



City Commission Meeting Highlights

Tuesday, August 14, 2012

Report on Restoration Options for Duck Island at Noble Park

Parks Services Director Mark Thompson provided the Mayor and Commissioners with a report regarding options for restoring the southern end of Noble Park Lake including the small island known as Duck Island. The island and the southern edge of the lake are suffering the effects of erosion. Thompson says, "We've got more problems than just Duck Island." Thompson explained that Canada Geese eat grass down to the roots exposing the soil and leading to erosion along the banks and around the edges of Duck Island. The small decorative building on the island, also known as the duck house, is in jeopardy of falling into the lake. The City had planned to remove the final remnant of the island and move the decorative building to another location; however, after hundreds of comments from local residents asking that the City save the island, Thompson began researching possible restoration options. Island options considered include a floating artificial structure, interlocking stone, filled gabion baskets, rip-rap, or a sea wall. For the island and the southern edge of the lake, Thompson recommends either the installation of a rip-rap retaining wall or the construction of a vinyl sea wall. In comparing the two options, rip-rap has a lower initial cost but has a shorter lifespan and is slightly more difficult to maintain. Using rip-rap to restore the island and the southern lake edge would cost an estimated \$56,600 (\$23,500 just for the island) while a vinyl sea wall would cost an estimated \$106,300 (\$29,200 just for the island). These estimates do not include repairs to the walkway around the southern edge of the lake or repairs to the bridge and fishing pier which have been affected by erosion. Thompson recommends challenging the public to provide a portion of the funding. Thompson also says the decorative building would be moved, repaired, and stored until it can be installed. Thompson says the duck house is not the original structure. The current structure is a replica that was presented in April 2000. The Mayor and Commissioners voiced their support of restoring Duck Island and involving the public in fundraising efforts or in the donation of materials. Detailed plans will be presented in the future.



Rename Henry Clay Park as Albert Jones Park

To honor former Mayor Albert Jones who served as mayor from 1996 until 2000, the Mayor and Commissioners approved an ordinance renaming Henry Clay Park as Albert Jones Park. The park is located at the former Henry Clay Elementary School site just northeast of Brooks Stadium. The park, located between Joe Bryan Drive, Guthrie Avenue, B Street, and South 21st Street, is approximately six acres with a walking path. Jones is a Korean War veteran who has served as Commonwealth attorney, U.S. attorney, and a state representative. Commissioner Watkins initiated the

renaming of the park. An ordinance also was approved amending Section 70 of the Paducah Code of Ordinances to reflect the changing of the name of the park.

Fountain Avenue Commercial Construction Financial Assistance Program (vote August 28)

The Mayor and Commissioners introduced an ordinance creating a commercial construction financial assistance program for the Fountain Avenue Neighborhood. This incentive package is similar to the



existing incentive package for residents. The construction incentive package will help promote new commercial construction in the Fountain Avenue Neighborhood by providing monetary incentives to property owners that spend a minimum of \$100,000 constructing new commercial buildings in compliance with the neighborhood design guidelines. An approved participant can receive a five-year forgivable loan up to 10% of the actual construction costs not to exceed \$20,000. The total expenditures for the new incentive program are limited at \$40,000. Planning Director Steve Ervin says helping the initial private commercial investments will help generate more confidence in future commercial development.

Quick Highlights:

- Boards and Commissions: Lorraine Schramke and Lee King appointed to the McCracken County Animal Shelter Advisory Board; and Burford Wilson reappointed to the Board of Adjustment.
- Municipal order approved transferring \$13,020 from the Commission Contingency Fund as the local match for the FEMA Hazardous Mitigation Grant Program through the Kentucky Division of Emergency Management. In July 2011, the City applied for the grant to provide an emergency generator for Fire Station 1 at 301 Washington Street. The grant in the amount of \$100,159 includes \$75,120 in federal funds, \$12,019 from the State, and the local match of \$13,020.
- Municipal order approved to apply for the 2013 Kentucky Litter Abatement Grant through the Kentucky Division of Waste Management. The grant request is for at least \$17,000 with no local match required.
- Municipal order approved for the Police Department to request an award in the amount of \$2500 from the Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railway Foundation. There is no local match required. Police Chief James Berry says if awarded the funds would be used to offer two Junior Citizens' Police Academy classes next year.
- Ordinance approved authorizing a two-year contract with Aramark Uniforms Services for use by the Engineering-Public Works and Parks Departments.
- Ordinance approved accepting the 2011 Edward Byrne Memorial Grant Award through the U.S. Department of Justice in the amount of \$16,035. This grant does not require a local match. The funds will be used to purchase in-car camera systems and patrol rifles for the Paducah Police Department.
- Ordinance approved accepting the Kentucky Governor's Highway Safety grant in the amount of \$36,200. This grant does not require a local match. The funds will be used by the Police Department to fund officer overtime hours and a Kentucky State Police conference registration.
- Ordinance approved for a contract with the Convention Center Corporation to provide the CCC an appropriation of \$100,000.
- Ordinance introduced (vote August 28) to accept FEMA's Fire Prevention and Safety Grant in the amount of \$78,979. The grant requires a local match of \$8775. The funds will be used for the salary and benefits for a deputy fire marshal position and to provide funding for the Juvenile Firesetter Intervention Program of Paducah-McCracken County.
- Ordinance introduced (vote August 28) to accept the Kentucky Arts Council's 2013 Kentucky Cultural District Grant award in the amount of \$5000. This grant does not require a local match. The funds will be used for the planning and designing of a way-finding program for the cultural arts district downtown and in LowerTown.
- Ordinances introduced (vote August 28) for annual contracts with the following agencies: Luther F. Carson Four Rivers Center (in the amount of \$68,220) and EntrePaducah (in the amount of \$100,000).
- The grand opening ceremony for the Paducah Dog Park at Stuart Nelson Park will be at 2 p.m. on Wednesday.

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