

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

Thursday, November 16, 2017, 7 pm

ARC, 1701 W. Ash

MINUTES

Commission Present: Marin Blevins, Sue Davis, Linda Hutton, Ted Farnen, Meredith Donaldson, Chad Henry

Commission Absent (excused): Dan Devine

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 Farnen, seconded by Davis. Motion passed 6-0.

Minutes: The minutes were approved on a motion by Donaldson, seconded by Henry. Motion passed 6-0.

Monthly Report: Park services division highlights include: forestry staff spent 48 hours working on honeysuckle removal as part of Operation Clean Streets, horticulture staff completed the rain garden planting at Auburn Hills Park and park rangers completed body camera and taser training with the Columbia Police Department. Recreation services division highlights include: increase in Community Recreation sessions, ARC participations and total memberships have increased.

The October monthly report was approved on a motion by Donaldson, seconded by Davis. Motion passed 6-0.

CoMo Bike Co-op Presentation

Huffington introduced Park Planner Janet Godon to speak about the new CoMo Bike Co-op. Godon said the new co-op will be modeled after some across the country, including one in St. Louis which staff visited.

The co-op will be located in the lower portion of the Armory that was formerly used by joint communications. Godon said that part-time staff have been dedicated to the project, getting everything ready for a January opening. Funding is provided by GetAbout Columbia.

About 75 bikes have already been donated, to be refurbished and redistributed to underserved individuals. Applications have been sent out to youth to participate in the Earn-a-Bike portion of the program. Kids would work to earn their bikes through fixing them and serving volunteer hours. The co-op will also serve as a walk-in repair shop for underserved individuals, with limited hours on Sundays and Mondays. Bicycle education and encouragement programs will also be provided. An open house is scheduled for December 18 to introduce the public to the co-op, Godon said.

Davis asked if the participants must show criteria to show they are underserved?

Godon said no, the applications are being distributed through the schools.

Farnen commented that the co-op is a great idea.

MKT Bridges Update

Huffington said the trail closure is set to begin on Nov. 27 to allow for the replacement of Bridges #5, 7 and 8. Boone Construction was awarded the contract for the job; staff is familiar with the contractor and has worked with them on previous projects. Staff is getting the word out through social media and press releases.

Huffington shared maps with the Commission, showing them the detour routes and how the construction crew will access the site. Once the bridges themselves are removed, fences will be erected to restrict public access. Work may take until the end of March, depending on weather.

Columbia Center for Urban Agriculture (CCUA) and Columbia Farmers Market agreements

The City is planning enter agreements with the CCUA and Farmers Market for operations at Clary-Shy Park, Griggs said. The City will own both buildings and be responsible for construction and can use the spaces when not in use. The agreements include a 15-year lease with 20 on-year renewable options, and establishes hours, fees, usage and maintenance responsibilities. Farmers Market hours are established as Saturdays from 6 am to 3 pm and on weekdays up to 12 hours. The agreement includes a sliding scale payment to the City.

Griggs showed a map of the area that would be leased.

Donaldson asked if there was space for weddings?

Griggs said there was, but it was small, not as big as Riechmann.

Farnen asked about the transition, while the site is under construction?

Huffington said they are looking for alternate locations while they are under construction.

Donaldson made a motion, seconded by Hutton, that the Commission recommend approval of the CCUA and Farmers Market agreements to the City Council. Motion approved, 6-0.

ARC security cameras

Huffington told the Commission that staff plans to replace the existing cameras and recording devices, and adding cameras in meeting rooms, hallways and exterior. The cost is estimated at \$35,000, funded by the Recreation Services User Fund. The work will be put out to bid in December.

Coffman added that staff will be able to watch video live from a remote location. The new system will be a huge upgrade with better images.

Donaldson asked how it would be monitored?

Coffman said if there are concerns staff will be able to pull up different locations and watch live.

Farnen complimented ARC staff, saying he always feels safe when he comes to the facility. He said this new system will only add to the security of the ARC.

Henry made a motion, seconded by Davis, that the Commission recommend approval of the ARC security camera improvements to the City Council. Motion approved, 6-0.

Council Items

Griggs shared these updates:

The Council approved the Clary-Shy master plan. They are in the final stages of approving Tough Mudder to come to Columbia next summer. If it is approved and finalized, Griggs said that it would bring \$45,000 in fees to the City for the weekend they will be here.

Hutton asked if it would affect the Splat event?

Griggs said part of the agreement is that we would keep Splat as a junior mud event. If it happens, Tough Mudder would be held the third weekend of August, a few weeks after Splat. Huffington said the Tough Mudder crew would clean the site after the event, regrading and reseeding if necessary.

Bicycle and Pedestrian Commission Report

Huffington reported that Lawrence Simonson was elected Chair of the Bike and Pedestrian Commission. Community Development will begin working on the 2018 Sidewalk Master Plan in January. Community partners, including the Parks and Recreation Commission, will be asked for sidewalk needs feedback in the near future. The plan was last updated in 2012.

Capital Project Report

Huffington shared these updates:

Gans Recreation Area: sewer line for concession stand installed.

Philips Park: new sidewalk installed that connects Tolton to neighborhood adjacent to park.

Norma Sutherland Smith Park: new rope climber in place, ballfield graded.

Indian Hills: parking improved, striping completed.

Douglass Park: small shelter complete, medium shelter under construction.

Valleyview: new playground installed.

Antimi: fencing contractor will be installing new fence after Thanksgiving. Blue field is being rebuilt.

MKT Bridge #9: new approach railings installed to improve safety.

Lake of the Woods: driving range construction continues.

Recreation Services Report

Coffman shared these updates:

Not So Frightening Friday: staff participated in the District's annual Halloween event. Events were moved inside City Hall because of weather.

Neighborhood Park Fun Days: wrapped up with last event at Indian Hills Park.

Preschool: recent activities include Halloween costume party.

50+: Mah Jongg group had marathon, raised funds for Almata Crayton Memorial Toy Drive.

Explorers took recent trips to Amity's Cookie Shoppe and took a tram ride along the Katy Trail.

GetAbout Columbia: program "Lighten Up Columbia" held to distribute bike lights.

Life Enrichment: photo shown of recent Foil Fencing class, popular program held at Moss Building.

Armory Science Klub (ASK): science program held at Armory for kids.

Flag Line: program based at Armory, recently participated in parades at New Franklin and Hartsburg.

Upcoming Events: Homeless Youth Awareness Month Dodgeball Tournament, Stonegrinder 7K Trail Run, Junior NBA Skills Challenge, Holiday Lights and Sights Tour and the City's Kwanzaa event.

Staff Comments

Griggs commented that the December Commission is usually canceled, unless there are items that require action. Staff does not anticipate anything that needs Commission attention at this time. The Commission agreed to cancel the December meeting.

Commission Comments

Donaldson asked if it would be possible to add park benches at the end of Edenton along with the basketball goal that is there?

Griggs said it's a public, stub street so we could not add the benches. The basketball hoop works to give area kids a place to shoot hoops, but benches would encourage people to linger. Huffington added that the hoop is going to be moved to a police station nearby.

Farnen asked about the possibility of having Mizzou concessions be part of the fundraiser for the Parks and Recreation Fund?

Huffington said he is trying to work out those details.

Farnen then asked about the recent media story about the new fieldhouse? He said it mentioned that the one at Philips is being delayed.

Huffington said plans are to seek bids after the holidays.

Griggs said staff would provide updates at a later meeting.

Public Comments

None.

Next Meeting Date

January 18, 2018, 7 pm at the ARC

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 8:10 pm.