

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

Thursday, March 16, 2017, 7 p.m.

ARC, 1701 W. Ash

MINUTES

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

Commission Absent (excused): Linda Hutton

Staff Present: Mike Griggs, 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 Devine, seconded by Davis. Motion passed 6-0.

Monthly Report: Huffington highlighted some sections of the monthly report: park maintenance replaced final three Pulsar feeders with a hypochloride tank, Park Ranger reported a record-breaking 110 violations in February, and ARC maintenance staff completed LED conversion at the ARC. Griggs shared Recreation report highlights: golf rounds increased substantially from last February at both golf courses and the CARE program has received 313 applications for the summer program.

Devine asked if dogs off leash is a problem?

Griggs said it usually is early in the spring until the public is reminded of the rules and locations for off-leash dogs.

Devine asked about an item on the rangers report, with concrete dumping?

Huffington said the Ranger caught a contractor washing out his truck at Bonnie View. He said he thought she had made him clean up the concrete.

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

Staff Presentation: Jessica Sida

Griggs introduced Jessica Sida, the recreation specialist over Adapted Sports and Special Olympics.

Sida shared her background information, which includes a Parks and Recreation degree from the University of Missouri and three years of part-time experience with the department, before she was hired full time in December 2015.

She coordinates nine Special Olympics sports, which includes practices and travel to games and meets. She also helps coordinate Adapted dances.

Athletes have been able to play at halftime of games at Mizzou and Columbia College, highlights for them.

Sida said she is working on providing weight lifting and training for athletes at the ARC and possibly fishing, kayaking and archery. Special Olympics relies heavily on volunteers, Sida said, which includes Commissioner Blevins. There are also a few part-time staff members.

Sida shared the program's Facebook page, which can be found at [COMOAdaptedSports](#).

Davis asked if volunteers helped with overnights?

Sida said yes, there are some occupational therapists also involved as needed.

Griggs asked Sida to comment on transportation.

She explained that they normally take the small buses; one of which has a lift. However, not many of the athletes use wheelchairs.

The Commission thanked Sida for her presentation.

Community Foundation of Central Missouri agreement

Griggs told the Commission that the department is creating a non-profit foundation dedicated to supporting the department. An anonymous donation of \$25,000 will help launch the P&R Fund. The goal is not to complete capital projects, it is to enhance programs and maintenance as needed.

The Fund will be set up under the Community Foundation of Central Missouri, with an Advisory Committee consisting of the Parks and Recreation Director, the Commission Chair, and three at-large members of the Parks and Recreation Commission. The Committee would choose the projects for funding.

Devine asked if donors could designate how their money would be used?

Griggs said yes, they could choose specific Parks and Recreation programs or items.

The Fund will be modeled after one used by the City's Office of Cultural Affairs. After the Committee makes funding recommendations, those are then presented to the City Council. Griggs said he thought the Fund would be launched later this summer.

Davis asked if this has been planned for a while?

Griggs said that it has. With sales tax funds dwindling and questions about the City's budget, staff felt a need to identify alternate funding sources. The Friends of Parks and Recreation program is a potential feeder group into this, by offering perks for potential donations. Outside grants may also be possible.

He added that staff is seeking Commission support and interest, as the Committee would consist mainly of Commissioners.

Griggs said he would anticipate letting the fund build rather than using small amounts of money.

He said he thought this might be of interest to those who love the park system and are planning the future of their estate.

Devine asked if this is a next step past memorial benches and trees?

Griggs said yes, this might be of interest to those seeking something more substantial.

Farnen asked for clarification on the Community Foundation being housed within the City?

Griggs said the Foundation is managed under John Baker, who is a City employee at this time, but may be fully supported by the Foundation itself at some point. The funds under the foundation pay an administrative fee. Baker manages all gifts and donations through the Foundation, which includes the City's Share the Light assistance program.

Donaldson asked if the anonymous donation was a consequence of this?

Griggs said it was actually a stimulus, that the donation was for a generic purpose and it made sense to be used for the new Fund.

No Commission action is needed at this time, Griggs said that staff would bring back a final draft of an agreement for official action.

Sports Facilities Tour Report

Commissioners Blevins, Devine and Henry toured sports facilities in the Kansas City area with staff to get some ideas for the new sports fieldhouse.

Henry described the facilities in detail, one in Blue Springs and one in Johnson County Kansas.

The Blue Springs facility was similar to the ARC, Henry said, while the one in Johnson County was more of a gym only, suitable for AAU tournaments.

Blevins commented that he noticed smaller details, for instance, using letters to designate different courts. He said he liked the idea of starting small, then adding staff as needed.

Devine agreed, saying it was good to grow and develop over time.

Griggs said that staff will bring a business plan to the Commission once it is developed.

