

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

Thursday, November 17, 2016, 7 p.m.

ARC, 1701 W. Ash

MINUTES

Commission Present: Marin Blevins, Sue Davis, Dan Devine, Linda Hutton, Meredith Donaldson, Chad Henry

Commission Absent (excused): Ted Farnen

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

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

Agenda: The agenda was approved on a motion by Davis, seconded by Donaldson, 6-0.

Minutes: The minutes were approved on a motion by Devine, seconded by Davis, 6-0.

Monthly Report: Huffington shared highlights from the park monthly report including the winterization of 102 restrooms, water fountains and facilities; completion of multiple projects by forestry crew on the Indian Hills disc golf course; and the completion of winter shutdown of items including soccer goal removal, aerification, field shutdown and baseball field lip removal. Coffman shared recreation division highlights: 13 private golf outings with highest October revenue for L.A. Nickell since 2010 and the highest revenue for the month of October ever for Lake of the Woods. The department also participated for the first time in the District's Halloween event. About 1,000 were in attendance.

Devine asked about the revenue for Nickell in 2010, what the reason was for that?

Griggs said staff was unsure.

Devine then asked about the park rangers, if training was occurring with the police?

Griggs said staff is still working through that.

The monthly report was approved on a motion by Hutton, seconded by Devine, 6-0.

Staff Presentation: Recreation Specialist Steve Evers

Coffman introduced Steve Evers, the sports recreation specialist.

Evers shared his background with the Commission. He's been with the department since 1992, first being hired full-time as a recreation leader with Community Recreation, then serving as recreation specialist for Travel and Outdoor Recreation for 8 years. He moved to the ARC when the facility opened, and just moved to the Sports division in 2014. He described his role as a sports specialist and duties, as well as recent changes with the new youth rec volleyball leagues and middle school cross country.

Evers mentioned he's been at every level of the sports department, as youth participant, adult participant, coach, team administrator, parent, official and now programmer.

Future goals of the sports division include family archery leagues, geocaching, disc golf tournaments, Regions Archery Bowhunters tour and youth rugby.

Hutton asked if parents are more involved than they used to be?

Evers said it seems like there have been less complaints from parents, but he thinks they are as active they used to be if not more so. Parents attend practices from time to time, not just games.

Henry agreed from the CYFL perspective, saying that parents are bolder than they used to be.

Devine asked about geocaching?

Evers described it, and said it may be coming in spring 2018 with the new staff person for the Convention and Visitors Bureau.

Donaldson asked about orienteering?

Evers said it's been offered in the past but never really caught on.

Indian Hills Park Renovations

Huffington shared details about this project, which is a Park Sales Tax project, budgeted at \$100,000. Indian Hills is located in the City's east strategic plan area. The project includes the replacement of some playground pieces, trail improvements, disc golf improvements, restroom remodeling, baseball field renovations and improvements to walkways and maintenance access.

Donaldson made a motion, seconded by Davis, to recommend the proposed improvements to Indian Hills Park to the City Council. Motion passed, 6-0.

Roots n Blues n BBQ Review

Griggs informed the Commission that the ticket revenue from this year's event was \$34,222 for the department. This is the highest it's been; in past years revenue has been \$25,610 in 2015, \$21,520 in 2014 and \$16,944 in 2013.

Huffington commented that there was some park damage. There were some ruts in the ground and some trucks had run over irrigation heads, breaking them. Some of the deposit was kept to pay for the damages.

Griggs said staff will likely sit down with staff from Thumper Entertainment in the next couple of months to evaluate the event and discuss any issues.

Council Items

Griggs shared these updates:

Sports fieldhouse – Council set to approve architect, SFS Architecture, for the project.

Missouri Arts Council, Land and Water Conservation Fund and Recreational Trail Program Grants – approved and funds allocated.

City School Playground agreement – new equipment will be installed at Fairview, Parkade, Benton, and Paxton Keeley elementary schools under the agreement.

Bicycle and Pedestrian Commission Report

Griggs made a presentation to the Commission on the proposed changes to Chapter 17 ordinance. There were no recommended changes.

Capital Project Report

Huffington shared these updates:

American Legion Park: archery range is complete and has been popular.

Atkins Park: improvements continue on the Black Field and Phase III work continues with conduits and wet well in place.

Douglass Park: construction has started on skate park.

Gans Creek Recreation Area: parking medians being landscaped.

Garth Dog Park: new shelter installed.

McKee Street Park: new playground under construction.

Nifong Park: new small shelter under construction.

Norma Sutherland Smith Park: work continues with addition of picnic tables and curbing.

Stephens Lake Park: new wood shed constructed, glade being established at the park.

Recreation Services Report

Coffman shared these updates:

Not so Frightening Friday: event held downtown at the Gentry office as part of the District's annual event was a success with about 1,000.

Neighborhood Park Fun Days: last one of 2016 was held at Albert-Oakland Park with a Halloween theme.

50+: held a Mah Jongg marathon to raise money for the Food Bank, about \$600 collected.

Monster Mash Family Bash: annual event for families held at Hillcrest.

Preschool: about 18 attended the Halloween party.

ARC: first Mid Missouri Weightlifting Club sanctioned meet held in November, two lifters qualified for National Junior Championships.

Almeta Crayton Memorial Toys for Columbia Youth: toy drive will end December 9.

Upcoming Events: Kwanzaa on December 3, Santa Hotline on December 3, Holiday Lights and Sights Tour on December 16, It's a Wonderful Ride Bike Tour on December 18 and the MLK Candlelight Walk and Celebration on January 16.

Staff Comments

Griggs reminded the Commission that the December meeting traditionally is canceled, due to other activities going on around the holiday season. He mentioned that if an issue arises that needs the Commission's attention, he would let them know but at this time, staff would recommend the December meeting be canceled.

The Commission agreed to not have the December meeting.

Commission Comments

Donaldson said that there should be a report to share after the first of the year from the Rock Quarry Scenic Roadway committee. Months have been spent on the report.

Devine commented that with the Flat Branch Sewer project contractors clearing trees near the MKT Trail, that spot may be an attractive park area.

Griggs said staff have met with neighbors about a vision for that area. About 180 trees will be planted at this point, with more possibly planned. A public meeting will be held in January to gather more input and feedback as to what citizens would like to see. Griggs said staff has heard that some would like for it to remain clear and others would like to see it forested.

Huffington added that edible landscaping was also discussed. Staff is mainly concerned that honeysuckle will invade the space.

Griggs added that the area may be divided into "adopt a trail" segments so the public can assist with some honeysuckle abatement and other light maintenance along the trail.

Devine asked about issues in Flat Branch Park with the homeless, in relation to the next phase of development?

Huffington said those issues are being addressed by the homeless outreach team, including the police department and park rangers.

Griggs said that Park Ranger Johnson is now certified in homeless outreach to provide more assistance, but in some cases, that help is not wanted. It is a community issue, not just a park issue.

Donaldson said that Russell Elementary just received a TRIM grant for 38 trees and outdoor classroom.

Huffington said if the project is near parkland and they need assistance, to let staff know.

Public Comments

None.

Next Meeting Date

January 19, 2017, 7 pm at the ARC

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 7:55 pm.