

STATE OF KANSAS)
WYANDOTTE COUNTY)) SS
CITY OF KANSAS CITY, KS)

SPECIAL SESSION, THURSDAY, April 11, 2019

The Unified Government Commission of Wyandotte County/Kansas City, Kansas, met in Special Session, Thursday, April 11, 2019, with ten members present: Bynum, Commissioner At-Large First District; Burroughs, Commissioner At-Large Second District; Townsend, Commissioner First District; Murguia, Commissioner Third District (arrived at 5:05 p.m.); Johnson, Commissioner Fourth District; Kane, Commissioner Fifth District; Markley, Commissioner Sixth District; Walters, Commissioner Seventh District; Philbrook, Commissioner Eighth District; and Alvey, Mayor/CEO presiding. McKiernan, Commissioner Second District; was absent. The following officials were also in attendance: Doug Bach, County Administrator; Angie Lawson, Deputy Chief Counsel; Carol Godsil, Deputy Unified Government Clerk; Gordon Criswell, Assistant County Administrator; Alan Howze, Knowledge Director; Jeremy Rogers, Director of Parks & Recreation; Tim Nick, Operation & Maintenance Superintendent in Buildings & Logistics; Emerick Cross, Commission Liaison; Matt Zayas, Intern in County Administrator's Office; Lynn Melton, Assistant to the Mayor; and Officer Doleshal, Sergeant-at-Arms.

MAYOR ALVEY called the meeting to order.

ROLL CALL: Johnson, Kane, Markley, Walters, Philbrook, Bynum, Burroughs, Townsend, Alvey.

NOTICE OF SPECIAL SESSION of the Unified Government of Wyandotte County/Kansas City, Kansas, to be held Thursday, April 11, 2019, at 5:00 p.m. in the 5th floor conference room of the Municipal Office Building, for a presentation on the Inclusive Play Project.

CONSENT TO MEETING of the governing body of Wyandotte County/Kansas City, Kansas, accepting service of the foregoing notice, waiving all and any irregularities in such service and in such notice, and consent and agree that we, the governing body, shall meet at the time and place therein specified and for the purpose therein stated.



Wyandotte County Parks and Recreation Inclusive Playground

PROJECTED COMPLETION: SUMMER/FALL 2019

Doug Bach, County Administrator, said tonight we're here to hopefully advance where we are with the Inclusive Playground Project. This is a project that's been in the works for a number of years. As the Commission approved some money and direction to go forward with this, it put staff on an objective to move forward then to go out and find other sources of revenue to add to this project. We've been able to get to that point today that we are ready to advance it and, of course, through that process was going through and evaluating sites for where we would put this. That is really the big question that we're bringing to you tonight with our recommendations.

I'm going to turn this over to Jeremy Rogers, Director of Parks & Recreation, and have him talk about the inclusive playground and then what our researchers told us.

Inclusive Playground

- What is a Universally Inclusive Playground?
 - A playground specifically designed to remove physical and social barriers so ALL children, with and without disabilities and/or critical illnesses, can play side by side with their peers and families.
 - Play is a critical part of the social, emotional, cognitive and physical development of every child. Unfortunately, the vast majority of playgrounds deny children with disabilities and critical illnesses the opportunity for exercise, entertainment and social interactions which other children enjoy.
- 17% of Wyandotte County citizens claim some form of disability. The national average according to the NRPA is 13%

Jeremy Rogers, Director of Parks & Recreation, said as Doug mentioned, I'm here to talk about the Inclusive Play Project that I've been working on. Most people ask what is an inclusive playground. An Inclusive Playground is specifically designed to remove physical and social barriers so all children with or without disabilities can play side by side. So, that's the fancy term. The basic term is that a child with a disability or in a wheelchair, for example, would never have to leave his wheelchair.

An ADA Playground says that a child in a wheelchair can wheel him or herself to that piece of playground, remove themselves from their wheelchair via transfer station and then navigate throughout the play system. Inclusive Play says that child never has to leave his/her wheelchair.

