

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

Thursday, May 18, 2017, 7 p.m.

ARC, 1701 W. Ash

MINUTES

Commission Present: Marin Blevins, Sue Davis, Dan Devine, Ted Farnen, Chad Henry

Commission Absent (excused): Linda Hutton, Meredith Donaldson

Staff Present: Mike Griggs, Erika Coffman, Gabe Huffington, Tammy Miller

Call to order: Blevins called the meeting to order at 7 pm.

Agenda: The agenda was approved on a motion by Devine, seconded by Farnen. Motion passed 5-0.

Minutes: The minutes were approved on a motion by Devine, seconded by Henry. Motion passed 5-0.

Monthly Report: Highlights from the Park Services Division: spraygrounds are open and maintenance is preparing pools, horticulture crews spent 422 hours on landscape beds, rangers moved to overnight patrols in April and overnight security started two weeks early to patrol parks due to copper thefts. Highlights from the Recreation Services Division: online registrations have increased, the new shelter at Norma Sutherland Smith Park has been reserved for the first time, Hickman program participation has remained constant, ARC fitness, birthday parties and memberships have increased from a year ago.

Farnen asked about the increase of rentals at Gordon Shelter of about 10,000?

Coffman said it may be due to an increase of special events at Stephens Lake Park; all shelters are reserved automatically when the park is used for big events.

Griggs said it may also be due to double rentals at Stephens Lake Park, that has started this year.

The monthly report was approved on a motion by Davis, seconded by Farnen. Motion passed 5-0.

Sports Fieldhouse Public Hearing

Griggs provided an overview of the proposed Fieldhouse, which is funded mostly by the 2015 Park Sales Tax and the Convention and Visitors Bureau (CVB). The Fieldhouse will add four hardwood courts with lines for basketball, volleyball and pickleball. Other options are open space sports such as wrestling, gymnastics, archery and martial arts. It would host local sports leagues as well as regional tournaments, serving as an economic driver. Construction will start in November with grand opening in October 2018.

Huffington showed map of the site with parking lots and topography of the site at Philips Park. The fieldhouse would be built with the option for future expansion. The courts can be configured in different ways to allow for multiple games and uses. Huffington reviewed the plans with the Commission, pointing out entry points and the ramp, which would be on one end and act as middle of facility after the future expansion. The building would include office space, concessions, storage, restrooms and meeting space.

Coffman talked about the function of the space, which would be a fieldhouse only, not a drop-in recreation center. Hours would be 3-11 pm but would vary based on league schedules and facility reservations. She talked about proposed uses and potential uses for the building. A staff person from CVB would be housed there along with Parks and Recreation sports staff, working to attract tournaments and possible corporate events. Coffman also shared the proposed fee structure and possible fundraising opportunities, such as donations, sponsorships within the facility (signage, banners) and building naming rights.

Griggs concluded by talking about public input. Staff held numerous interested party meetings and met with partners such as the Columbia Youth Basketball Association (CYBA) and Show Me State Games.

Staff also spoke to the Missouri Hospitality Association and gained their support as it is an opportunity for filling more hotel rooms.

Devine asked about expectations from working with the CVB?

Coffman said the staff person, Taylor Dalton, has attended conferences and brought back leads. He's working on those leads with the sports staff. Though there are no concrete expectations, Coffman said the group has monthly meetings and know that in order for the facility to operate, there must be outside tournaments and functions.

Davis asked about specific uses such as kick boxing?

Coffman said those sports could definitely be in play with the fieldhouse.

Farnen asked about the lines on the courts, particularly with volleyball, on the easternmost court?

Huffington said it's the only one with two lines, that staff is careful with the number of lines on the floor.

Temporary lines will be used at times.

Farnen asked if staff had discretion beyond the fee structure to negotiate prices for tournaments?

Coffman said that staff must meet requirements of the fee ordinance, but they would have the ability to utilize other resources. The CVB has tourism funds that could be used as incentives if ever needed.

Farnen asked about marketing budget?

Coffman said that would be established.

Farnen asked about possible indoor soccer use?

Coffman said there are portable products that could be used for the floor. Futsol uses hard courts so that could also be a possibility.

Blevins asked if there was public comment.

Allen Jennings, volunteer CYBA president, addressed the Commission. He said the CYBA organization is a huge supporter of the Fieldhouse. Over the years, the league wanted to build such a facility themselves, but did not succeed with fundraising. Jennings said the Fieldhouse would have a huge positive impact on the City, and with the future expansion, it could become a premier sports facility. Jennings added that the City and CYBA have been partners for years, and the CYBA would do what is needed to make the Fieldhouse successful.

