

Houston Parks and Recreation
Bridges Park Community Meeting
Park Board Meeting Minutes
July 12, 2023

Members Present: Amy Smith, Sheena Postlewait, Stetson Evetts, Preston Wade, Larry Benoist, and Wendy Sholtz

Guests: Shelia Walker, Robbie Smith, Barbara Bridges Romines, Don Romines, Angie Gettys, Jeremy St. John, Barbara Longwell

Meeting was called to order by Secretary, Wendy Sholtz at 5:32 p.m.

Robbie Mortensen started the meeting by reading the established guidelines for how the donated piece of property is to be used.

According to the guidelines, flower bed borders will be made from the leftover stones that were saved after the house's deconstruction.

The idea of building a small fishing pond was suggested. The group felt that the piece of land wasn't large enough to build an adequate sized pond, but that it would be a nice addition to the Rutherford Park.

Barabara Bridges Romines spoke on behalf of the Bridges Family. They would like to see walkways throughout the park, a fence surrounding the property, 2 picnic areas with pavilions, benches, BBQ Grills, they would like to see as much of the house's original rocks be used as possible, a fire pit and would prefer there not to be any bathrooms.

Barbara Longwell suggested that there be a dog waste station where people can find dog bags and a trash can to help keep the park clean.

Mr. Romines gave the idea to reach out to the Ag Department at Missouri State to see if they would draw up a plan for a simple walking path. In the past students have done this as a free service.

Angie Gettys suggested adding a water fountain for filling water bottles as well as using some of the rocks to be used for the base of the posts for the park sign.

The idea was presented to use local sources to get wildflower seeds for the flower beds.

Community members also feel that the park could benefit from having lights, to make the area safer at night, and there should be a good sized parking lot to keep people from parking on the street.

Robbie Mortensen is going to come up with a simple design along with the price for concrete work at the Bridges Park. He is also going to start looking into the possibility of adding a pond to Rutherford Park.

A motion was made by Sheena Postlewait to adjourn the meeting, Amy Smith second the motion, all approved. The meeting adjourned at 5:59