There have been several studies, university studies done on play and how it affects the brain and how it stimulates different aspects of growth and whatnot. Play is very critical to social, emotional and cognitive development in every child. That's very important that we provide those opportunities for all citizens.

The reason this is important, 17% of Wyandotte Countians claim some form of disability. That's according to the last census data. The national average is 13%. We're 4% above the national average on persons that claim disability, so it's very important that we provide those play

opportunities, not only for our citizens, but those individuals that are coming into our county to play.

Unlimited Play



I'm going to play this video that kind of talks about Inclusive Play and what it means to different individuals. (The video was shown). Obviously, play means different things to different people.

Jake's Playground, Wentzville, MO



Last spring the city of Wentzville, MO, which is in the St. Louis area, opened a playground of this nature and I travelled for the grand opening. I took some pictures of kind of what it looks like so you can see this isn't your average playground. This is not something you can open a catalog up and you can buy. I'm a baseball guy. I love baseball. The St. Louis Cardinals donated quite a bit of money to funding this, so it was built like a baseball stadium, which I thought was really cool.

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Jake's Playground, Wentzville, MO



The different play pieces throughout, the stairs over there, the baseball bats and then the bases going up and then, of course, the slide right there I thought was really cool.

Obviously, you have to have some physical abilities, but I did see a child in a wheelchair that was able to use—they had to remove themselves from the wheelchair and their parents pushed them through and, of course, I had to give it a try myself.

Jake's Playground, Wentzville, MO



This particular playground, as you saw in one of the pictures, had the zip line that shaped on a football field, so it's like you're going into the goal post scoring a touchdown. Concession stand, within that concession stand area, there were several play pieces, interactive play pieces that individuals could use.

What's Recommended

- Specifications
 - 1-2 acres
 - About half the size of Huron Park
 - 50-60 parking spots
 - Access to water for water feature
 - Slight slopes in topography
 - Tiled surface
 - Fencing around entire playground
 - Access to restrooms

Obviously, this is not your average playground as I mentioned. Some of the specifications of what's recommended for a playground of this nature, one to two acres, that's about half the size of Huron Park which is right across the street here by the casino; 50 to 60 parking spots. This playground will bring in individuals from all over. People will drive in for this, so we need a place for them to park. Access to water, persons that can't control their body temperature needs water to play in, so like some kind of splash pad or fountain. Something like that. Something to help cool these individuals. Because of the ramps that are needed for wheelchairs, you have to have a slight slope in typography, that helps reduce construction costs.

The surfacing of these—I don't know if you guys noticed in the video, but it's a tiled—it's kind of like a—there's a supporting place surface that's spongy, but they also have tiles that connect together so that when they first started building these playgrounds, they were all poured in place. The bottom of the slide, those poured in place areas would get tore up and you had to replace the entire area. Now if something like that happens, you remove a tile, put a new tile in and that fixes the problem.

Fencing around the entire playground is very important. Persons with autism don't understand boundaries, so it's very important that we don't have kids running off or adults running off to where they don't need to be. It's very important to keep them enclosed or keep them within the play space.

Of course, access to restrooms is always nice when you have that many people in one area, you need some form of restroom.

Wyandotte County's Inclusive Playground

- Pricing
 - Total project estimate = \$500,000
 - Includes design and build of inclusive play pieces as well as water feature
 - Total funds committed to date = \$410,000
- Master Plan
 - Pierson Park
 - Wyandotte County Lake Park
 - Wyandotte County Park



I want to bring this project to Wyandotte County as I've spoken with many of you before. The total price of this project would be around \$500,000. That includes the design, the build of both the inclusive play as well as a water feature. So far to date, we've raised \$410,000 which is pretty good, but we're not there yet, so we still have a ways to go.

When we did the Master Plan it did talk about Inclusive Playground being a part of Wyandotte County and the three parks that they mentioned were Pierson Park, Wyandotte County Park, and Wyandotte County Lake Park.

