



**JOINT MEETING
PARKS & TRAILS COMMISSION
AND PUBLIC ART COMMISSION**

Monday, July 16, 2018

6:30 PM, Longview Farm House

MINUTES

Commission and Board of Aldermen Attendance: Mayor Jon Dalton, Alderman Skip Mange, Alderman Lynn Wright, Alderman Fred Meyland-Smith, Alderman Sue Allen, Tim Bischof, Bill Schawacker, David Althaus, Gail Westerman, Nan Kulkarni, David Murphy, Roger Fagerberg, Christie Moses, Laura Chaney, Stephanie Petersen, Jack Dunning, Adam Baer, Steve Korbecki

Guests: Christina Koch, Don Koch, Jodi Maurer

Staff Members: Brooke Aiazzi, Anne Nixon, Bob Shelton

Citizens: John Wright

Call to Order

Approval of Minutes:

1. Parks & Trails Commission 5/21/18-Motion to approve by Adam Baer, Second by Steve Korbecki, unanimously approved.
2. Public Art Commission 6/4/18-Motion to approve by Tim Bischof, Second by Gail Westerman, unanimously approved.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

1. Discuss Proposed Bronze Statue Gift/Loan-Thomas Jefferson Declaration of Independence by George Lundeen-Alderman Skip Mange welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced the donors, Don and Christina Koch. Don Koch started began by reading from the book *Light and Liberty*. Christina Koch presented a copy of the Declaration of Independence and the Bill of Rights to each person in attendance.

Alderman Mange identified five potential locations for the Thomas Jefferson statue: 1) Longview Farm Park close to the house, 2) Longview Farm Park on the

Discovery pad (after the Discovery is moved to Town Square), 3) The Firehouse, 4) Town Square, or 5) City Hall.

The Public Art Commission Members, Parks and Trails Commission Members, and citizens in attendance gave their input. Everyone in attendance was appreciative of the Kochs coming to the meeting to discuss the statue donation. Alderman Wright conveyed that the Parks and Trails Commission had discussions regarding Thomas Jefferson being a slave owner and about monuments currently being taken down around the country. She invited the group to have an open conversation on the topic.

Regarding the question if the City should accept the donation, the majority of those present thought the City should accept the donation and saw Thomas Jefferson owning slaves as representative of the times. Tim Bischof raised questions and made points as to why the Public Art Commission should not make any recommendation on a “monument to an historical figure.” In addition, he recommended the City not accept the donation. He stated that a replica statue sits on the University of Missouri campus and there are petitions to remove it. Gail Westerman agreed with Tim’s statement and recommended the City not accept the donation. Bill Schawacker also agreed with Tim and pointed out that Thomas Jefferson did not free all his slaves upon his death. He only freed Sally Hemmings and her children who were house slaves. John Wright and Laura Chaney spoke in favor of accepting the statue. Nan Kulkarni stated there are British Monuments all over India and no one is taking them down. Stephanie Petersen asked if anyone had asked any of their African American friends/colleagues/neighbors if they find erecting this statue in Town & Country offensive. The majority present agreed with the City accepting the donation.

2. Discuss Possible Locations for Statue

On the question of where to locate the statue, Steve Korbecki spoke on behalf of himself and the Parks and Trails Commission (previous meeting) stating the two Longview sites should be removed from consideration because they are apolitical and should remain that way. Drace Parks was mentioned as an option so the log cabins give historical context. Bill Schawacker stated “placing a potentially controversial historical figure in a location of relevance and context is critical.” He noted that City Hall, “where our laws are made and enforced” with some type of interpretive/educational plaque would be more appropriate than Longview Farm Park. Overall, he did not approve of the City accepting the statue. Of those in attendance in support of accepting the statue, the majority favored municipal buildings-City Hall and/or the Firehouse. Christie Moses was in favor of including Longview as a potential location to “spark and invite debate.” All others in attendance favored removing Longview Farm Park as a potential location.

OTHER

ADJOURN 7:30 PM