

CITY OF FORT WRIGHT, KENTUCKY SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING
ST. AGNES SCHOOL GYMNASIUM – 7:00PM

Mayor Weaver opened the Council meeting with a Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence. The following members answered roll call, Mr. Jeff Wolnitzek, Mr. Joe Averdick, Mr. Dave Hatter, Mr. Joe Nienaber Jr., Mr. Adam Feinauer and Mr. Scott Wall.

Also present were City Administrator Larry Klein, City Attorney Pete Summe, Police Chief Dan Kreinest, Fire/EMS Chief Steve Schewe, Public Works Director Tim Maloney and City Clerk Joyce Woods.

Presenters attending were Phil Partridge, Machi Lutz and Mark Brueggemann from CDS Associates, Inc and Gary Wolnitzek from Human Nature Inc.

Mayor Weaver explained the purpose of this meeting was to present the Final Park Plan by CDS Associates, Inc, Human Nature, Inc. and City Staff. He thanked everyone for their attendance and interest.

Mr. Klein addressed Council and residents and went through the timeline, including the budget, and explained it from the beginning to where we are now.

Phil Partridge spoke about project goals realized through construction of the park.

Citizen Comments

1. Tom Terlau - 1428 Vidot Court

Go to voters for approval. Not good use of taxpayer money. Put money into infrastructure. Conflict of interest with Council member and developer.

2. Mike Marino – 416 Pickett Court

He is against park. Put money into infrastructure.

3. Roger Jennings – 1620 Park Road

Need soccer, baseball fields etc. Enjoyed the museum. No benefit, very much against plan.

4. Tony Hennies – 32 W. Crittenden Avenue

Very much against plan. Need more Police and streets fixed.

5. Michelle - 114 Ridgemont Avenue

If nothing done with the property, someday will be developed. Wants Fort Wright to stay as it is.

6. Chuck McHale – 1643 Tartan Drive

Recently asked to serve on Vision Committee and realized that they work very hard for the City. Park should be developed for all families to enjoy. Compliment City for all they do.

7. Jenny O'Connell – 1400 Vidot Court

Streets are an embarrassment to the City. No sidewalks for kids to walk home from school, they are walking in between parked cars. Wants to vote on the plan.

8. Wayne Erpenbeck – 17 Lorup Avenue

Park will not be a sense of community. Too much cost involved. Not a priority.

9. San Juan Romero – 113 Ridgemont Avenue

Grant money for park plan cannot be used on streets, only to develop park.

10. Mark Habig – 333 Redwood Drive

Great idea for improvements to the park, but too expensive. He wants street improvements.

11. John Andrew – 565 Beaumont Court

Park improvements are a great idea, but not the amphitheater. Need a kid friendly park and would like to have streets fixed.

12. Heather Teller – 1707 Mount Vernon Drive

Flyer received was deceptive. It sounded like a done deal. Wants park for kids and families. Let residents choose.

13. Todd McMurtry – 409 Glengarry Drive

Questioned current revenue growth. Stated eventually there will be a tax increase. Also questioned a conflict of interest. Check for a legal conflict.

14. Tim Siegrist – 1309 E. Henry Clay Avenue

All Civic Club fields available for sports. Park improvements will help the City and property values.

15. Donna Erpenbeck – 17 Lorup Avenue

Questioned what happened to the money for the traffic light on West Henry Clay and Kyles Lane? Mayor Weaver explained that we are working with the Transportation Cabinet to attain additional funds.

16. John Donnelly – 415 Lorup Avenue

Likes Museum but would like a park to accommodate families.

17. Joe Nienaber Sr. – 10 Augusta Avenue

Grant money is only 10% of budget for project and could be used for park improvements other than amphitheater. There would be charges for entertainment. Look at needs of the City.

18. Kevin Bright – 1716 Monticello Drive

Likes idea of the park, but needs to scale back on shelter and amphitheater. Battery Hooper is not a signature park.

19. Eileen Hastings – 1808 Mount Vernon Drive

Clarified that parking lot not given to the City, only an easement. Park property not layed out for sports fields.

20. Terry Flanagan – 12 Lorup Avenue

Someone will be needed to manage the park. It is a historical park and we do not need an amphitheater.

21. Mark Kaelin – 441 General Drive

There are a lot of issues that will be coming up for the City, 911 fee, pension increases etc. Money would go a long way for other things.

22. Leslee Hatter – 519 General Drive

Keep the Park and land do improvements in phases.

23. Jack Toebben – 510 General Drive

Questioned maintenance of the parking lot. Suggested putting grant money into the park but let residents vote on the issue.

24. Amy Ryan – 114 Ridgemont Drive

Still owns property, but not living at residence. This is the best City to live in and glad that tax dollars are spent wisely.

25. Mitzi O'Neill – 1305 E. Henry Clay Avenue

Supports park and this opportunity should not pass. Asset for everyone in the community.

26. Floyd Hastings – 1808 Mount Vernon Drive

People ask why we don't do what other cities do. There are no facilities. He supports park plan and thinks of the future.

27. Paul Kleier – 523 Beaumont Avenue

Council are smart passionate people and will come up with the right answer.

28. Bob Benkert – 1630 E. Henry Clay Avenue

A tremendous waste of money. Preserve as a historical site.

Mayor Weaver advised it was now open for discussion of Council.

Joe Averdick stated that if the expenditure had been included on the flyer, there would have been more residents in attendance. He thinks it should go to a vote.

Dave Hatter stated that no one wants to sell the property. \$900,000.00 already spent on this property. He doesn't think that the City should take money from the rainy day fund and that the project is too ambitious.

Joe Nienaber Jr. stated that he voted for the property and studies but price too high for the development planned as is. It is special property as it is now. There is no balance to this plan.

Adam Feinauer loves the plan but the playgrounds are too small and he would like to see more options.

Scott Wall thanked residents for attending the meeting. He stated that the amphitheater would have to be managed and would like to have commitments from schools to hold events at the park. He thinks there would be vandalism and noise issues.

Jeff Wolnitzek stated that we hired professionals to do the job and that the City should follow their plan. It is very unfortunate that we have come so far and not continuing to move forward. Continue process.

Mayor Weaver addressed the residents and advised nothing said was meant to be negative toward professionals that were hired for this plan or staff. There were no surprises in the plan, and no one is hiding anything with this proposed development.

Mayor Weaver proposed that we put together a committee of Council, staff and the developers and work out a plan that we can all live with. Council will make the final decision.

We will look at dates and times at next week's Council meeting for our next special meeting.


Mayor Weaver thanked everyone for coming and all the extra staff that stayed and helped with the meeting.

Motion by Mr. Wolnitzek, second by Mr. Hatter to adjourn the meeting. All member voting in favor, no one opposed. Motion passed.

Respectfully Submitted,


Gene Weaver, Mayor

Attest:


Joyce Woods, City Clerk