

March 23, 2021

The March 23, 2021 City Council meeting was called to order via teleconference at 7:30 p.m., Mayor Barry Greenberg presiding.

ON ROLL CALL, the following members were present: Mayor Greenberg, Councilmember Crosley, Councilmember Faulkingham, Councilmember Phillips, Councilmember Schmidt and Councilmember Wood.

MOTION TO EXCUSE COUNCILPERSON: Councilmember Wood motioned to excuse Councilmember Pardini, seconded by Councilmember Phillips, which motion received the approval of the Council.

The City Attorney asked that the record reflect that pursuant to Section 610.015 of the Missouri Sunshine Law provides that members of the City Council who are not physically present in the Council Chambers can participate and vote remotely on all matters when an emergency exists and he asked that the minutes reflect again that we are still under the COVID-19 pandemic.

APPROVAL OF THE COUNCIL AGENDA: Councilmember Wood motioned to approve the agenda, seconded by Councilmember Phillips, which motion received the approval of the Council.

PUBLIC HEARING TO HEAR CITIZEN'S COMMENTS ON A REQUEST BY SUNNEN TO REZONE A PORTION OF THE EXISTING LOT AT 3117 S. BIG BEND BLVD/7534 FLORA AVE. FROM PUD DISTRICT TO SR DISTRICT: No one spoke.

PUBLIC HEARING TO HEAR CITIZEN'S COMMENTS ON A REQUEST FOR A CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT TO OPERATE A DANCE STUDIO AT 7405 MANCHESTER: Amanda Fedor, owner and Maplewood resident, said they have been in business for 30 years and are excited to be in Maplewood. Her busiest class size is 14-16 people. The building has a large parking lot in the rear so there will be minimal impact on Manchester parking. Councilmember Wood asked if dance lessons are for children only. Ms. Fedor stated classes are for all ages. Harlie Frankel, property owner of 7421 Manchester, liked the idea and stated more foot traffic is needed in that block.

PUBLIC FORUM: No one spoke.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Councilmember Wood made the following announcements:

- Boardwalk Waffles & Ice Cream launched a brunch service available on Saturdays and Sundays.
- C. Oliver's Coffee & Flowers has opened another location in the Galleria.
- Maplewood Library has reopened to patrons.

APPROVAL OF THE MARCH 9, 2021 CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION AND CLOSED SESSION MINUTES: Councilmember Wood motioned to approve, duly seconded by Councilmember Phillips, which motion received the approval of the Council.

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION REPORT: Chairman Jonathan Taylor gave a report to the Council that included what the commission does, what they are planning and future recommendations. Please see full report attached to these minutes.

(7:48 p.m.) **R21-9**, A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MAPLEWOOD, MISSOURI, HONORING AND COMMENDING STEPHEN KRUSE ON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT AFTER 12 YEARS OF SERVICE WITH THE CITY OF MAPLEWOOD AS ITS CHIEF OF POLICE was introduced. It was moved by Councilmember Wood and seconded by Councilmember Phillips to approve the resolution, which motion received the following roll call vote: Ayes, Mayor Greenberg, members Crosley, Faulkingham, Phillips, Schmidt and Wood. Nays, none.

**R21-10**, A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MAPLEWOOD, MISSOURI, HONORING AND COMMENDING JOHN MEYER ON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT AFTER 42 YEARS OF SERVICE WITH THE MAPLEWOOD PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT was introduced. It was moved by Councilmember Wood and seconded by Councilmember Phillips to approve the resolution, which motion received the following roll call vote: Ayes, Mayor Greenberg, members Crosley, Faulkingham, Phillips, Schmidt and Wood. Nays, none.

