0

## 2. Review Cemetery Activity

- Assistant City Manager Zack Daniel reviewed the financial report and cemetery activity report. The total consolidated balance currently sits at \$68,511.17. Mr. Daniel then reviewed the pending deposits in transit that account for the differences in the two reports.
- **Motion:** Board President Snider made the motion to accept the June Cemetery Activity Report as presented
- **Second:** Board Member Thompson seconded the motion
- **Vote:** Passes 5-0

## 3. Hear Public Comments from Mary Kimbrough related to the historic cemetery

- Assistant City Manager Zack Daniel introduced Mary Kimbrough to the CPPS Board, and briefly reviewed Ms. Kimbrough's background in previous restoration attempts at the site in question.
- Ms. Kimbrough introduced the individuals she brought with her, including Mr. Harris who was also involved in previous restoration attempts, her three daughters, and Ms. Jarrett representing the local NAACP.
- Ms. Kimbrough provided a review of her history with the historic cemetery.
- Ms. Kimbrough presented a collection of information she had collected related to the site. She went on to state that for all the years that there was a cemetery tax levy, no funds were used for maintenance of the historic cemetery. She recapped the history of failed promises and assurances made by the City related to the site.
- Ms. Kimbrough's primary reason for appearing was to express her great disappointment in the recent Goats-on-the-Go clean up effort at the site. She felt it was disrespectful for this method to be used on a cemetery site. She was further upset by the playful tone of the news coverage of the effort.
- Ms. Jarrett from the NAACP then addressed the group, echoing Ms. Kimbrough's disappointment in the goat clean-up project.
- The naming of the cemetery was revisited, with Ms. Kimbrough stressing that Stony Point was not an appropriate or correct name for the site.

- Mr. Daniel recapped the background of the cleanup efforts, including the goat cleanup. Mr. Daniel agreed that the efforts to maintain the site have not been adequate.
- Ms. Kimbrough's daughter, Nina, then addressed the group, and recapped how she felt the goat project was inappropriate. She further stated that the site should not be maintained by volunteer labor but rather by regular City workers funded by tax dollars.
- Mr. Daniel provided additional context as to the history of the Cemetery Board and its operational authority within the City. He noted that clean-up efforts were presented as volunteer events as a way to garner community investment.
- Ms. Kimbrough recapped the previous petitions that were provided to the City related to restoration efforts.
- Mr. Daniel noted that the two major items to be addressed remain the naming of the site and securing permanent access.
- Board Member Thompson noted that he appreciated the group bringing this to the board. He did note that the current iteration of the Cemetery/Parks Board remains committed to righting the wrongs which have occurred in the past. He is hopeful to finish the restoration efforts that were promised in the past.
- Nina Kimbrough stressed the need for an action plan for the site that is easy to track. She further elaborated on the HEAT model of planning.
- Councilmember Adams noted that he was honored to take part in past volunteer clean efforts. She noted he had great respect for Ms. Kimbrough and her previous efforts. He apologized for the goat project. He also provided additional context on the taxing structure as it relates to cemetery maintenance.
- Board President Snider voiced his support for the continuing to work on the restoration of this site. Mr. Snider also recapped other research efforts related to the site, which took place a number of years ago.
- Jonetta Kimbrough then addressed the group, noting she accepted the apologies of the board but pushed for continued action on the site.
- There was additional discussion on the location of the site and the possibilities related to permanent access
- After Ms. Kimbrough's contingent left, the CPPS had continued discussion coming to a consensus to have regular update items related to this project. Mr. Daniel noted that all stakeholders would remain informed on next steps.
- The group agreed that securing access was the logical next steps.
- Though no official action was taken, the Board gave direction to City staff to continue to provide regular updates regarding this project, starting with a discussion on securing access at the group's August meeting/

#### **4. Consider Adopt-a-Planter Program for the Edwardsville Cemetery**

- Assistant City Manager Zack Daniel reviewed this item and summarized the application and approval process.
- The only outstanding items that would need to be finalized are the costs that would be charged for the program. Mr. Daniel is reviewing costs for signage that would ultimately determine the fees for participants.
- Board President Snider reminded staff that there are still some water spigots that need to be repaired.
- **Motion:** Board member Duren made the motion to move forward with the Adopt-A-Planter Program as presented by staff.

- **Second:** Board President Snider seconded the motion
- **Vote:** Passes, 6-0

#### 5. Consider panel recommendation related to the selection of a firm for the River Front Park Redevelopment Project

- Assistant City Manager Zack Daniel summarized the RFQ solicitation and interview process for this project.
- Eight firms provided responses to the RFQ and five were selected for an interview. The interview panel consisted of Mr. Daniel, City Planner Bradley Hocesvar, Parks & Rec Supervisor Mike Martin, City Councilmember Garrett Mellott, and EDW Elementary Principal Tracy Johnson.
- The firm that emerged as the consensus choice among the panel was Stantec Consulting Services, LLC. Primarily, this group stood out due to their understanding of the concept of the space that would be most appropriate considering its proximity to residential houses. They also have experience working on similar projects along the Kansas River.
- Mike Martin also pointed out that the group came with possible grant opportunities already identified for the project.
- Mr. Daniel explained that if the CPPS Board approved moving forward with contract negotiations, the next step would be to ask the City Council for final approval.
- Board Member Duren commented that she thought the timeline presented was appropriate, considering all the steps that would be needed that involve the river.
- Councilmember Adams asked if any MARC subcommittees would be involved in this process, which Mr. Daniel noted that the Bike & Pedestrian Committee may play a role.
- Board Member Thompson asked if there would be any historical signage included in the final plan. Mr. Daniel stated that would be firmed up through the process, but that historical signage was included in the RFQ solicitation and Stantec had demonstrated similar work in other communities.
- Board President Snider felt like continuing down this path as summarized was a great start for the project.
- Board Member Gardner asked Councilmember Adams if he felt the project as conceptualized by the Stantec proposal was realistic. Mr. Adams felt like it was and thought that a historical marker of some kind honoring Junius Groves would also be appropriate.
- **Motion:** Board Member Thompson made the motion to accept the panel recommendation of Stantec Consulting, and to proceed with contract negotiations with costs to be paid using the City's Special Sales Tax Fund, and a continued emphasis on historical signage or markers be included in the project.
- **Second:** Board Member Duren seconded the motion
- **Vote:** Passes, 6-0

#### 6. Advisory Reports

- Assistant City Manager Zack Daniel noted that he plans on bringing updates related to securing access to the historical cemetery and an AutumnFest planning update.

- Parks & Rec Supervisor Mike Martin noted that baseball had a total of 162 participants, an increase of 55 from 2019 numbers. Arts & Crafts this summer has also been performing well, especially among older kids. Mr. Daniel added that the teacher for the program was very good and he was thankful to have secured her services. There was additional discussion on how this program also benefits the school's summer lunch program.

Board President Snider discussed options related to veteran markers and fixes for the flag pole holes along the circle drive. Board Member Gardner was excited to see these various projects move forward.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:14 p.m.

Zachary Daniel  
City Clerk