Pierson Park

PROS:

- Already has a spray park
- Close to the lake
- Close proximity to County's largest percent of population of persons with disabilities (17%)

CONS:

- Park roads need repaired
- Flooding
- Vandalism
- Needs more parking (30)



Pierson Park; this is if you can see here, this is 51st St., that's 55th St., obviously, there's the lake. There is the skate park, there's the splash pad. This playground would go somewhere over there. That's the dam right there. It's a steep slope, so it would go on the other side of the splash pad which is a pro for this. That would reduce cost because it already has a splash pad in place. It's close to the lake which draws an enormous amount of people. We have quite a few fishermen there, we have people that come just for that lake feature. It's also close proximity to the county's largest percent of persons with disabilities, so I think that's a neat feature for this park according to the demographics.

Some cons; the roads throughout the park probably will need to be replaced sometime in the near future, especially if we're bringing in quite a few more people to this park, we would want to look at doing that, so that would be an added feature.

Because that splash pad is built at the bottom of the dam in a little drainage area, that does flood, so there would be—sometimes we have to close down the splash pad because of drainage there is an issue.

Vandalism; obviously vandalism does not discriminate. We get vandalism throughout the entire city, but we do have a high amount of vandalism at Pierson Park.

It needs more parking. Parking space right there and right there, combined about 30 parking spots. Okay, so that's Pierson Park.

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Wyandotte County Lake Park

PROS

- Ample parking
- Access to waterlines
- Open space with room to grow

CONS:

- Would require construction of new bridge by old tennis courts
- Disrupt the natural look of the lake
- Already have a large scale playground at the lake
- Lake is already considered an attraction



Next, Wyandotte County Lake Park. The place that this would go is right there. Here's the park offices, this is the entrance to Leavenworth Road, and right there is the old tennis courts/basketball courts. I've heard that there is varying of what was there at one time, but it would go in this area right here which is pretty big. There's ample parking. We have parking for the playground there, there's a trail, there's a shelter there, so plenty of parking. Access to waterlines. As you guys know in our CMIP we're redoing the waterlines there. This one was just done this last fall, so great waterlines. Obviously, it's open with room to grow.

The cons; that bridge right there would need to be rebuilt. One day the little train went across it, but we do not encourage pedestrians walking across that. Many would argue that would disrupt the natural look of the lake. A lot of people go to Wyandotte County Lake because of what it is. It's a rustic, natural lake and so that would disrupt that.

We already have the large scale playground right here. This is a playground that has been built on and built on as years have gone on. It's our largest playground in our park system, so we would have to either look at moving that or doing something. We don't want to compete with that playground.

The lake is already considered an attraction. If we're looking to bring new visitor's into Wyandotte County, we already have several visitor's to the lake so that could be viewed as a con that we already have people here.

Wyandotte County Park

PROS:

- Ample parking spaces (lowers construction cost)
- Easily accessible from I-70/435
- Close proximity to shopping, hotels, and events
- Additional open space for future growth
- Easy access to waterlines
- Creates a new destination location in our County

CONS:

- Roads will need replaced over time



Finally, Wyandotte County Park. This is the George Meyn building, this is Shelter D right there, the A-frame shelter; a skate park and the ballfield is right here and there are tennis courts here. This, if proposed, the playground would go in this area right there. There's plenty of parking there, they're not dedicated parking. We would have to dedicate some handicap accessible parking; however, that's a very large parking spot that can hold up to 90 cars, so that's a plus. It's easily accessible from I-70 and I-435. This park is going to bring individuals into our community from outside, so it's very important that we have a way for them to get there.

It's in close proximity to shopping, hotels, events, Sporting KC, T-Bones, the racetrack. It's within a two-mile drive of those attractions. With all this area, I don't know the exact acreage of just that area, but it is plenty ample enough if we wanted to add-on to this playground in the future, we very well could.

Waterlines; there's water there as well as there, so it's easily accessible to waterlines, and again, it creates a new destination for our county that we want to bring people into.

The con with Wyandotte County Park is the roads will need to be replaced over time just like Pierson Park because it's one of our main attractions. It gets used a lot, so we would have to replace those roads over time.