**R21-11**, A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MAPLEWOOD, MISSOURI, AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ACCEPT THE BID FROM REVIZE IN THE AMOUNT OF FIFTENN THOUSAND SEVEN HUNDRED DOLLARS (\$15,700) FOR THE REDESIGN, DEVELOPMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION OF A NEW WEBSITE AND TO HOST IT FOR ONE (1) YEAR AND APPROVING AN ADDITIONAL ELEVEN THOUSAND SEVEN HUNDRED DOLLARS (\$11,700) FOR THREE (3) ADDITIONAL YEARS OF WEBSITE HOSTING SERVICES was introduced. It was moved by Councilmember Wood and seconded by Councilmember Phillips to approve the resolution, which motion received the following roll call vote. Ayes, Mayor Greenberg, members Crosley, Faulkingham, Phillips, Schmidt and Wood. Nays, none.

(7:58 p.m.) **BILL 6163**, AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MAPLEWOOD, MISSOURI, AMENDING CHAPTER 34-OFFENSES was given its first reading. It was moved by Councilmember Wood, duly seconded by Councilmember Phillips, that Bill No. 6163 be moved to its second reading, which motion received the approval, by voice vote, of the Council.

On its second reading, it was moved by Councilmember Wood, duly seconded by Councilmember Phillips, that Bill No. 6163 be passed to its third and final reading, which motion received the approval, by voice vote, of the Council.

**BILL 6160**, AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MAPLEWOOD, MISSOURI, TO REZONE A PORTION OF 3117 S. BIG BEND BOULEVARD, ALSO KNOWN AS 7534 FLORA AVENUE, FROM PUD PLANNED UNIT DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT TO SR SINGLE FAMILY RESIDENTIAL DISTRICT was given its third and final reading. It was moved by Councilmember Wood, duly seconded by Councilmember Phillips, that Bill No. 6160 be approved, which motion received the following roll call vote: Ayes, members Crosley, Faulkingham, Mayor Greenberg, Phillips, Schmidt and Wood. Nays, none.

Bill No. 6160 was approved by the City Council on this 23<sup>rd</sup> day of March, 2021 as **Ordinance Number 5955**.

**BILL 6161**, AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MAPLEWOOD, MISSOURI, AUTHORIZING A MINOR SUBDIVISION PLAT OF 3117 S. BIG BEND BOULEVARD, ALSO KNOWN AS 7534 FLORA AVENUE was given its third and final reading. It was moved by Councilmember Wood, duly seconded by Councilmember Phillips, that Bill No. 6161 be approved, which motion received the following roll call vote: Ayes, members Crosley, Faulkingham, Mayor Greenberg, Phillips, Schmidt and Wood. Nays, none.

Bill No. 6161 was approved by the City Council on this 23<sup>rd</sup> day of March, 2021 as **Ordinance Number 5956**.

**BILL 6162**, AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MAPLEWOOD, MISSOURI, GRANTING A CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT TO AMANDA FEDOR OF THE STUDIO, INC. TO OPERATE A DANCE STUDIO AT 7405 MANCHESTER ROAD was given its third and final reading. A motion was made by Councilmember Wood that Bill No. 6162 be tabled for the reading of the findings of fact, duly seconded by Councilmember Phillips, which motion received the approval, by voice vote, of the Council.

The Mayor and City Council make the following findings of fact for the petition for a Conditional Use Permit for a dance studio at 7405 Manchester Road:

- The proposed use complies with all applicable provisions of the Zoning Code.
- The proposed use will contribute to and promote the community welfare and convenience.
- The proposed use will not cause substantial injury to the value of neighboring property.
- The proposed use does comply with the overall neighborhood development plan and existing zoning provisions.

- The proposed use will provide, if applicable, off-street parking and loading areas in accordance with the standards of the Zoning Code.
- The proposed use will not substantially increase traffic hazards.
- The proposed use will not substantially increase fire hazards.
- The proposed use will not overtax public utilities.
- The proposed use will not place an undue burden on municipal services.

It was then moved by Councilmember Wood, duly seconded by Councilmember Phillips, that the findings of fact be approved, which motion received the following roll call vote: Ayes, members Crosley, Faulkingham, Mayor Greenberg, Phillips, Schmidt and Wood. Nays, none.

