

CITY OF DARDENNE PRAIRIE
2032 HANLEY ROAD
DARDENNE PRAIRIE, MO 63368

BOARD OF ALDERMEN
WORKSHOP AGENDA
OCTOBER 19, 2016
5:30 p.m.

CALL MEETING TO ORDER

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION AND CONSIDERATION

1. Pokemon Go in BaratHaven (Mayor)
2. Funding Agreement with St. Charles County for Hanley Road (Kehoe)
3. Street Maintenance & Pedestrian Facilities Improvements Project (Kehoe)
4. Short Term Goals (0 – 3 year projects)
5. Long Term Goals (3 – 10 year projects)
6. Review of Board of Aldermen Meeting Agenda (10-19-16)

STAFF COMMUNICATIONS

1. City Attorney
2. City Engineer
3. Staff
4. Aldermen
5. Mayor

CLOSED SESSION

Roll call vote to hold closed session pursuant to RSMo 610.021 section _____

- Litigation and Privileged Communications (1)
- Real Estate (2)
- Personnel (3)
- Labor (9)
- Bid Specs (11)
- Audit (17)

RETURN TO REGULAR MEETING AGENDA

ADJOURNMENT

Posted 10-14-16 @ 2:06 pm by Kim Clark

WORKSHOP SUMMARY

OCTOBER 19, 2016

The City of Dardenne Prairie workshop session was called to order at 5:30 p.m.
The meeting was held at Dardenne Prairie City Hall located at 2032 Hanley Road.

The meeting was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

The following were in attendance: Mayor Zucker, Aldermen Wandling, Gotway, Nay, Santos, and Klingerman. Also present were City Clerk Kim Clark, City Engineer Luke Kehoe and City Attorney John Young. Staff member Alicia Gay was also in attendance.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION AND CONSIDERATION

1. Pokemon Go in BaratHaven
Mayor Zucker read letters from Andrew Burchett and Joanne Boudreau which are attached as part of the minutes.
2. Funding Agreement with St. Charles County for Hanley Road (Kehoe)
3. Street Maintenance & Pedestrian Facilities Improvements Project (Kehoe)
4. Short Term Goals (0 – 3 year projects)
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6. Review of Board of Aldermen Meeting Agenda (10-19-16)

STAFF COMMUNICATIONS

City Engineer Luke Kehoe updated the Board on the status of the BaratHaven trail maintenance project.

Alderman Klingerman requested the status of the Stump Road water project.

Alderman Gotway requested the status of the BaratHaven overlook repair.

Alderman Santos mentioned possible options for the afterhours patrol of BaratHaven Park.

Mayor Zucker mentioned the Wentzville Fire Protect District ISO rating. He also mentioned the final three nights of Cricket would be October 21st, 22nd & 23rd at the ballfields under the lights.

A motion was made by Alderman Klingerman, Seconded by Alderman Gotway to hold a closed session pursuant to RSMo 610.021 section (1) Litigation and Privileged Communications and (3) Personnel. Motion passed unanimously. Roll call was as follows:

Alderman Koch – Absent	Alderman Klingerman – Aye
Alderman Wandling – Aye	Alderman Nay – Aye
Alderman Santos - Aye	Alderman Gotway – Aye

CLOSED SESSION

A motion was made by Alderman Wandling, Seconded by Alderman Gotway to adjourn the meeting at 7:00 p.m. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,



Kim Clark, City Clerk

David Zucker

From: Andrew Burchett <sburchett50@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, October 17, 2016 6:36 PM
To: David Zucker; Dan Koch; John Gotway
Cc: Edward Etzkorn
Subject: Re: Pokemon in Barathaven (GRG) park

Mayor Zucker, Aldermen Gotway and Koch, and HOA President Etzkorn:

Unfortunately, I will not be able to attend the BOA workshop in which Pokemon Go is being discussed because I have a schedule conflict with work. Both of my children are in scheduled activities that evening, which will mean my wife won't be able to make it. All four of us are interested in the discussion and would like to contribute in a way that makes it better informed.

To the extent you document workshop discussions, please be sure to submit my Sept. 23 letter below for the public record. Also, please add for consideration this additional information:

- Since this topic has come up, my family has monitored the Barathaven park gym every day and witnessed no late-night activity by people playing Pokemon.
- Monitoring is very easy because the Pokemon Go app lets us see all activities in real time from the comfort of our home. We check it throughout evening.
- Additionally, we have stayed in control of the gym by playing the game as a team. This allows us to monitor any changes that will occur if people enter the gym while we are not actively watching it. If we are not constantly monitoring, we lose control of the gym. For example, if someone were to be active in the gym while we are asleep, it changes the gym statistics and you can see changes in which Pokemon are in the gym the next morning. Even if I am out of town, I can see if my Pokemon loses the gym overnight.
- I also check the parking lot by the gym when I come and go from the neighborhood. When I see any vehicles or activity in the area of the gym, I stop and use the game app to see if those illegally present in the park after dark are doing anything in the gym. In the last three weeks I have seen several people in the park after dark, but NOT ONCE were those individuals active with the Pokemon gym.

