

City of Montgomery
Parks and Recreation Committee Minutes
February 11, 2019

Present

Brian Riblet, City Manager
Matthew Vanderhorst, Community and Information Services Director
Julie Machon, Recreation Coordinator
Connie Gaylor, Clerk of Council

Committee Members Present

Gerri Harbison
Mike Cappel

Committee Members Absent

Lynda Roesch, Chair

The Parks and Recreation Committee of Council convened in Council Chambers at 3:30 p.m. with Mr. Cappel presiding.

Discussion of Montgomery Pool and Gazebo Rentals

Ms. Machon explained to the Committee that currently pool members have the option to rent the pool gazebo and entire pool. Gazebo rentals are offered during pool hours and are popular with approximately 30-40 gazebo rentals per pool season. Pool members also have the option to rent the entire pool on select nights and times and during the past 10 years, one to two rentals of the entire pool occurred per pool season. Ms. Machon stated that pool members who are interested in renting the pool complete a pool party request form and submit it to our pool management company who then forwards it to the City's Recreation Coordinator. The Recreation Coordinator or the Pool Management Company contacts the potential renter to discuss the request.

Ms. Machon explained that during the 2018 pool season, a non-resident purchased a weekend only pool membership, just so he could rent the pool. She stated there were major safety concerns that occurred prior to, during, and after the rental. She cited the safety concerns included the renter not controlling the number of guests by sending out an open invitation to many local high schools, a caller stating that guns will be brought into the "party", suspected drug use in the parking lot during the rental, gang behavior occurring during the party, and guests not dispersing the parking lot after the rental. The Montgomery Police assisted Recreation Staff with this rental.

Ms. Machon explained that after this rental occurred, Recreation staff met with other City staff to discuss pool rentals. Recreation staff researched other municipal pools to survey other their rental policies and found that other cities comparable to Montgomery do not allow private pool rentals.

Ms. Machon stated that staff recommends rentals of the Gazebo continue based on the popularity of them. She explained that staff recommends adding the following restrictions to the Gazebo Rentals including: setting a maximum number of 30 guests and requiring the renter to be present during the entire length of the gazebo rental.

Ms. Machon added that staff recommends that rentals of the entire pool be discontinued based on safety concerns and also considering the very low number of rentals that have occurred during the past ten years.

Mrs. Harbison stated that although she doesn't like one bad incident defining the City's business, it does prove that the liability of renting out the pool is significant and challenging when controlling a large party.

Mr. Riblet stated that his concern was if we were penalizing the residents by discontinuing the rental of the pool and should we instead consider a substantial rental increase in order to prevent someone from renting the pool with this type of intent in mind. After discussion, Mr. Riblet stated considering the small number of rentals, and the possibility of future issues happening, he supports discontinuing the rental of the pool.

Mrs. Harbison made a motion to discontinue the pool rentals and to continue with the gazebo rentals with the added conditions as set forth by staff. Mr. Cappel seconded. The Committee unanimously agreed.

Discussion of Lodge and Church Rentals and Memorial Gifts Rate Review

Mr. Vanderhorst explained to the Committee that staff recently conducted a survey of surrounding communities with rental facilities similar to Swaim and Terwilliger Lodges, both public and private, to compare our rental rates as well as amenities offered. He explained that in 2016 the rates for Swaim Lodge were increased to recover expenses incurred during the renovation and expansion of the kitchen facilities. Remodeling efforts provided the staff with positive feedback that the improvements were much needed. Swaim Lodge revenue has increased approximately \$5,000 annually since this time. Staff does not recommend a rate increase at this time.

Mr. Vanderhorst stated that in 2016, the Parks and Recreation Committee approved the establishment of a Resident and Non-resident rate for Terwilliger Lodge. He explained that at that time the resident rate remained the same for weekday and weekend rentals, whereas a nonresident rate was established at a higher rate for each type of rental with the weekend rate being the highest difference of \$150. On average, Terwilliger Lodge has created revenue of approximately \$35,500 annually since 2017. The number of rentals is equally split between residents and nonresidents; however, it is known that residents will reserve for nonresidents in order to provide them with the resident rate. In consideration of the increased costs of cleaning and maintenance, as well as staying competitive with industry standards, staff recommends raising the fees for Terwilliger Lodge as listed below:

	Current Resident	Proposed	Current NR	Proposed
Weekday all day (8:00 am-11:00 pm)	\$175.00	\$200.00	\$250.00	\$300.00
Weekend Friday-Saturday (8:00 am -1:00 am) Sunday 10:00 am-11:00pm)	\$350.00	\$400.00	\$500.00	\$600.00

Mr. Vanderhorst explained that due to the significance and fragility of Universalist and its artifacts and furnishings, staff is concerned with the continued availability to rent the church. He reported that rentals of the church have fallen to only one rental each year from 2017 to now. Due to the restrictiveness of the building and the concern for damage to the building and its furnishings, he stated that staff recommends discontinuing the rental of the church to the public and using it for city purposes only.

Mr. Vanderhorst explained that the memorial gifting programs for the purchase of benches, bricks and trees in recognition or honor of a community resident or business have been intact for well over a decade. He stated that after a review of expenses, there is a need to raise the costs of these items in order to cover the cost of materials, shipping and labor. Listed below are the current costs and the proposed increase of each item offered:

Item	Current Cost	Proposed Cost
Standard Park Bench	\$300.00	\$500.00
Victorian Park Bench	\$500.00	\$800.00
Commemorative Brick	\$35.00	\$55.00
Street Tree Program	\$75.00	\$100.00
Memorial Tree and Plaque	\$250.00	\$250.00

Mr. Vanderhorst stated that on average, the City processes orders for 8 to 10 memorial trees, 40 Right of Way trees, 5 engraved bricks, 2 Victorian benches, and 4 standard benches a year.

Mr. Vanderhorst reiterated that the proposed increases were requested only to cover the cost of the material, shipping and installation.

Mrs. Harbison made a motion to approve the rental rate increase for Terwilliger Lodge as proposed, the discontinuance of the rental of Universalist Church, and the proposed increases to the memorial gifts as stated. Mr. Cappel seconded. The Committee unanimously agreed.

Minutes

Mrs. Harbison moved to approve the December 10, 2018 Committee minutes. Mr. Cappel seconded. The Committee unanimously approved the minutes.

Adjournment

Mrs. Harbison moved for adjournment. Mr. Cappel seconded. The Committee unanimously agreed.

The Parks and Recreation Committee of Council meeting was adjourned at 3:50 p.m.


Chair