

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

Thursday, April 20, 2017, 7 p.m.

ARC, 1701 W. Ash

MINUTES

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

Commission Absent (excused): 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 Farnen, seconded by Davis. Motion passed 6-0.

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

Monthly Report: Department Director Mike Griggs shared highlights from Park Services: sports turf crews are in full swing, horticulture spent 88 hours in the greenhouse in March to prepare for annual plantings, Park Rangers issued a warning for a metal detector at Gans Creek Recreation Area, which requires a permit. Recreation Services highlights: web registrations have increased over the past year, 83 special use permits have been processed so far this fiscal year, youth basketball participation has increased, volunteer hours have increased for Community Recreation and ARC participations and members have increased.

Blevins asked about drone enforcement?

Park Services Manager Gabe Huffington said that education efforts continue in regard to drones.

Devine asked about irrigation leaks at Atkins?

Huffington answered that some were found, caused by construction crews.

Devine also asked about recent copper thefts?

Huffington said that there was copper stolen from the electrical systems at some shelters. Rangers are changing schedules to patrol more frequently, as well as increased patrols from overnight security.

Griggs added that there have been more thefts in the last 30 days than the past 30 years.

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

Staff Presentation: Dan Frost

Recreation Services Manager Erika Coffman introduced Golf Recreation Specialist Dan Frost. Frost shared some background information about himself. He graduated from Hickman High School and Lincoln University where he golfed all four years and served as men's golf coach from 2011-2015. Frost is also a PGA level 1 apprentice and is working to achieve full PGA professional status.

Frost started with Parks and Recreation full-time in September 2015. He manages about 30 part-time staff. The department runs about 50 tournaments each, and hosts three: the three-person scramble, Francis Hagan Match Play and the Columbia City Championship. The junior city championship has been added in 2017. Other planned events are Family Nights, the Tuesday Night League and Night Golf. Several sessions of adult and junior golf lessons are planned each year too.

Both Lake of the Woods and L.A. Nickell combine for 47,000 rounds of golf each year with about 200 passes sold each year. Both courses generate \$1.2 million annually, Frost said.

He ended his presentation by sharing information about the planned driving range at Lake of the Woods and social media efforts.

Farnen asked if tournaments are usually private or for charity?

Frost said most are for charity, for example, St. Jude's has had a tournament for the past 20 years.

Farnen asked if staff would like more tournaments or if they interfere with daily golfers?

Frost said that both courses are not blocked for tournaments so golfers can choose the course not in use. Staff would like more tournaments because of the revenue they generate, Frost said.

Arboretum Presentation: Ryan Russell

Horticulturist Ryan Russell made a presentation to the Commission about the Stephens Lake Park Arboretum, which recently achieved a level 2 accreditation through ArbNet. Russell shared arboretum criteria. He mentioned that this accreditation is a fulfillment of the park's master plan, which includes an arboretum, per citizen wishes.

Current collections at the arboretum include oak, redbud, conifer and maple. Russell said he's developing future collections including Asian-themed garden, desert Southwest garden, wedding chapel garden near Riechmann Pavilion, European themed garden and Missouri native trees and shrubs. Russell shared working drafts with drawings of these potential collections.

Staff purchases plants but also propagates many plants in house. Some are also traded, Russell said. He shared examples of some rare and hard to find species and other types of plants in the greenhouse. Future plans include identifying funding sources. Russell said it would be a long process to develop the arboretum and some volunteer groups may be formed.

Davis asked if there are volunteers now for the arboretum?

Russell said that details still need to be worked out as related to logistics.

Devine asked how many species are there?

Russell said there were 115 at the time that he completed the arboretum application and he is working on a new inventory. He estimates there are about 200 in the park, and about another 200 in the greenhouse.

Cosmo Park Sports Field Lighting

Huffington informed the Commission about the project, which would cost \$200,000 from the Park Sales Tax. The lighting would be added at soccer field #3 and football field #4. Set-up would include the Musco control link system. These would be new lights on these fields, allowing for games to be played in the evenings.

Devine made a motion, seconded by Henry, to recommend to City Council approval of the Cosmo Park lighting improvements. Motion passed, 6-0.

Antimi Sports Complex Improvements

Improvements would be made to the four fields surrounding the concession stand, Huffington said. The \$450,000 project will be funded by the Park Sales Tax. Plans include expanded dugouts, new fencing, irrigation on the outfields, teeball improvements, ADA walkways, increased backstop height and padded backstop wall, spectator shade, and new lighting system. **Davis made a motion, seconded by Hutton, to recommend to City Council approval of the Antimi Sports Complex improvements. Motion passed, 6-0.**

Columbia Sports Fieldhouse Discussion

Huffington shared conceptual drawings from the architect, SFS. The fieldhouse would contain four hardwood courts with lines for basketball, volleyball and pickle ball, with flexibility to reconfigure the courts as needed. There would also be storage, office space, concession space with seating, restrooms, and meeting space.

