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Lions Club Park project gets \$410,000

play in the pavilion, and people could bring a blanket and a chair and watch the band and let kids play. College students across the street can open their windows and hear music. It is a change for us to really send a message out there that you DO belong here in Clinton, and we try to include everyone when we do something," he said.

The list of donors for the park to date includes Lions Club International, Lions Club local, Mississippi College, Chartre, Main Street Clinton, the Chamber of Commerce, the Junior Civic League, individual donations and donations from the Caterpillar Parade.

Mayor Fisher said that at a planning session held on Monday, May 6, the Board discussed a twenty-year lease with a twenty-year option for Lions Club Park from Mississippi College, so that leasing the property wouldn't create a problem.

City Attorney Chelsea Brannon explained the need for additional funds to develop the park.

"When we first started out with this project," Brannon said, "I don't think anyone realized how expensive it was going to be, how much it was going to cost to do this. We have an opportunity with multiple organizations to do something truly special. When we realized how much it was going to

cost, we began looking at alternative avenues."

As the scope of the project grew and the cost of the project increased, the committee for the project, which includes representatives from Mississippi College, Main Street Clinton and the Lions Club, began exploring the prospect of the City becoming a lessee of the park.

"The budget meeting was not to allocate money from one account to another; at the [May 6] planning meeting, we looked at the lifespan of the equipment," Brannon explained. "The more that this grew, the more we



explored that the City and Parks and Recreation Department be a part of it. Without necessary monies to build on what you just saw [in the slide presentation], it goes back to the drawing board."

"With the twenty-year [lease] term with possible renewal, there would also be a request to go out for bid, so the City would actually be overseeing construction of the park," she added.

Ward 2 Alderman Jim Martin voiced concerns with the funding allocation.

"I was a Lion for ten to fifteen years. I whole-heartedly believe in the goals of the Lions. I played in Lions Club Park in Clinton. However, I have some concerns with the City giv-

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