Henry asked about the CYBA's financial contribution?

Jennings said it was \$100,000 which was raised during their efforts over the years. He said they are happy to turn the money over to Parks and Recreation for the building.

Devine made a motion, seconded by Farnen, that the Commission recommend approval of the construction, fee schedule and usage plan of the Fieldhouse to the City Council. Motion passed 5-0.

Columbia Parks and Recreation Fund

Griggs updated the Commission on the fund, which was approved by City Council. Griggs, Blevins, Devine, Hutton and Farnen will serve as the board for the fund. Plans are to join the CoMo Gives effort, which launches in November.

Centerstate Park Acquisition

Huffington shared some information about the potential of acquiring new parkland near the Centerstate property, which is located behind Menard's in the northeast portion of Columbia. The property will consist of apartments. Huffington showed a map, with proposed walking trail and proposed parkland. The developer would construct the trail. This proposal fits into the department's Master Plan as a priority area for a neighborhood park.

Griggs commented that the department has shown a need for a park in this area since 1994. The cost of land has been too high, but by working with the developer, this may be a possibility, Griggs said.

Farnen asked about timeframe?

Griggs said it would go to Council pending the Commission's recommendation.

Devine said he'd prefer to discuss more at the June Commission meeting, once more details and price were known.

Council Items

Griggs shared these updates:

Blevins and Davis were reappointed at Monday's Council meeting. Antimi improvements will be in front of the Council for approval at a June meeting.

Bicycle and Pedestrian Commission Report

The May meeting was canceled, there is no report this month.

Capital Project Report

Huffington shared these updates:

Nifong Park: shelter is being completed with entry drive.

Waters House: ceiling in bathroom hallway and bath fixtures installed. Door frames, outdoor siding, and emergency exit lighting in place.

Smith Park: restroom in place.

Albert-Oakland: new pickleball courts completed.

Atkins: new concrete walkways installed.

Lake of the Woods: driving range underway.

Douglass Park: lighting installed.

American Legion Park: new railing installed.

William Bell Memorial at Stephens Lake Park: planning and installation has started.

Indian Hills Park: restrooms being renovated.

Storm effects: pictures show of clean up after recent rain storms.

Arbor Day: students at Derby Ridge planted trees with staff.

Recreation Services Report

Coffman shared these updates:

Tons of Trucks: postponed to May date, 2500 in attendance.

Earth Day: staff managed the Kids Area and bike valet.

SLP Amphitheater Concert Series: kicked off with Kids performers, about 200 in attendance.

Movies in the Park: Zootopia shown in May, about 200 attended.

Family Fun Fest: Kindness is Contagious was May's theme, about 1,700 attended.

Golf: 26 teams participated in three-person scramble, Nickell hosted boys state sectional golf.

Special Olympics: recent volleyball tournament held.

Community Recreation: Silver and Gold Club took trip to Branson.

Heritage Weekend: summer kickoff event at Douglass Park held.

Osher Book Talk: about 41 attended recent event.

Preschool: Activities include Circus Day and Finding Dory

Lifeguard Training: one more session is planned for staffing for the summer.

Aquatics: pools are ready to open.

Upcoming Events: National Trails Day, Shred Fest, Stephens Lake Park Amphitheater Concert Series, Movies in the Park, CoMo Rummage Sale, Francis Hagan Match Play and Family Fun Fest: Explore Outdoors.

Staff Comments

Coffman informed the Commission of the Friends of Columbia Parks and Recreation event in conjunction with Movies in the Park on June 9 at Cosmo Park. Staff will be giving away popcorn and glow sticks to Friends as well as registering new Friends for the program.

Huffington talked about the dedication of Cosmo Corner at Nifong Park on June 8. Hot dogs and chips will be served beginning at 5 pm and the program will start at 5:45 pm.

Griggs reminded the Commission of the June 15 meeting which will start at 5 pm at Parks Management Center and end with a park tour. Sites of the tour were shared.

Commission Comments

Davis complimented staff on fence repairs at Stephens Lake Park. She asked about the extent of Park Ranger duties in case of a call?

Huffington said it's similar to the past. If a 911 call is received at a park, the rangers would be dispatched first.

Blevins asked how the Park Reporter system has been working?

Huffington said there have been a lot of trail reports mostly.

Public Comments

A reporter in the audience asked why the Fieldhouse was not being built to overlook the nearby lake?

Huffington said it was on the other side of a ridge. He pointed out the topography on a map. It would not be possible to build near the lake.

The reporter then asked about number of parking spaces?

Huffington said there were 197.

Next Meeting Date

June 15, 2017, 5 pm at Parks Management Center.

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 8:20 pm.