

**Pleasant Grove City
Special City Council Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, July 12, 2023
10:30 a.m.**

Mayor: Guy L. Fugal (joined the meeting at 10:41 a.m.)

Council Members: Dianna Andersen
Brent Bullock
Eric Jensen
Cyd LeMone
Todd Williams

Staff Present: Scott Darrington, City Administrator
Tina Petersen, City Attorney
Deon Giles, Parks Director
Kathy Kresser, City Recorder
Kyler Brower, Assistant to the City Administrator

Guests Present: Greg Cook
Ann Brown

The City Council and staff met in the Community Room, 108 South 100 East, Pleasant Grove, Utah.

1) CALL TO ORDER

In the absence of Mayor Fugal, Mayor Pro Tempore Cyd LeMone called the Special Meeting to order at 10:30 a.m. All City Council Members were present. Mayor Guy Fugal arrived a short time later and assumed the Chair.

2) DISCUSSION ON NEW PARK

City Administrator, Scott Darrington, presented the Conceptual Plan for the Park and welcomed those present. The purpose of today's meeting was to discuss the naming of the Park. It was reported that approximately two years earlier, Greg Cook approached Mayor Fugal about how he could help the community. Mayor Fugal mentioned a few opportunities, including the park. At that time, a portion of the Pipe Plant property had been set aside for a possible park. That interaction put the relationship between the Cooks and the City's Park plans into motion with the Cook family donating \$5 million toward the playground and splash pad. Greg Cook indicated that they were willing to put more toward the Park but instead got involved in the Hale Theater Center Project. The \$5 million donation was acknowledged as being twice as much as any private donor has given toward any Park.

About one year ago, the Council discussed the name of the park being Kindness Park and integrating the concept of kindness into the playground details. Internally, the Park was named Kindness Park and is something the City has embraced. As the ultimate cost of the splash pad and playground totaled approximately \$5.3 million, the City acknowledged that it would pay the additional cost above the \$5 million donation. Since then, the City has added additional park features including the pump track, the skate park, basketball courts, a nine-square court, two futsal courts, a large pavilion, restrooms, and a mechanical room for the splash pad. The storm drain basin will also provide field areas for soccer and other field activities. The City designated some of the property that was set aside for the Cemetery for park parking. Not counting the storm drain property, the total cost of the park was around \$10 million for the City, which does not include the cost of the land. The City paid \$6 million for the 40-acre Pipe Plant property and estimates the purchase cost of the land to be used as a park at approximately \$1 million. The land is now more valuable.

Referencing the main park entrance, Administrator Darrington identified a nearby blank wall on one of the buildings that will have a sign recognizing the Cook Center for Human Connection and the contribution to the Park as well as space to explain the connection to the City. It was important for citizens to know what the Cooks have contributed.

Greg Cook stated that he wants to get the park's name right, which, to him, means a name that is not a "placeholder" but intentional with community support. The Park represents Pleasant Grove City. He remarked that the City has changed in the last two years with a lot of growth and successful development. With the park, there is an opportunity to brand the City. Otherwise, it will just be another community park.

Administrator Darrington did not think that the name needs to be figured out before the groundbreaking. Council Members Andersen and LeMone disagreed and expressed the need to determine a name quickly. If left undone, residents could end up calling it something that is not desirable, such as the Pipe Plant Park.

The City Council was asked to speak to the issue of support for the name. Council Member Williams stated that they could have a park naming contest. Council Member Jensen stated that people are already excited about the name Kindness Park. If there is a different name, it needs to be done quickly. It also was noted that because the property tax increase is in part, related to the Park, the name should be unveiled prior to the property tax increase notices going out. Discussion continued about the name, Kindness Park, which was deemed to be a universal term that creates a positive view. Mr. Cook was asked for his opinion.

Mr. Cook identified two different objectives he has when naming something. The name "kindness" represents his first objective, which is an altruistic objective. The second objective, which is for organizations such as doTERRA and the Cook Family, is to be seen as "giving back". That is important. The City is doing much more than they are but when you make a substantial donation, there is an expectation that it will be publicized in some form that they are giving back to the community. He stated that doTERRA's name is on Discovery Park, but it receives little if any, recognition that it made a major donation to the park. He stated that he loves the name Kindness Park, and that is why they have chosen kindness projects in the community. He,

but understood the position about what the word may convey. He noted that people are not afraid of the word “kindness” but it needs to have staying power. Council Member LeMone agreed that the public should be made aware of the generous donation by the Cooks, which, to her epitomizes kindness. There was additional discussion about using the names of different features in Pleasant Grove such as The Grove.

Ms. Brown stated that if the park were to be named The Grove, she would expect The Grove developers to make a substantial donation to the park. To her, the name “Cook Family Park” would stand the test of time. That name says that the Cook Family made a substantial donation toward a place where families can gather. 25 to 50 years from now, the Cook grandchildren can say that their elders helped create a great park. The community can point to the fact that the Cook Family helped the community. The Park then feels very personal and is something that everyone can be proud of for years to come. She recognized the separation between naming the parts of the Park and using the various themes. The family is seen as giving the park to everyone.

The discussion then turned to what could be done to accomplish the two objectives identified by Mr. Cook, and, secondly, what name is appropriate, given the size of the donation by the Cooks. Mr. Cook’s only concern was what is appropriate to name the park given the size of the donation. He commented that whatever is done to co-brand will be much less recognized.

Some Council Members expressed a need for time to consider what has been raised tonight. It was determined that the City Council would further discuss the name at the July 18, 2023, meeting and select from the following three options:

- The Cook Family Park;
- Kindness Park; and
- Connections Park.

It was noted that the tax notice will go out with reference to a City Park.

Council Member Williams was excused from the remainder of the meeting at 11:31 a.m.


There was brief discussion about future branding. Mr. Cook stressed the importance of branding and stated that he will invest in a city that knows what it is. He thought the City’s identity was starting to form without guidance. This park is a legacy park and presents a great branding opportunity. He offered to have his marketing people address and present the options at the next City Council Meeting for further discussion.

Administrator Darrington reported that the beauty of the Park is that people will view it differently because of the variety of options available. The big draw will be the playground, splash pad, and sports teams. Council Member LeMone was excused from the meeting at 11:37 a.m.

3) **ADJOURN**

ACTION: At 11:37 a.m. Council Member Jensen moved to ADJOURN. Council Member Andersen seconded the motion. City Council Member vote: Dianna Andersen, Yes; Brent Bullock, Yes; and Eric Jensen, Yes. Council Members LeMone and Williams were not present for the vote. Motion carried unanimously.

The City Council Special Meeting minutes of July 12, 2023, were approved by the City Council on August 1, 2023.


Kathy T. Kresser, MMC
City Recorder
(Exhibits are in the Recorder's office.)