Huffington showed preliminary diagrams of the interior and exterior of the floor plans of the new fieldhouse. He said that they will come back to the Commission in May with a more detailed plan and scheduled public hearing, with the hope of Council approval in July.

Donaldson commented that it seemed existing youth leagues would fill the space quickly.

Griggs agreed, saying that staff would also bring to the Commission proposed philosophy of usages, prices and rentals.

Blevins added that signage and sponsorship would be another source of revenue for the fieldhouse.

Devine requested that at the May meeting, staff also bring a list of proposed uses for the new courts.

After reviewing the preliminary interior plan, Donaldson asked if more storage was needed?

Griggs said the space had actually been quadrupled from the first draft.

Farnen asked about locker rooms?

Huffington said that none are planned, youth teams generally come in for a tournament and leave.

Locker rooms tend to cause more expense and maintenance issues.

Devine asked if the parking is adequate?

Griggs said that it was; about 50 spaces were added to the original concept, making 197 parking spaces.

MPRA Conference Report

Three Commissioners—Blevins, Davis and Donaldson—attended the MPRA Conference.

Donaldson and Davis described some of the sessions they had attended, including some about tweens, aquatics and emergencies, and some of the park tours.

Huffington commented that the location in Branson may have deterred some of the one- and two-day attendees that usually occur. The conference will be back at the Lake in 2018.

Griggs added that he had been approached about Columbia hosting again in 2019 but he thinks 2020 would be better with completion of some new facilities.

Council Items

Griggs shared these updates:

City Council will hold a public hearing at the March 20 meeting about the MKT bridge replacement project, American Legion improvements and handball courts will be introduced at the April 3 meeting.

Bicycle and Pedestrian Commission Report

Huffington said that Jason Wilcox, senior planner with the Columbia/Boone County Department of Public Health and Human Services, presented preliminary findings from the Health Impact Assessment (HIA) completed on Hominy Creek Trail Phase II. As a result, 10-12 recommendations were made that could improve the lives of residents living along the trail corridor, such as parking and tree canopy enhancement.

Capital Project Report

Huffington shared these updates:

Atkins: aerial shot shown of the park, black field dugouts completed in time for March 3 Columbia College opener, work is continuing on the new fields at Atkins.

Douglass: new concrete installed.

Gans: grading completed for site of new concession stand and Fields 6 & 7.

Lake of the Woods: water line in place for new driving range.

Norma Sutherland Smith: concrete driveway in place.

MKT: repairs made to Bridge #8.

Carol Riney Heritage Bench: installed new Otho Smith Memorial at Cosmo Park.

Grindstone Creek Trail: access in place for Maguire Boulevard.

Jim Whitley Memorial: installed at 3M wetlands.

PMC: operations at greenhouse in full swing to prepare for spring and summer.

Adopt-a-Trail training: 30 people attended, most work will involve honeysuckle abatement.

Trail underpasses: signage installed to show trail users street names at underpasses.

Recreation Services Report

Griggs shared these updates:

New Leisure Times: published March 1.

Bill Thompson retirement: ceremony held at Armory.

Gospel Explosion and Soul Food dinner: held at end of February as last event of Black History Month.

Piano Lessons: held at the Armory.

Smaller Ballers: program at Armory to help children learn basic basketball skills.

Preschool: photos shown of recent programs.

Aquatics: lifeguard training sessions planned to hire staff for the summer.

ARC: weightlifting competition held, U.S. Junior Nationals, with three participants.

Golf: Golfer Skip Wills hit hole in one at Lake of the Woods, staff is watering the greens in February.

CARE: Interviews held for summer program.

Upcoming events: Annual Train Show, Kite Flying Day, Egg Hunt EGGstravaganza, Yappy Hour, Columbia Youth Intro to Track and Field, and Tons of Trucks.

Staff Comments

Griggs mentioned the upcoming boards and commissions reception at City Hall. The City Clerk's office had mailed postcard invitations.

Huffington described a minority and women's business contractor workshop that staff will be attending.

Griggs informed the Commission that members of the City's legal department would be attending an upcoming Commission to discuss the Missouri Sunshine Law, as related to open meeting requirements.

Commission Comments

Davis said that the estate fencing at Stephens Lake Park is still damaged.

Huffington said it may have been ordered but not arrived yet, he would check with staff.

Farnen thanked staff for the mile markers near Green Tennis Center. He asked about the ARC gym floor maintenance coming up in April and how the timing was determined?

Huffington said that the maintenance is done annually after basketball season is over. Staff avoids spring break, because the ARC holds a school's out camp and uses the gym for activities.

Farnen commented that with potential major budget cuts at the University of Missouri, this will likely affect the whole community. There may be challenging budgets ahead. He commended staff for creating the Foundation which may help offset future budget cuts.

Public Comments

None.

Next Meeting Date

April 20, 2017 at 7 pm

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 9:10 pm.