Recommendation

Wyandotte County Park



The firm that you saw the video of, Unlimited Play, they came and did a study and they're the ones that are designing and overseeing the building and construction of. They're recommendation, they're professional recommendation is Wyandotte County Park.

Commissioner Bynum said in Wentzville, what was nearby that park for other activities? **Mr. Rogers** said that was nearby a school. The city owned land next to a school, so they built it there. There's some athletic fields that were there, I think some soccer fields, and some baseball fields as well. **Commissioner Bynum** said if you get to your goal, it looks like you're \$90,000 away from the total money needed, so how long do you think before you would have the total money needed? **Mr. Rogers** said, hopefully, very soon. Unlimited Play, that's one thing that they do is fundraise and they're pretty confident that they could secure that money pretty quickly.

Commissioner Bynum said in some of your pros and cons you talked about certain other things that might need to happen in various places like the parking at Pierson. That's not included in the cost you're showing for the park, right? **Mr. Rogers** said correct. That's added additional funds that we would have to find within our Parks & Recreation budget.

Commissioner Bynum said I just wanted to comment that I think shade and shade structures are really important. **Mr. Rogers** said absolutely. **Commissioner Bynum** said it didn't

say it, but we know it. **Mr. Rogers** said absolutely, it is very important that we protect those individuals from the sun and provide shade for individuals that do want to play on this playground.

Mayor Alvey said, Jeremy, you mentioned that this is really a destination park and the expectation is that it would attract people from outside the community. Do they have any projections about the numbers? **Mr. Rogers** said Unlimited Play does have those numbers. I don't know them off the top of my head, but I know at that Wentzville one, I talked to someone that drove three hours just for that playground. They lived in a very remote area, but they do have numbers of what this would attract.

Mayor Alvey said my only thought would be that is if we look at this as a Wyandotte County project and how does it serve our citizens, my concern at that location is, again, it's a fairly long drive and I don't know how many people would need to use public transportation to access that, not that they could access Wyandotte County Park through bus service or Pierson Park. That would be a concern that how accessible will it be to our citizens. I do understand the concerns about other spots, but because we only looked at Wyandotte County parks, we did not look at the KCK parks because this is part—we have to serve the entire county, is that how—**Mr. Rogers** said that's correct and most of the KCK parks are not big enough, they're not regional draws to host a playground of this nature. **Mayor Alvey** said so, for instance, City Park would not be accessible. If what we're saying is there are other attractions at other parks and one of the selling points of Wyandotte County Park is it would help activate that park some more, we wouldn't have that same consideration let's say for City Park or any other park. **Mr. Rogers** said going to City Park, for example, having the amount of open space, an acre to two acres of open space that is close to parking, close to water would be—there is some open space there, but the typography it would be tough to navigate.

Commissioner Markley said as much as I would love to have this at Pierson Park, I would have concerns about the proposed location because both the flooding and because of the lack of visibility from the roads just the way that the lay of the land is. I like having the spray park there, but even with that, that's a concern. I understand why this is their recommendation. I was going to ask about bus service or some means of transportation as well, so the Mayor already hit on that. Making sure—you know you mentioned that the highest percentage of disabled people is in the

Turner community, so we need to make sure they have a way to get out there because although I understand wanting to attract outside residents, we want our residents to be able to use it as well.

Shade structures, you can get grants for that, so make sure that you go get a grant for the shade structures. I had one other thing, but I've forgotten it, so I will tell you later.

Commissioner Kane said well, I volunteer the Piper area to build a new park. This was Hal Walker's dream. I don't know where we should put it, but I think it's something that if we come up short of monies, we need to give them some monies to get this to go because I think more people will use it then you can imagine and the need is there. I don't care where you put it, but I would rather see you put it at Wyandotte County Lake, but then you would have to have some bus routes to wherever it's going to be.

