

City of Montgomery  
Parks and Recreation Committee Minutes  
September 12, 2022

Staff Present

Brian Riblet, City Manager  
Tracy Henao, Asst. City Manager  
John Crowell, Police Chief  
Mike Rogers, Asst. Public Works Director  
Julie Machon, Recreation Director  
Connie Gaylor, Clerk of Council

Committee Members Present

Sasha Naiman, Chair  
Chris Dobrozsi  
Mike Cappel

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The Parks and Recreation Committee of Council convened its meeting for September 12, 2022 at 3:30 p.m. with Mrs. Naiman presiding.

New Business

Pickleball Discussion

Mr. Riblet explained to the Committee that in 2020 the tennis courts at Dulle Park were converted to portable pickleball courts as a result of resident feedback. He stated that since that time those courts have had quite a bit of use from a large group of pickleball players from Montgomery and the surrounding area. Mr. Riblet explained that there have been complaints from a resident living near the courts regarding the noise from the pickleball. He explained that Council Member Suer reached out and visited the resident. Mr. Suer conveyed that he would bring this issue to the Committee for further discussion.

Mr. Riblet distributed copies of the current Noise Ordinance and Park Rules. He stated that staff has investigated several options on how to manage the noise, but none were feasible to address the noise issue at this time.

Mr. Rogers explained that Mr. Heitkamp, Public Works Director, had also spoken with the resident. Mr. Rogers stated that a wind screen was installed, and it was hoped it will also serve as a sound deterrent. He explained that as a result of complaints, he acquired a quote for a acoustifence which is designed specifically to be a sound proofing screen. He explained that the quote came back at \$64,000 for material only. He stated that the sales representative he spoke with stated that it is not largely used due to the cost. Mr. Rogers explained that there were other products such as soundproof paddles and balls available but felt there was not an effective way of managing their use.

Mr. Rogers added that the resident suggested restricting hours of play at the courts and moving the pickleball court to the Pfeiffer Road tennis court. Mr. Rogers pointed out that there were no restrooms at that small park and very limited parking.

Ms. Machon explained that she created a post on a Parks and Recreation website asking for feedback on the soundproof fencing and received mixed results on it.

Mr. Riblet explained that he was concerned the existing chain link fence would not be able to bear the weight of the screen and wind so it may need to also be replaced with a sturdier type of fencing.

Police Chief Crowell explained that he visited the resident's home on Symphony Lane who had filed a complaint and used a sound/decibel meter to measure the decibels from the courts. He explained he did this in the morning and in the afternoon. He explained that the rating was 68 decibels, under the noise ordinance for that time of day. He added that he walked to the back of Dulle Park to also measure ambient noise (wind, birds) and it registered in the upper 50's. He stated that 70 is the threshold during that time of day. He added that the Ordinance also states that the noise must be 200 feet from the complaint, and the courts were further than that requirement.

Mrs. Naiman explained that Sawyer Point had installed pickleball courts with a type of chain link fence and was curious of the true costs of the fencing.

Mr. Cappel asked about restricting the hours of play and locking the courts at that time. He stated that he felt the City had the right to limit the use.

Staff and the Committee discussed the challenges of managing and enforcing limited hours and locking of the courts.

Mr. Dobrozsi asked if the consultant could be contacted to see if a noise study could be done at the court for noise reduction and also to inspect the stability of the existing fence.

Mrs. Naiman stated that she would like staff to look into the fencing cost as well to determine a total cost of everything for that court.

Mr. Riblet stated that staff would follow up on their request with the sound study, fencing and total cost. He stated that he thought it might also be good to plant some vegetation in the short term that may also help to buffer the noise. He explained that a long term solution would be vetted in the Strategic Plan process with the creation of a Park Master Plan and the possibility of relocating pickleball to another city park.

### Minutes

Mr. Cappel moved to approve the August 9, 2021 Committee minutes. Mr. Dobrozsi seconded. The Committee unanimously approved the minutes.

### Other Business

Mr. Riblet explained that staff was looking to replace the fountain at Triangle Park to revamp the look now that the Montgomery Quarter was coming online, and the streetscape is near completion. He distributed a picture of a sample of a fountain that was being considered. He stated that work would not be done until 2023.

### Adjournment

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

The Parks and Recreation Committee of Council meeting was adjourned at 4:25 p.m.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "S. M. W.", written above a horizontal line.

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Chair