CITY OF CONWAY
PARKS AND ADMINISTRATION & PUBLIC SAFETY
CITY COUNCIL COMMITTEE MEETING
MONDAY, OCTOBER 7, 2019

PRESENT: Mayor Blain-Bellamy, William Goldfinch, Mayor Pro Tem, Council Members
Tom Anderson, Shane Hubbard, Jean Timbes, and Larry White

STAFF: Adam Emrick, City Administrator; Mary Catherine Hyman, Deputy Administrator/Planning and Development Director; John Rogers, Deputy Administrator/Grants & Special Project Director; Ashley Smith, Recreation Director; Le Hendrick, Fire Chief; Dale Long, Police Chief; June Wood, Aquatics Director; Taylor Newell, Public Information Officer; and Barbara Tessier, City Clerk

OTHERS: Kathy Ropp

CALL TO ORDER: Mayor Blain-Bellamy called the meeting to order.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Motion: White made a motion, seconded by Hubbard, to approve the October 7, 2019 agenda. Vote: Unanimous. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Motion: White made a motion, seconded by Hubbard, to approve the September 3, 2019 minutes as presented. Vote: Unanimous. Motion carried.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION:

A. Discussion on naming the Inclusive Playground. Emrick informed the Committee that the inclusive playground was nearly complete thus bringing about some discussions its naming. Smith presented the committee with list of prices for potential naming opportunities for the Conway Recreation Center that had been assembled by the former Recreation Director, and a list of prices for the inclusive playground. Smith commented that naming rights in a community was to maximize all the activities that can be had in a city. Smith continued that the Recreation budget was great but so much more could be done with additional private funds. Diversifying funds will help meet the needs of the City for the future, and a consistent approach for sponsorships should be followed. Various businesses in the City currently sponsor recreation teams. The Recreation Center Complex is named for Billy Gardner, a former Recreation Director, and Collin’s Kids is the name of one of the basketball courts via funds from the Collin’s Kids Foundation. These funds will help defray costs for the City and help to
benefit anyone who uses the Recreation Center. Naming rights will generate money to continue to improve the Recreation Center activities and programs. Conway Cares has received a donation of $100,000 from the McHugh’s for the inclusive playground. Smith suggested the name Ladybug Park for the first phase.

Mayor Blain-Bellamy indicated the City would keep the practice of what is already in place, i.e., naming based on substantial contributions, and that it was also an opportunity to encourage more of the same. As funds are received, the City will be able to provide more resources to the community.

Smith was asked if the list for potential naming opportunities would be made available to the public. Smith replied it would not be at this time as staff would like to add additional opportunities. Emrick informed the committee that he received a call from someone wanting to have a plaque at Kingston Park. There was discussion about preserving the image of the City with attractive plaques and where they were placed.

**Motion:** Goldfinch made a motion, seconded by Timbes, for staff to return to the committee with a full list of potential naming rights. **Vote:** Unanimous. Motion carried.

**B. Discussion of an amendment to the City of Conway Code of Ordinance 9-3-3**

**Obscenity generally; communication to women and children.** Long informed the committee that times had changed and the City should update its Code of Ordinance section dealing with obscenity. Long proposed the removal of reference to woman and children and to replace with language to allow a victim to be any person. The word anonymous should also be removed from this section in paragraph (a). **Motion:** Blain-Bellamy made a motion, seconded by Goldfinch, to move this along to full Council with their approval. **Vote:** Unanimous. Motion carried.

**C. Discussion on new City Hall with architects.** Emrick informed the committee that staff had previously viewed the architect’s designs trying to site the new building on the lots available. Staff asked for more examples and then narrowed down the field for this presentation. There are several issues that need direction before architects can move forward. There has been a discussion about the Chamber building. The Chamber has a lease on the building until 2036, which is tied to a mortgage on the building. If the City should want to do something with that building, the City would have to negotiate with them regarding the lease and the mortgage. Another issue for consideration was the drive-thru for the Finance Department. In all the scenarios, the drive-thru dictated the design of the building. A brief discussion followed as to whether or not a bank in the City could accept the water bill payments, and the fact that going forward, most bills would be drafted directly from a person’s bank account.
Closing the ramp from Main Street to Second Avenue was discussed as well as the issues on Scarborough Alley. One suggestion was to make Scarborough Alley one-way with a 20’ lane with a 6’ sidewalk. The committee voiced the desire for a design that incorporated more green space. One of the designs included 40 parking space, which led to discussion of where everyone would park. Emrick indicated that staff could park in the County lot on Second Avenue.

Discussion followed about a two-story building versus a three-story building. Having three stories would decrease the building’s footprint; however, the architects indicated that a three-story building increased the costs substantially by having to include stairs, elevators, and additional bathrooms. A suggestion was to build a three-story building, and rent out space until such time as City staff grew enough to occupy the space.

There was discussion that functionality was important and should be considered before the aesthetics of the building.

Mayor Blain-Bellamy noted it was important to think about what the City will need in 25-50 years and what the City could afford now.

**Outcome:** The architects will return with a plan taking into account the closing of the Main Street ramp onto Second Avenue, the demolition of the Chamber of Commerce building, Scarborough Alley allowing for one-way traffic from Main Street to Laurel Street, green space in the front of the building with more in the rear of the building, and the inclusion of a fountain in the green space.

**ADJOURNMENT:** **Motion:** Hubbard made a motion, seconded by White, to adjourn the meeting. **Vote:** Unanimous. Motion carried.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Minutes approved by City Council this day of November, 2019.

[Signature]

Barbara A. Tessier, City Clerk