Commissioner Markley said I remembered my one other thing. I think I have been seeing some of this happen already, but I would say we need to be cognizant of putting some play equipment at each of our playgrounds that meet this need. The whole playground might not be accessible, but some of those pieces should be so that people can utilize the playground nearest to their home. Like I said, I think I have been seeing some of that happen with the new play equipment we've been bringing in, but it's just important. **Mr. Rogers** said absolutely, I agree.

Commissioner Johnson asked the entirety of the \$500,000 is being raised outside of UG funds? **Mr. Rogers** said we have used some UG funds that was appropriated in 2017 towards this project. **Mr. Bach** said Casino funds that were allocated toward parks, \$100,000 in that one year and used that as kind of the seed money to start going out to leverage the additional money that he's used to bring in the other \$310,000 so far. **Commissioner Johnson** said so we are going then to look outside the county for the other \$90,000. **Mr. Rogers** said if that's what it takes. **Commissioner Johnson** said if that's what it takes, I mean, to your point we need to put some money and I think we already have. I like what the Mayor said about City Park or even Clifton Park. I think there's access to water. I think there's a spring over there at Clifton Park, so I've been told. I've not found it yet nor have I gone to look for it.

Have we entertained input from the Parks Board yet on this? **Mr. Rogers** said yes. I did present this exact same presentation to the Park Board and they did not come to a consensus on

where they suggest. **Commissioner Johnson** asked they are in support of doing something. **Mr. Rogers** said right, absolutely.

Commissioner Philbrook said the Park Foundation Board put a good chunk of change toward that. That's where a couple hundred thousand came from to go towards that. That plus the other hundred and then the rest of the money that the Inclusive Play people said that they would raise to make this work is how the money came about basically. Right? **Mr. Rogers** said yes. **Mr. Bach** said yes, that was directly the Foundation and through the TURF I think, big contributors.

Mayor Alvey said I want to be clear that perhaps because of the funding coming from the Parks Foundation, can we not look at other city parks, KCK parks as if there were other reasons why they might be more appropriate? **Mr. Rogers** said when they did the Master Plan, they did look at all our parks and this was their recommendation. If there are other parks that you guys want me to look at, I will be happy to. **Mr. Bach** said I will say we went through and looked at the different pros and cons there are. You can imagine many of the city parks are out because of the space. You don't want to come in and take out big chunks. You don't want to come in and take out big chunks if you throw in parking and stuff like that, so a lot of them were out from that standpoint. We looked at some of the bigger ones like Rosedale Park. That was one that you spent a little more time and went back to it. I don't recall all the reasons, but there were a number of cons that fell into it. You know how it stands up day to day and interaction with people at night was a very big issue with this park as well and the equipment and how long it would last.

Commissioner Bynum said I would voice some support for Wyandotte County Park. For the reasons you mentioned, but also just the fact that within that section that you identify, you're building some critical mass there. You have the museum, George Meyn, the ballfields and the tennis courts and the A-frame structure which is a really neat structure and I like the fact that this could add to some of the activity already going on there. Those roads—they also seem to be used a lot for runners and walkers. **Mr. Rogers** said they do. **Commissioner Bynum** said that just adds to something else we could do while we're out there. I like that and I agree about the access piece for any resident that needs transportation, but I know that with our UG transit and the ATA they both seem really amenable to working with groups and people to get them to where they want

to go. **Mr. Rogers** said correct. I have had preliminary discussions with Justus Welker, our Transit Director, and he's on board of supporting this project and finding a way to get public transportation out there. **Mr. Bach** said I might just add to that point too, as you can see any of these sites we're not going to have the mass transit bus line go right up to the park at any place, so it will be whenever we use our direct—when somebody calls for service to try to get to—particularly those individuals that are coming to use it, you know, with handicap, you need to get them right to the front door where the park is so it will be those specialized carrier services that we have.

Commissioner Philbrook said I need to correct what I said, what can I tell you, too many boards, too many sources of money. The big bulk came from the TURF fund. **Mr. Rogers** said correct. **Commissioner Philbrook** said then some from the Foundation and then the others. Thank you for letting me correct my mistake.