Councilmember Wood motioned to bring Bill 6162 back onto the table, duly seconded by Councilmember Phillips, which motion received the approval, by voice vote, of the Council.

A motion was made by Councilmember Wood, duly seconded by Councilmember Phillips, that Bill No. 6162 be approved, which motion received the following roll call vote: Ayes, members Crosley, Faulkingham, Mayor Greenberg, Phillips, Schmidt and Wood. Nays, none.

**BILL NO. 6162** was approved by the City Council on this 23<sup>rd</sup> day of March, 2021 as **Ordinance No. 5957**.

(8:06 p.m.) **OLD BUSINESS-EQUITY DISCUSSION:** The Council will review and provide comments or edits to Anthony Traxler before the Council's work session next week for discussion.

**DISCUSSION-CONCERT SERIES COUNCIL BOOTH:** Councilmember Schmidt will create a Google document for Councilmembers to share their thoughts as to what type of materials and resources to provide to the residents and dates to sign-up for. The banner could say City of Maplewood Council with the Maplewood logo.

**COUNCIL COMMUNICATION:** Councilmember Crosley stated last weekend's Coffee Crawl event was well done and shared her gratitude to Laura Miller for her efforts. Councilmember Wood asked about when the Council would resume in-person meetings at City Hall. Councilmember Crosley has been impressed with the level of participation from constituents virtually and would like to continue engaging residents virtually even after in-person meetings resume. Councilmember Phillips agreed. Councilmember Schmidt asked about live broadcasting Council meetings. Councilmember Faulkingham will look into the different options.

**MAYOR'S REPORT:** Mayor Greenberg reported he talked with Joan Kelly Horn at St. Louis County about the need to make sure all of our seniors have access to register for vaccinations. Councilmember Crosley stated the number to call at St. Louis County is 314-615-2660 and staff members will connect you to OASIS or the St. Louis County Older Residents Program for registration.

ATTORNEY'S REPORT: No report.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT: No report.

PUBLIC FORUM (8:21 p.m.): No one spoke.

MOTION TO HOLD A CLOSED SESSION, IF NEEDED, TO DISCUSS MATTERS RELATING TO LITIGATION, LEGAL ACTIONS AND/OR COMMUNICATION FROM THE CITY ATTORNEY AS PROVIDED FOR IN SECTION 610.021(1)RSMO. AND/OR SPECIFICATIONS FOR COMPETITIVE BIDDING UNDER SECTION 610.021(11) AND/OR SEALED BIDS AND RELATED DOCUMENTS AND SEALED PROPOSALS AND RELATED DOCUMENTS UNDER SECTION 610.021(11) AND/OR PERSONNEL MATTERS UNDER SECTION 610.021(13)RSMO. AND/OR EMPLOYEE MATTERS UNDER SECTION 610.021(3)RSMO. AND/OR REAL ESTATE MATTERS UNDER SECTION 610.021(2)RSMO. AND/OR DOCUMENTS RELATED TO A NEGOTIATED CONTRACT UNDER SECTION 610.021(12)RSMO: No need.

There being no further business before the Council, the meeting adjourned on a motion by Councilmember Wood and seconded by Councilmember Phillips.

# Maplewood Parks & Recreation Commission

## Annual Report: March 23, 2021

Jonathan Taylor, Chair  
Patricia DeForrest, Vice-Chair  
Lisa Parks, Secretary  
Megan Dougherty  
Cathy Edmond  
Bob Harsh  
Catherine Maloney  
Dan Noonan  
Laine Schenkelberg

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### BACKGROUND

The Maplewood Parks & Recreation Commission is an advisory body composed of nine volunteer Maplewood residents. The board meets monthly and advises the city council and the Assistant Public Works Director regarding the management, maintenance, and improvement of city parks.

