

CITY OF FORT WRIGHT, KENTUCKY SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING
5/30/07 – 6:00PM

Mayor Weaver called the meeting to order with a Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence. The following members answered roll call, Mr. Jeff Wolnitzek, Mr. Scott Wall, Mr. Adam Feinauer, Mr. Joe Averdick and Mr. Joe Nienaber Jr. 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. Mr. Dave Hatter arrived at 6:05PM.

Mayor Weaver advised that the purpose of this special meeting is concerning park improvements at Battery Hooper Park. The master plan was presented to Council in February at a special council meeting and following at the regular council meeting, it was discussed and a public meeting was scheduled at St. Agnes School for the purpose of public input and discussion.

Mayor Weaver stated that the floor is open for discussion concerning the proposed plan on the likes and dislikes of this plan. Mark Brueggemann, City Engineer, was present at the meeting to answer any questions anyone might have.

Dave Hatter spoke and stated that he was primarily concerned with the cost, but is in favor of planning something for this property. Based on the comments that he had heard at the public meeting, he advised that his thoughts were to use the same plans but reduce the size of the shelter area and take the savings from that to make a much larger and maybe multiple playgrounds for different age groups possibly with a Civil War theme to tie in with the Battery and museum.

Adam Feinauer spoke and advised he was also thinking about the same ideas. One of the things that was discussed previously, was to get as much done at one time as possible. He advised he had no problem with down sizing the shelter house, but to keep a basement in the plans for storage. He would like to have the shelter house available year round for events that are scheduled when the weather is cold. He stated that he doesn't want to put the money into the amphitheater at this time, but is in favor of multiple playgrounds. The entry way should be put in and it should be Civil War themed if possible.

Joe Nienaber Jr. spoke and stated the park property itself is a spectacular piece of property. We need to have something to draw people to it. With the price of the original plan he is in favor of doing the earthwork and taking it in phases. The draw for any park is the playground and shelter house, where events can be held. South Hills Civic Club would also be an ideal location for a playground to tie in to Bluegrass Swim Club for

families that can walk to that location. Mr. Nienaber advised that Battery Hooper Park is a successful park as it is, but we do need shelters and to look at the cost of the entryway. He would like to look at alternative funding for this plan.

Joe Averdick spoke and agreed with Mr. Hatter in regards to plans for a larger playground and smaller shelter area. He doesn't think we should be spending 1.9 million dollars for this plan because the majority of the residents are against it. He doesn't think we need the fireplace and the liability in the shelter area. There is potential for developing other property in the future and we should consider that idea before we spend so much on the Battery Park.

Scott Wall spoke and thought the thematic idea for the playground was good and would like to see a Fort theme and incorporate the trees for swings etc. The entryway should replicate what the Battery portrays. A 200 seat shelter house should stay with storage underneath, with the fireplace optional. He agrees with prepping the area for an amphitheater and for private funding for this.

Jeff Wolnitzek spoke and is concerned with the cost and would not be opposed to the amphitheater being the second phase. He would like to prep the site for future development. He is in favor of pulling the amphitheater out and keeping every thing else pretty much in line and stick with the plan and move forward. Mr. Wolnitzek stated that this park will be an investment in the City for all citizens. The amphitheater would be the public part of the park.

Mayor Weaver stated that he agreed with several things he heard and knows that the cost was shocking to everyone. He cautions Council to try and follow the expert's advice and recommendations. We do need to do something to reduce the cost, whether to eliminate parts of the plan or work in phases. Mayor Weaver thinks there are ways to reduce costs. He stated that reducing the size of the shelters would not be that significant in cost and years from now we will regret it. We do need a plan in order to let people know what we are doing for private funding. Have a sketch or diagram to show people what we are doing.

Mr. Nienaber would like to look into grant funding and keep options open for other areas and projects.

Discussion followed.

It was suggested to have a maximum cost as a guideline for the plan.

Mr. Brueggemann summarized a list of the ideas that he heard Council say that they wanted or wanted to eliminate.

1. Keep the same entrance
2. Scale down picnic shelter
3. Increase size of playground area
4. Keep basement storage
5. Eliminate fireplace. Price with and without

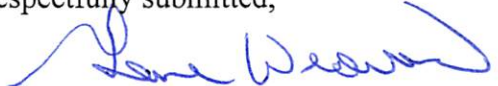
6. Amphitheater phased in. Price with and without earth work and utilities.

Motion by Mr. Wolnitzek of a proposed maximum budget of 1.5 million dollars for a guideline for the Battery Park project with alternate options under that dollar amount to be presented. Motion seconded by Mr. Wall to approve. Roll call vote taken, Feinauer and Averdick voting in favor, Hatter and Nienaber voting no. Motion passed.


Mayor Weaver advises that this vote gives direction for alternative plans.

Motion by Mr. Nienaber, second by Mr. Feinauer to adjourn the meeting. All members voting in favor, no one opposed. Motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,


Gene Weaver, Mayor

Attest:


Joyce Woods, City Clerk