Mayor Alvey said I'm going to come back to this, it seems to me that part of the beauty of the Inclusive Play is it's not just those who have special needs, but other kids and that they play together and these locations seem to be—are other families going to make this a destination? I understand someone who has son and is disabled or special needs that they would travel there because it's the only place they could. The question is, will there be enough others who would then play with as we saw in the video. **Mr. Rogers** said yes, I believe there would be. There's one other of these playgrounds in the Kansas City metro area and it's in Independence and as you said, there's adults, there's persons—Veterans that like to use it so they can play with their kids or grandkids and whatnot. I'd take my kids to it. I see people of all walks of life with disabilities, non-disabilities use these playgrounds. When I went to the Wentzville grand opening, that's exactly what was there, not all of them were disabled. **Mayor Alvey** asked how many folks lived in walking proximity to the park at Wentzville or Independence. **Mr. Rogers** said I can speak on Independence. It's right across from the Truman Library on 24 Highway. There is a small neighborhood just to the east of that, not a whole lot, but it is on 24 Highway so that's why they chose to put it there. Wentzville, it was around a school. It was a Middle School, I assume there were probably some homes. I didn't venture out too much so I can't speak to that one.

Commissioner Burroughs said I'm really pleased to see our community has given this serious thought. There is a segment of our population, it's not inclusive, and to have an opportunity for them to join with our kids and others to enjoy the simple things in life, I'm very proud of our community for stepping up and taking this request quite seriously. No matter where it goes, it's highly needed in our community and I wish we had the funds today to start the project tomorrow. It's a tremendous opportunity. The park that's recommended, there's a lot of amenities already there and I believe it would allow a bus to be able to turnaround. You have day trips from the schools, you have local programs that could utilize the park, you're going to have a lot of visitors during the summer months that will be coming in from out-of-town. You have the frisbee golf, you have the Renaissance Festival, you will have families that will come in and actually if the parents want to divide up and take them different places, they can. I see why this park was favored among the others. I'm extremely supported of the program and I'm extremely proud of our community for giving it much consideration.

Commissioner Johnson said I'm having the conversation trying to figure out our lights out there. Take it however you want, I don't like being out there at that park in the evening time because it gets dark. **Mr. Rogers** said we do have lights connected to the shelter. **Commissioner Johnson** asked all the shelters? **Mr. Rogers** said to this shelter, right there. **Commissioner Johnson** said I've driven out there at night time and I get out to the street as quick as possible.

Mr. Bach said I'm just trying to get a sense; the recommendation was Wyandotte County Park and whether that's something we want to move forward with or that's the consensus or the Commission would like us to work on this and bring back for further discussion. I mean we can bring back more pros and cons, I can take it to Standing Committee and work through. But, as he said before, we're in a position that we would probably start breaking ground and moving through a construction cycle in this season. That's why I'm trying to understand if we're okay with this or we need to work on it a little bit more.

Commissioner Burroughs said I don't believe we need to study this to death. I believe that there are children in our community, they would do this tomorrow. So, if you're needing a motion or

some kind of action, I would be more than happy to make a recommendation that we move forward with this project in this location asap.

Mayor Alvey said I guess I'm still hesitant on the kinds of interaction that's going to happen at this site. I mean I see the pros. I think it helps activate that space, I think I understand we have access to the waterlines, we have the topography, we have those things; I'm still just concerned about just how accessible it's going to be to our community whether we have examined all the options. I'm just not certain of it yet. I don't know if others feel the same way.

Commissioner Philbrook said I'm ready to move forward on it because I've been working on this project since Jeremy showed up. I'm excited about it, I've been talking to a lot of people and yes, I understand your concerns. I think there's going to be a lot of people there that are visiting that area out there with their kids during the summertime for all the other activities. That's just one other way to bring people out to that park, from people out-of-town as well, to bring their kids to have a good time, to visit Wyandotte County Historical building and to promote other things that we want to out there. I see it like, as Commissioner Bynum said, creating even more, a little bit more activity right around out there. We already have a lot of activity out there. You see people out there flying their planes and all kinds of stuff out there in the summertime. I'm for moving it forward and I think that we need to take into account the transportation part of it that you were showing concern about. That's just my thing.

