

**CITY OF MASON
COUNCIL WORKSESSION
FEBRUARY 17, 2004**

Mayor Beck called the meeting to order at 6:27 p.m.

ATTENDANCE

The following members of Council were present: Victor Kidd, Steve Osborne, Tony Bradburn and Peter Beck. The following Councilmembers were absent: John McCurley, Tom Grossmann and Charlene Pelfrey.

PARK FACILITIES

Michael Hecker gave a presentation on the current status of the City of Mason's park facilities. The number of acres and amenities available at each park were discussed. The total number of acres currently in the park system is 242. Michael Hecker also stated two new t-ball fields were being installed at Heritage Oak Park and paid for by MYO.

Members of the Park Board present were as follows: Duke Flaherty, Ginny Sundin, Kevin Collins and Jay Koepfle. Bill Staten was also present.

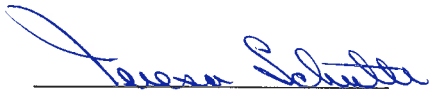
A general discussion followed discussing the future needs for the Mason park system and the new acreage purchased by the City. Several issues were discussed regarding assistance from Deerfield Township and Warren County. It was stated 30% of the children utilizing the park programs are township residents. Currently no discrepancy is made based on residency. It was determined to date the City park system offers 23 soccer fields (all sizes) and 13 ball fields including the two new t-ball fields. Football, lacrosse and field hockey were mentioned as sports coming up that will need field space. A special surface for football was mentioned at an estimated cost of \$250,000. The advantage is less maintenance and weather would not limit the play as it does on grass fields. It was also discussed to light fields so the hours of utilization could increase. It was estimated approximately 1500 students play soccer and 1500 play baseball. The estimate for football was approximately 600. A cost to develop the Biehle property into the park system was estimated at 4 million dollars. Michael Hecker stated it may be possible to link the park system with a path along the Muddy Creek. He stated he would like to go out for RFPs for the conceptual design for the city's new parkland. Scot Lahrmer stated the budget planned for that to be done on the Biehle and Castle property and could include the Gould property. The members of the Park Board stated there is an urgency regarding football fields. Bill Staten requested use of the area directly behind the Houston for ball fields. He stated the area is flat and most conducive to sports. Scot Lahrmer replied the area is under contract for farming purposes next year. Other items such as a skateboard park were mentioned as being requested by residents.

A plan of action was assigned as follows:

1. The Park Board will determine the number of children that play each sport. That includes baseball, football, soccer, field hockey, lacrosse and softball.
2. The Mayor and City Manager will discuss future assistance with Deerfield Township.
3. Council will work with administration to form a master plan.
4. The Park Board will present the pros and cons of using an alternate surface for football.
5. Administration will review the matter of contracting to cut fields not owned by the City and check on the availability of the fields.
6. Michael Hecker will check on the cost of lighting some of the existing fields.
7. The Mayor will discuss with Warren County the possibility of their participation in providing fields.

Mayor Beck said a 30-day time line will be placed on gathering this information.

Meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.



Clerk of Council



Mayor