To sum it up, we don't have a Pokemon Go problem. We have an unlit, semi-secluded parking lot problem. I have seen plenty of evidence of people in the park after dark but it is clear that Pokemon is not the root of the issue. In light of these observations, it is my opinion that any serious conversation about removing Pokemon from the park to remedy the regular problem of night-time activity is off base. It only detracts from citizen's lawful use and enjoyment of the park while playing Pokemon Go. Furthermore, such a discussion distracts us from the important question of whether or not our local law enforcement has the wherewithal to enforce ordinances related to the park.

If and when someone is caught in the park after dark playing Pokemon, I support enforcement of the park ordinance forbidding him or her from being there.

Please weight your consideration to direct observations such as these rather than some of the more fantastic scenarios and theories I have heard recounted. Thank-you for considering my point of view. I'm happy to help in any other way.

Sincerely,

Andrew Burchett
2059 Saint Madeleine Drive
202-689-9774

On Fri, Sep 23, 2016 at 4:43 PM, Andrew Burchett <sburchett50@gmail.com> wrote:

Dear Mayor Zucker,

I live in Barathaven subdivision. At a recent Barathaven Homeowners Association meeting, there was discussion about vandalism and other criminal activity around our neighborhood and the Great Rivers Greenway/Barathaven park. It is a real problem and I fully support active and consistent enforcement of the law to address these issues. This includes enforcing the ordinance that prohibits people from being in the park after dark.

There was one course of action that came up in discussion the HOA meeting that I oppose. It was to have the city seek to remove a Pokémon Go gym and two stops from the park in the Pokemon game map. Pokemon Go is a popular game that rewards players for getting outdoors and walking. The Pokemon Go world is visible through a smartphone app that shows different digital features superimposed on a map. One type of feature is a "stop", where players check in and get supplies that help them in the game. The other type of feature is a "gym" where players battle and train with their Pokemon. Most stops and gyms are located in public spaces where it is appropriate for people to walk and spend time. In the Barathaven park there are three Pokemon Go features:

- A Pokemon Go stop is located at the entrance to the trail parking lot off of Barathaven Boulevard.
- A Pokemon Go gym is located at the overlook by the parking lot.
- A second Pokemon Go stop is located at the overlook on the lake trail near the Riparian Court cul de sac.

Players also may capture "wild" Pokemon along the park trails.

The game gets kids and adults out in the fresh air walking. Sometimes they organize in teams for companionship and to be more competitive in the gyms. Collectively, my family has walked several hundred kilometers with this game since downloading the app in mid-July a couple of weeks after it was introduced. Most of this distance was walked around Barathaven Lake and it gave us a lot of opportunity to observe and talk with other players at all times of day from dawn until dusk. After many hours of playing Pokémon Go in Barathaven park, here are a few observations I would like to share:

- Most of the people in the park are NOT playing Pokemon Go. In fact, I see more people fishing in the lake some days. Walkers, joggers and bicycle riders represent the vast majority of park users.
- We are very aware of which park users are Pokémon Go players because they may be competitors or on the same team and their actions can affect our strategy, so we watch them closely
- I know several of the kids who play Pokemon Go and often their parents are with them.
- I have not witnessed Pokémon Go players using profanity, rough housing, being violent or destructive toward people or property.
- I have not witnessed Pokémon Go players trespassing on private property
- Pokémon Go players are typically absorbed in the game. They are occupied, on a mission and not idle or looking for mischief.

Personally, my family has realized the following benefits from playing Pokémon Go:

- Several family walks in a week

- An adolescent son who opens up to me about important stuff in his life while he's coaching me on how to be better at the game
- A child with a mild muscular disorder motivated to push through the discomfort and pain of walking and getting much-needed exercise, sun and fresh air
- Lots of friendly encounters with neighbors and friends

Many people don't play Pokémon Go, so it is understandably strange and of no value to them. Regrettably, some people who know very little about the game have made it a scapegoat for their frustrations with bad behavior around our neighborhood. In some cases, uninformed commentary has included outlandish statements as a basis for why it should be banished from our park. If there were a causal link between Pokémon Go and crime, I would not allow my children to play

My one request is that the city obtain input from the Pokémon Go-playing constituency of Barathaven before seeking the game to be turned off in our park. We are a friendly group of active, productive citizens with school-aged children. We would be glad to share more information with you and other city leaders.