Mayor Alvey said my concern with the transportation is, I don't think we can assume that there would be transportation resources available to serve those who might try to access, but I'm not going to hold this up. I still have concerns that it will in fact attract sufficient numbers to this site. That's my concern.

Commissioner Johnson said I share your concern from a different vantage point. I was just wondering aloud, will kids from my district likely catch the bus out there to the park. I don't know. Somebody will have to bring them out there obviously. You can't catch a bus out there.

Commissioner Kane said if we're going to say where we want it, I would like to see it in Wyandotte County Park except we need to set up a system to say on such and such a day give us a call and we will take the folks out west. We have to have a plan that says this is what we're going to do because we don't want to leave out anybody in the community. We have those small buses. We might as well use them. I think any time we can attract outside people to this community and we have something to show, then let's show it and let's take care of our own first.

Commissioner Walters said I think this park is pretty accessible. I don't know that it's any less accessible than any of the other two choices. For a lot of the same reasons that other commissioners have mentioned, it seems like a strong candidate to me. I would agree with Commissioner Johnson, I don't think we should plan on it being used in the dark, but I wouldn't think that an accessible playground like this would be something that would be used after dark. It's very visible during the daylight hours. It seems to me that it's a very strong location.

Commissioner Townsend said I like the idea of this concept based on what I've heard here today. I like the idea of anything that's been submitted that Wyandotte County Park would be the place. I agree with what Commissioner Kane had said in relation to the concern raised by Commissioner Johnson that we set up some type of method that would have to be part of this plan to get those people from the eastern end or midtown who would want to take advantage of this service, have a means by which to do that. Now, the other part of that is if we don't go forward with this, they don't have any place to take care of it or to recreate anyway, so if we go forward with this, this would have to be a part of the plan so they could take advantage.

The other thing I've heard is that the roads will need to be replaced. Is this an immediate concern or a down the line concern and if so, how much money are we talking about. It looks like we're 85-90% of the cost there, but I've also heard a request for shade which makes sense, so what's the number we're really talking about? We don't have to know now, but I'm just saying—**Mr. Rogers** said the physical road is a down the road feature. Eventually that will need to be replaced. It's not an immediate issue. That \$500,000 does include shade for this. That's part of the play piece is shade.

Commissioner Townsend said one other thing, if memory serves me, maybe it doesn't, wasn't there also some plan to use property around that area where the upcoming American Royal

activities, and if so, what impact, if any, would that have? I'm thinking if that's true—**Mr. Rogers** said I'm going to defer to Doug on that one.

Mr. Bach said it was in one of the original thoughts we went through, but as that project has progressed and the STAR area that was approved is between 118th & 110th St. so it's not on this site. **Commissioner Townsend** said okay, well good. Even if it had been or it's farther away, I think that's another opportunity to showcase what is happening out here. That's why I mentioned it. It's good then that's not part of this plan or you won't have that encroaching upon what you're planning to do here.

Commissioner Murguia asked how big is this park that you're going to build in Wyandotte County. You showed us one from Wentzville, MO, but how big is it, the one that you're planning to build here? **Mr. Rogers** said the one in Wentzville was pretty large. It will not be that big. Ours will be about an acre. That's the tiled surface, that's within the fence, it will be about an acre. **Commissioner Murguia** asked do we know like if a child was going to go out there to play, what the average play time is on a size of the playground that you're choosing to build? **Mr. Rogers** said the stat that I was told is three plus hours of play. **Commissioner Murguia** said so they could be out there a long time. **Mr. Rogers** said yes. It's something that you would go to spend an afternoon or spend a longer time than you will at just a regular playground.