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### WHAT WE DO

#### Park Inspections

Each board member is assigned one park to inspect at least monthly. We report findings during the monthly meeting or directly to the Assistant Public Works Director if something requires immediate attention. Our parks are usually in excellent condition, as the Public Works Department is highly attentive and diligent.

#### Annual Parks Tour

The board gathers annually in May to tour the parks as a group and to discuss the needs of each park. It is during this tour and the follow-up meeting that the board creates a list of possible improvements. One recent result of a prior tour will be the addition of new trees around the playground at Deer Creek Park. Our 2020 tour was canceled, but we hope to resume them soon.

#### Oversight

We stay up to date with the status of major projects in our parks, such as the construction of the new skate park and splash pad and the recent reconstruction of the public tennis courts. Our goal is to help ensure that improvements to the parks reflect the needs of the community.

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### WHAT WE ARE PLANNING

#### New and Improved Amenities in 2021

##### Tennis Courts

Reconstruction of the tennis courts is approximately 75% complete. The new courts will also be striped for pickle ball, and they will continue to operate on a first-come–first-served basis.

##### Ryan Hummert Park Playground

The current playground surface at Ryan Hummert Park will be replaced with a pour-in-place rubber surface, similar to the one at Central Park and other parks in the area. The current tile system has presented maintenance problems over the years. Construction will occur during late Spring or early Summer, depending on the weather conditions. The nature of the materials being used requires that construction occur during warm weather.

## **Trees at Deer Creek**

Tree plantings are being planned for the north and south sides of the playground at Deer Creek Park. The current plan is to install 20-foot trees in an effort to create more shaded areas for parents and other patrons who are attending children on the playground.

## **Splash Pad**

The new splash pad is opening this summer. The board and city staff are eager to complete this project at our already stellar aquatic center:

(<https://www.cityofmaplewood.com/DocumentCenter/View/2327/Splash-Pad?bidId=>)

## **Improved Public Outreach**

The board is exploring options to improve public awareness of our beautiful parks and recreation facilities and amenities. This outreach will possibly involve an increased social media presence via existing channels, such as city staff and The Heights. We believe that certain parks are underused community assets, and more people would use them if they were simply made aware. For example, many people (including new board members) are often surprised to learn that the tennis courts are public—they are not part of the high school campus. And as people increasingly obtain their information through social media channels, it makes sense to use Maplewood's social media presence to promote its parks, which are a major asset.

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## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

### **Master Plan**

The board encourages the city to develop a master parks plan. Master plans have been created previously for individual parks; however, a master plan for all parks would facilitate long-term budgeting, and it would increase the city's ability to obtain grant funding, as many granting agencies require a master plan.

### **Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility**

The board encourages the city council to include parks in its discussion of equity in the community and to ensure that equity, inclusion, and accessibility are factors in the design of future park amenities.

### **Convention Attendance**

The board requests that the council provide funding for a city representative to attend at least one conference or convention per year, when such in-person activities resume. Attendance at prior conventions has resulted in the purchase of new equipment at a significant discount, and attendees are able to discover new amenities and trends in park design.

### **Parks Superintendent**

Various sections of city code<sup>1</sup> and the city's website<sup>2</sup> mention the Superintendent of Parks and Recreation; however, no such position exists. The board suggests that the next city manager work to create a position within the Public Works Department for a full-time parks superintendent.

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## **CONCLUSION**

The board would like to congratulate John Meyer on his pending retirement and thank him for his 43 years of service to the city as our streets superintendent. Tiffany Hyde, the Assistant Public Works Director, has been a valuable partner, and we owe her our thanks for working as our contact point with the city. In addition, we would like to thank the city council for rewriting the process for dog park discipline hearings. Lastly, we appreciate the recent work that the council has undertaken with MapleGOOD to regulate the use of food pantries. We look forward to the coming year as we continue to help improve our city parks.

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<sup>1</sup> See, for example, §36-2.

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.cityofmaplewood.com/111/Parks-Recreation-Commission>