



Report

To: Thomas Thomas, City Manager

From: William Nelson, Park and Recreation Director

Subject: Ordinance Rules for the Dock at Schwiebert Riverfront Park

Background Information:

The dock at Schwiebert Riverfront Park will be coming on line in the near future, and it is our expectation that there will be events and activities that will have an impact on the docks. We also expect that some activities would take place that should be regulated, both from the standpoint of safety and appropriate use. Staff has reviewed the possible activities and identified possible rules or ordinance changes that need to be enacted upon. We broke these concerns into sections in an effort to identify conflicts, and then look for common rules that would address those issues. They were then presented to the Park and Recreation Board for policy approval, which would then be sent to the City Council for review and approval. These would then be placed in ordinance form by the City Attorney.

Report:

Staff reviewed potential issues that have impacted other dock areas and made these recommendations to the Park and Recreation Board. Many of these enable staff to control activity on the dock when there are special events in the park. Several of these deal with the safety of those who might be on the dock during a celebration of some type. It would be the intent of staff to close the dock for special events such as July 3 for safety reasons. The rafting of boats at this location with the currents of the river could be a hazardous for a number of reasons.

The ordinance for Park and Recreation is written to disallow activities to take place.

Sec. 14-20. Park And Playground Rules:

(a) No person, in any park or playground in the city, shall:

(Additions to current ordinances)

- (26) Fish off any of the docks in Sunset Marina or Schwiebert Riverfront Park.

(New additions to the ordinances)

- Raft boats together while tied to a dock or ramp.
- Drink alcoholic beverages while on the docks or ramps.

- Grill or cook on the docks or ramps.
- Swim or dive off of docks or ramps.
- Congregate, sunbath, picnic or loiter on the docks.
- Allow unattended children on the docks
- Block access on the docks
- Dock their boat after 12:00 midnight at Schwiebert Riverfront Park without prior permission of the Park Board.
- Use the dock during special events that have had prior approval by the Park and Recreation Board.

Staff would ask approval of the recommended ordinance changes in the Park and Recreation Ordinances. We know that most boaters use good common sense around boats and dock facilities, however, this facility has greater access to many non boaters, and the location does have steady currents that are unforgiving to those who do not spend much time around the water.