Commissioner Kane said I think it was Kelley Hrabe, you know I talked to him yesterday about hooking his sidewalks up with ours at the new park. What would be wrong if we went and asked him, because he said he's willing to work with us, what would be wrong with asking him would you donate this little spot here to go along with our little park? **Commissioner Bynum** said it would nearly bring to Hutton Road. **Commissioner Kane** said yes. I mean it wouldn't hurt to ask. He will be there Saturday. **Mr. Bach** said my first thing on that would be is if you put this there, you would pretty much take up—I think that park area was designed to be able 1.5 to 2 acres. **Someone** was speaking but was inaudible. **Mr. Bach** said okay.

Mayor Alvey said the only thing I would think, and I don't know if this is true, one consideration might be, especially for children who are autistic, loud noises, bright lights can really affect them

and so I don't know if the sirens might have an affect on them, but that might be something to consider.

Commissioner Burroughs said that's an entertainment corridor out there. There's a tremendous amount of amenities for a lot of diverse needs and wants out there and to have that park there be part of the entertainment for a group of individuals that don't have access to something like that, I mean I think it just puts icing on a very well decorated cake that is known as our leisuretainment community out there. Any type of investment that we can make in our parks and encourage visitation of those parks and encourage visitation to the entertain corridor that we have a tremendous amount of time, energy and money invested, I think it's a tremendous opportunity. I haven't seen any of the other—Mayor, any of your other concerns about the city parks or anything, but this at first blush fits pretty well and I just don't want to see it go by the wayside and we study it to death to the extent that we wait another two years and some of these kids don't have an opportunity to play. I'll just leave it at that.

Commissioner Murguia asked do we have a committee of families that have handicapped children that are reviewing this plan. **Mr. Rogers** said no, not yet. The UG used to have the Disability Board and I did present to them and I would go back before that group. I know the group is different now, has a different name, but I would go before that Board and revisit that and get their support again. **Commissioner Murguia** said so we haven't talked to families that have children with disabilities. I was just curious. Honestly, I'm fine with this the way it is. I don't want anyone to get the wrong idea. I'm just curious if a child that's handicapped lives in the city off 7th St., let's say, and we provide a bus service, I just know that I have three kids and when they were little and they don't have any disabilities, me getting the three of them anywhere was not easy. I can't imagine if some of them were handicapped. I would just be curious for people—and we could do this after I guess, but I would just be curious how people that have handicapped children, how much of an effort is it to get them to where a bus route would be and then how long would the bus route be to this location. So, from start to finish, how long does that take? **Mr. Rogers** said that's a great point Commissioner. I would be interested in hearing what some of those parents would say. That's a great point. **Commissioner Murguia** said or even from midtown or wherever. **Mr. Rogers** said I agree.

Commissioner Bynum said I just want to support the recommendation. The transit issue is an important one. You know as long as I feel like you made a commitment to the community to work on the transit issue, because I think you've got a variety of potential solutions to that not only in groups, but just day-to-day every day, again, working with our transit partners. **Mr. Rogers** said absolutely. I agree. **Commissioner Bynum** said I would just want to support the recommendation.

Mayor Alvey said I think the County Administrator would like to move forward on this unless someone would really like to bring this back maybe to a Standing Committee. I'm willing to see this move forward, but I would like to know what the consensus here is.

Again, my concern would be perhaps rather than assume that we're going to be able to solve the transit problems, maybe we need to work that through the providers to see what they could do and how and if that's really going to activate the playground. I understand it is a destination. I think it was important for you to know that the average playtime is three hours. That's significant and I think that's a qualitative difference here. That definitely allay's some of my concerns. I don't see really a groundswell of support to delay this, so I think this moves forward.

Commissioner Townsend said I think, Mayor, as you said, several around here have said move forward with a plan or some type of effort to determine how it's going to be done. That has to be part of it. **Mayor Alvey** said we could say we give you the green light, but let's solve that issue, let's have some strategy for getting access. **Mr. Bach** said okay, we will work on that.

MAYOR ALVEY ADJOURNED
THE MEETING AT 5:52 p.m.

dt

Carol Godsil
 Deputy Unified Government Clerk

April 11, 2019