Thank-you for your attention to this matter.

Best regards,

Andrew Burchett
202-689-9774
2059 Saint Madeleine Drive
Dardenne Prairie

David Zucker

From: Joanne Boudreau <joanne-boudreau@hotmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, October 18, 2016 9:39 AM
To: David Zucker; John Gotway; Dan Koch
Subject: Pokemon Go

Mayor Zucker, Alderman Koch, Alderman Gotway,

It is my understanding that there will be some discussion this Wednesday evening at the BOA workshop regarding the Pokemon Go issue around the Barathaven lake. Unfortunately we will be unable to attend, as we have family visiting us for the week from Canada, however I have previously e-mailed all three of you with my thoughts on this subject. I hope you will take our thoughts into consideration during your discussion, regardless of our inability to be there to present them in person, and ask that you share my previous e-mail (which I have copied below for your convenience) with the other aldermen during your discussion.

Thank you very much,
Joanne Boudreau, Mark Kidnie and Jack Kidnie (our 10 year old Pokemon Go enthusiast)

From my e-mail to Mayor Zucker, Aldermen Koch and Gotway, dated 9-23-16:

Mayor Zucker, Alderman Gotway, Alderman Koch,

I wanted to contact you to express my concern at the news that the city is considering petitioning for removal of Pokemon Go from the Barathaven/GRG park area. My family has spent many happy hours walking those trails, getting some much needed exercise and socializing with family and friends, while playing this game.

I am somewhat concerned that a few vocal citizens, who most likely back onto the lake area and who are, no doubt seeing an increase in usage of those trails, may be confusing any local vandalism (which is a problem we have had here in Barathaven, even before the advent of this game) with this increase in usage. It is in our nature to look for patterns and connections, but to automatically assign responsibility for every recent act of vandalism to Pokemon Go players, even to the extent of invoking Castle Doctrine is completely outrageous.

I myself have had an encounter with one homeowner, who backs on to the lake, which may shed some light. As I was returning home one day, I pulled over to the side of the road on Riparian, and parked momentarily in front of the second house in from the corner(which is in no way illegal). I was checking my phone for a text that had just come through (and chose to do it safely, by pulling over, rather than trying to text and drive). Within 30 seconds of my pulling over, a woman walked down from her house, hands on hips, to ask me what business I had there. Now, to be clear, I am a 44 year old Mom, who has lived in this neighborhood for 8 years, driving a white minivan and doing absolutely nothing illegal! I informed her that I lived in the neighborhood, at which point her demeanor immediately became more friendly. She then explained to me that they have recently had a surge of 'illicit' activity around her house, which she explained, included people parking in front of her house (again, not illegal) and walking over to the lake, or sometimes parking after dark in the lake parking lot, then leaving after a few minutes. Realizing that she was quite upset, and unaware that this activity was probably just some nerdy Pokemon Go players, I asked her if she knew what

they were doing, and she informed me that they were doing drugs and having sex, and even regaled me with tales of how she could see lights in their cars (likely their cell phones) which she interpreted as signals for the aforementioned drugs and sex. Hoping to put her mind somewhat at ease, I pulled out my phone and showed her the Pokemon app, and explained to her that they were likely just playing the game, and that there was a "Gym" at the parking lot that was probably attracting people, as well as having Pokemon that often pop up in front of her house (not on her property, by the way). As I said, I thought I was putting her mind at ease, however I am afraid that there now seems to be some assumption of causation between the increased usage of the park due to Pokemon Go, and every recent incident of vandalism that has occurred.

Let us not forget that we have had many problems with vandalism in our area long before the inception of this virtual game. And I am all for people having to follow the rules regarding park usage, ie-no access after dark, but just because a few people are not following the rules do we really need to punish the many, many people in our city who play this game, and enjoy doing so responsibly? Please don't throw the baby out with the bathwater. Do we shut down our soccer fields because some people speed to get to the games on time or because sometimes teenagers hang out there after dark? Of course not-but we do our best to regulate and enforce responsible, legal usage. We don't let a few negative experiences ruin the fun for everyone. Surely we can apply the same sort of logic to this situation!

Since this game came out, my family has logged many, many miles around our beautiful park, playing the game, yes-but also looking at nature! We have seen storks, cranes, turtles, rabbits, spiders carrying their babies on their backs, snakes, the list goes on. We have watched our son socialize with friends, strategize with his team, enjoy victory when his team wins, and learn to accept it and try again when they lose. If the goal of the Greenways trails is to get people out and active in nature, then there is no greater motivator than this game.

Please, please consider all options and opinions before making any decision regarding this issue.

*Thanks,
Joanne Boudreau*