

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE
CLAIRE GEMPP DAVIDSON MEMORIAL CONSERVATION COMMISSION
OF THE CITY OF SUNSET HILLS, MISSOURI
HELD ON MONDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 2023

BE IT REMEMBERED that the Claire Gempp Davidson Memorial Conservation Commission of the City of Sunset Hills, Missouri and Lindbergh School District met at the Sunset Hills Community Center, 3915 S. Lindbergh. The meeting convened at 6:30pm.

ROLL CALL

Present:	Sherri Schmidt	-Chairman
	Jim Koeger	-Member
	Robyn Parker	-Support
	Jan Hoffmann	-Member
	Tamie St. John	-Support
	Herb Pyne	-Support
	Gerald Brown	-Support

Others present:

Absent	Barry Marquart	-Member
	Scott Goodrich	-Member

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Copies of the Minutes of the November, 2022 meeting was distributed to the members for their review. Mr. Koeger made a motion to approve the minutes as amended. Ms. Hoffmann seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.

OLD BUSINESS

- A. Update on Maintenance Items:
 - Status of invasive removal
Mr. Brown reported that the staff and Native Landscape will start again this Spring with removal and spraying of some particular areas for invasive species.
 - Restroom
Mr. Brown reported that restroom will reopen week of March 15th
 - Wildflower areas cutting
Mr. Brown reported that areas were cut a little earlier based on project scheduled for last week of Feb, and first 2 weeks into March – we kept 1/3 of each fully grown as directed.
 - Eagle Scout Project
Mr. Brown reported that we have an Eagle Scout that would like to do benches adjacent to Gazebo area, he is getting approved through Eagle Board and then we will have proposed

date of completion. Goal will be to do (5) benches and then do another (5) if needed at a later date.

-Tree Planting project

Mr. Brown thanked Lindbergh School District with assistance to plant trees at Gempp property, trees planted included a few of each of these Paw Paw, Oak, Bald Cypress, Hickory, Dogwood, Hawthorn, Walnut, Redbud, and wild Plum. Staff intends to plant (25) more of the same species this Spring.

Chairman Schmidt ask if we had any direction on the front entrance gate area and stone wall pillar? Mr. Brown stated that he would look into and provide a report in the minutes: Mr. Brown contacted a mason stone repair company to come in and take a look at the damage.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Native Grass Area Re-planting

Mr. Brown reported that the area was removed of invasives, covered with solar blankets and then completely re-seeded this winter with native grasses. Mr. Brown asked if we should have MDC start working on a sign to have in the area or wait until we see what grows and then create a sign? The group decided to wait until the future to create a sign, to allow plants a chance to get established and grow.

NEXT MEETING

May 16, 2023 @ 6:00pm Walk through of the property

Any other Matters Deemed Necessary

Mr. Koeger asked about the 2023 Budget, Mr. Brown provided the numbers:

Equipment rentals - \$2000

Utilities - \$2,800

Grounds Maint. - \$17,000

Facility Maintenance - \$8,000

Mr. Brown asked if they had any comments on the Lend a Library – no one has heard any negative comments, only positive.

Chairman Schmidt asked if we could track down a bluebird house and replace the missing one that had been located behind the pond. Ms. Parker stated that they would look at MDC for a replacement.

Mr. Brown asked commission about front entrance sign, Ms. St. John reported that they will have MDC look at replacing.

Chairman Schmidt asked if we could do a tree inventory of the FSI area based on the Area Management Plan - under the Forest Management Plan Implementation Schedule Heading, item 3. Reforestation, points a. and b. (at the bottom of Page 15, continuing at the top of Page 16) state:

- a. Review and evaluate regeneration in all areas; conduct a vascular tree inventory and determine existing plants on property and what we can plant to create more diversity.

- b. Review and evaluate regeneration on an annual basis and replant as necessary to maintain adequate stocking.

Chairman Schmidt believes with the increased efforts to remove invasive species and recent weather events that have damaged trees on the property, it would be a good time to review the wooded areas. In the Forest Stand Improvement (FSI) Areas, we could assess how oaks (especially white oaks) and hickories are faring – are there enough older trees for wildlife and are younger trees growing to add to and eventually replace those trees. We could also check if oak gall is having an impact.

In other wooded areas, especially those closer to the trails and spots more visible to the public, we could assess the tree diversity, and identify opportunities to plant native trees or encourage existing plants beneficial to wildlife. For example, when the restroom was installed, a number of large trees had to be removed. There have been a number of small Sassafras and Dogwood (Rough-leaved?) seedlings in that area in the past – it would be good to encourage those seedlings.

Chairman Schmidt knows there have been on-going efforts to plant trees, like the recent tree planting by Barry Marquart's students and by the Parks Department. And I don't want to put an undue burden on the Parks Department. She just thought it might be a good time to review and assess the health of the forested areas. Dave Tylka would probably have some thoughts on this as well. Mr. Brown stated that he will speak with the staff and have an inhouse tree inventory done of the area and report findings.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Koeger made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:25pm. Ms. Hoffmann seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.

Minutes recorded by
Gerald Brown
Director of Parks & Recreation