

**MINUTES OF A SPECIAL MEETING OF THE  
RECREATION COMMITTEE OF COUNCIL  
CITY OF FORT THOMAS, CAMPBELL  
COUNTY, KENTUCKY, ON  
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 19, 2023**

The special meeting of the Recreation Committee of Council was called to order at 10:00 A.M. on April 19, 2023. Members present included: Mayor Eric Haas, Chairman Jeff Bezold, Andy Ellison, and Eric Strange. Other Councilmembers in attendance were, Adam Blau. Staff members attending included: City Administrative Officer Matt Kremer, City Clerk Melissa Beckett, and Director of General Services Kevin Barbian.

**Tower Park “Hero” Playground Update:** CT is completing their 67% design by next week and cost estimates will be received by the end of May. Discussion ensued regarding the removal of the splash pad incorporated with the playground design and the removal of the large trees that are coming to the end of their life. It was the consensus of the committee to go ahead with the bid as is and ask for a separate bid without the splash pad.

**Riverside Parkway Update:** Kevin Barbian updated that electric at the Riverside Park will begin next week. This will take a few weeks, weather dependent. The last 2 elements are the coating over the asphalt and having the brick pavers engraved.

**City Plan for Pickleball Courts:** The committee is considering 2 options for the lower tennis courts in Tower Park. The first option would be to stripe the lower tennis courts for multi-use (\$3,000) or the second option would be to repurpose the courts for pickle ball only (\$15,000), which would create 6 courts. It was the decision of the committee to convert the bottom 2 tennis courts in Tower Park to permanent pickle ball courts.

**Highland Hills Park Future Plans:** The skate park will be temporarily moved to lower Highland Park to see if it will work out better in this location short term. It does not work in its current location because of noise in the proximity to residential areas. Other options would be to put a small play structure in that area. Also looking into replacing the play equipment in the next budget cycle. Look at options for Highland Park for the next year or two and bring back to committee. Also discussed were the dog park and the statue that was donated by Mike Skop that the city has located at the trail head in Highland Park.

**Riggs Park Future Plans:** The city will prepare a plan within the next couple of years. We are not looking at any options other than just a neighborhood pocket park.

**Carlisle Park Future Plans:** The focus is working with the state, getting the drainage fixed and then have a thorough analysis done to look at the options for this park.

**Skate Park Future Plans:** Plans are to place in Highland Park and determine if the noise causes any issues. The city will look into declaring this equipment surplus in the future.

**Tennis Court Practice Wall Update:** It was the consensus of the committee to recommend looking into fixing or replacing the wall but if it cannot be done easily, to keep the current wall as-is.

**Trail System Update:** There has been a lot of work to identify trails to allow the Fire Department and Police Department more information to identify people’s locations that may

need help. Trail heads in Tower and Highland Park will be updated and more information will be reported once received.

With no further business to come before the Recreation Committee, the meeting was adjourned.

APPROVED:

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Jeff Bezold, Chairman

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Andy Ellison, Member

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Eric Strange, Member

ATTEST:

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Melissa K. Beckett, City Clerk