Huffington also shared the site plan, showing exact location and parking, as well as possible future expansion.

Coffman shared information about proposed operations. The facility may be open from 3 to 11 pm, depending on league schedules and facility reservations. She showed a comprehensive list of uses for the fieldhouse, both proposed and potential. A proposed fee schedule has been developed, based on similar facilities in the area, Coffman said. Staff will come back to the Commission at the May 18 meeting with a scheduled public hearing and more discussion about proposed hours and fees.

Farnen asked where the CYBA (Columbia Youth Basketball Association) plays now?

Coffman said they play at schools throughout the community that have adequate gyms.

Devine asked about fees that the CYBA pays?

Coffman said they pay a participant fee per game. Those policies will be carried forward.

Columbia Parks and Recreation Fund

Council approved the Fund at their March 20 meeting. Griggs said the fund would get a kick start with the CoMo Gives campaign this winter.

Council Items

Griggs shared these updates:

Council approved the Greenbelt Land Trust Agreement and an agreement with the Society of Municipal Arborists internship program on April 17. A public hearing is set for May 1 for improvements at American Legion Park.

Bicycle and Pedestrian Commission Report

Huffington reported that the Commission had discussed wayfinding stickers on pavement and outreach efforts, educating the public on bicycling and trails.

Capital Project Report

Huffington shared these updates:

Nifong Park: shelter construction continues, curbing in place, new sidewalk built.

Waters house: renovations ongoing with new windows and flooring.

Gans Creek Recreation Area: new concession building construction beginning.

Smith Shelter: reservations will be taken starting May 18, landscaping in place.

Atkins: new concrete walkways in place, field lighting in place and pump station is complete.

Lake of the Woods: work beginning on driving range.

Indian Hills Park: renovations starting.

Operation Clean Streets: city staff did work on street clean-up and Douglass Park.

Arbor Day tree giveaway: took place recently at the ARC.

Greenhouse: plants being prepared for spring planting, starting May 1.

Recreation Services Report

Coffman shared these updates:

Kite Flying Day: held at Douglass with about 50 in attendance.

Train Show: annual event drew 600 in attendance.

EGGstravaganza: expanded to Indian Hills Park in addition to Douglass. About 500 attended at Douglass with 250 at Indian Hills.

Yappy Hour: held at Twin Lakes. 100 pre-registered, 250 walk-up registrations.

Silver Sneakers: Nine classes are held weekly at the ARC, three may be added to accommodate the growing attendance.

Little Swimmers at the ARC: great participation over spring break.

Golf: Tuesday scramble league and adult lessons begin in May.

50+ Tours: recent trip to New Theater in Overland Park, in conjunction with Landmark Bank.

Blue Thunder Track Club: athletes are conditioning to prepare for the summer season.

Learn to Bicycle: nine students have completed personal cycling lessons since October.

Upcoming Events: Columbia Youth Intro to Track and Field, Tons of Trucks, Pitch, Hit and Run, SLP Amphitheater Concert Series, Movies in the Park, Heritage Weekend, Bike Walk and Wheel Week and Family Fun Fest.

Staff Comments

Griggs reminded the Commission that the deadline to apply for their seats is on May 5. Blevins' and Davis' seats are expiring at the end of May. He shared another reminder, the Hominy Creek Trail dedication is May 18.

Huffington shared a tentative list of stops on the Commission tour at the June meeting: Albert-Oakland Park, Atkins, McKee, American Legion, Waters House, Nifong, Gans Creek Recreation Area, Norma Sutherland Smith Park and the Cosmo greenhouse.

Devine requested going by Philips to see the Fieldhouse site.

Huffington said he'd add that, and if anyone else had a request, please let Miller know.

Commission Comments

Devine said he had heard some comments from parents about Diamond Council practices being held too late at night? He is afraid these negative comments would reflect on the department.

Coffman responded that the department provides a variety of times and dates, and coaches schedule their own practices.

Griggs shared details as to how the department has improved fields at neighborhood parks to try to provide additional fields for practices. He said that once the playing season starts, it's not as much of a problem because practices are not scheduled as frequently.

Davis complimented staff on recent repairs to the fence at Stephens Lake Park. She said she had noticed another problem at the fence adjacent to the playground.

Farnen complimented staff on the signage at Bear Creek Trail.

Blevins commented that he is amazed that staff is keeping up with mowing as well as they are, with rainy weather.

Public Comments

None.

Next Meeting Date

May 18, 2017 at the ARC.

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 8:35 pm.