



City of Columbia, Missouri

Meeting Minutes

Parks and Recreation Commission

Thursday, January 18, 2018

7:00 PM

Regular

ARC Meeting Room,

1701 W Ash

I. CALL TO ORDER

Present: 6 - Marin Blevins, Sue Davis, Daniel Devine, Meredith Donaldson, Ted Farnen and Chad Henry

Excused: 1 - Linda Hutton

II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The agenda was approved on a motion by Farnen, seconded by Donaldson.
Motion passed 6-0.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

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

IV. APPROVAL OF MONTHLY REPORTS

Huffington shared these highlights: annual school-playground projects completed are Benton, Fairview, Parkade and Paxton Keeley Elementary schools; rangers issued one warning for metal detecting without permit; and forestry and horticulture staff spent 74 hours getting Capen Park and Grindstone Nature Area ready for the Stonegrinder 7K Run.

Griggs shared recreation highlights: web registrations increased significantly between November 2016 and November 2017, as did ARC total visits. Personal training increased as well and so did class participations.

Farnen asked if the wood from the old MKT bridges will be saved? Huffington said a portion would be able to be salvaged, but most is not usable. The wood will be used to build a new sign at Forum Nature Area.

The November and December monthly reports were approved on a motion by Devine seconded by Davis. Motion passed 6-0.

V. STAFF PRESENTATION: RECREATION SPECIALIST JAY BRADLEY

Huffington introduced intern Zane Jacoby in the audience. Jacoby will be interning for the department through the spring.

Griggs introduced new Recreation Specialist Jay Bradley, who works in the Community Recreation division. He started in the fall.

Bradley shared his background information and education. He earned a degree by double majoring in Sports Management and Business Management at Central Methodist University. Most recently he worked at Salt Fork YMCA where he was program director over several recreation programs. Bradley shared information about some of the programs he's coordinated since he's been at Parks and Recreation, and some programs he is planning. He talked about the philosophy of staff serving as role models for the youth they are serving.

The Commission thanked him for being there and welcomed him to the staff.

VI. PUBLIC HEARING: AFRICAN AMERICAN HERITAGE TRAIL

Griggs described the project, which is a proposed trail in the central area of Columbia to identify areas of African-American history in the city. It began with the installation of the Sharp End historical marker. The trail route identifies 32 unique locations with markers funded by community organizations. An easement is needed at the Lambda Chi Alpha fraternity house to complete the project.

Huffington added that the Trail Committee raised the funds for the markers. He said Council approval will be needed, so a Commission recommendation is preferred.

Blevins opened the public hearing and asked if anyone would like to comment on the issue. There was no public comment, so Blevins closed the hearing.

Devine asked if there was easy access via sidewalks?

Huffington said that there is only one area near Fourth Street with no crosswalk. There is one planned as part of the Gateways project.

Farnen asked about the cost of each marker?

Huffington said he thought they were about \$2,000-\$3,000 each.

Devine asked if there were any ideas to promote the trail, such as a Heritage Trail Day?

Huffington answered that the committee has not reached that point yet.

Griggs commented that the committee has vetted the project through the public input process.

Farnen made a motion, seconded by Donaldson, that the Commission recommend proceeding with the African-American Heritage Trail, obtaining all necessary easements for completion. Motion passed, 6-0.

VII. 2018 LWCF GRANT PROPOSAL

Huffington said approval is needed from the Council to apply for a Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) grant for the park that would adjoin the new middle school site off Sinclair Road. The tract is 11.35 acres at a cost of \$522,100. The grant could fund up to \$250,000.

Huffington showed a map of the site and pointed out where sidewalks would go.

Henry asked where the rest of the funding would come from?

Griggs said it would be from the 2010 Park Sales tax; which still has money earmarked for land acquisition.

Henry asked about the unusual shape of the tract?

Griggs said it follows the lines of the easements. When applying for federal grants, it's best to avoid easements, he said.

Davis made a motion, seconded by Farnen, that the Commission recommend proceeding with the request to apply for LWCF funding. Motion passed 6-0.

VIII. 2018 RTP GRANT PROPOSAL

Another grant that requires approval to proceed is the Recreational Trails Program (RTP) grant for the Hinkson Creek Trail easement from Stephens Lake Park to Clark Lane. The project cost is \$950,000 and the grant would cover up to \$250,000. The easement would be provided by Broadway Marketplace Development Group.

Donaldson asked about the timing?

Huffington said it would likely take place in the next couple of years. The timing of the project will be a long process with plenty of opportunity for public input.

Donaldson made a motion, seconded by Davis that the Commission recommend proceeding with the request to apply for RTP funding. Motion passed 6-0.

IX. MPRA CONFERENCE

Griggs reminded the Commission that the MPRA Conference will be held at Osage Beach from Feb. 27-March 2. The Commission's budget is \$1,520 which would allow several Commissioners to attend. They will confirm attendance with Miller.

X. COMO GIVES UPDATE

The recent campaign through CoMo Gives was held to raise funds for the Columbia Parks and Recreation Fund. The campaign as a whole did well, Griggs said. The total was more than \$712,000 which was more than the goal. There were 33 gifts made to the Parks and Recreation Fund for a total of \$2,715.

Griggs shared information about how people learned about the campaign and demographics of the Fund donors. Most live in Columbia and almost all are over age 35. The donation amounts ranged from \$10 up to \$1,000. Staff has met to talk about the campaign and discussed new ideas and ways to promote it next year. Since this was the first year participating in CoMo Gives, Griggs said there was a learning curve.

Farnen commented that staff made a good effort for the first year. He said that the department's success may work against them in a way; many people may feel that they already give and they are content with the way things are. He added it would be good to emphasize exactly how the money is spent and how it's different than the Park Sales Tax.

Donaldson said she had sent a mass email and didn't receive much response. She also talked to people in her ward and no one really questioned why the Fund was needed.

XI. COLUMBIA PARKS AND RECREATION FUND RUMMAGE AND PLANT SALE DISCUSSION

As part of the Parks and Recreation Fund, two projects have been identified as fundraisers. Staff will work the concessions at an upcoming MU basketball game with some proceeds going to the Fund. Huffington was able to make that happen with the assistance of MPRA. Normally, concessions are an MPRA region fundraiser, but Huffington was able to secure a date for the Parks and Recreation Fund.

The other project is a plant sale to be held in conjunction with the CoMo Rummage Sale, on June 2 from 8 am to noon. Horticulture staff is preparing inventory now, Huffington said. They will be available to answer questions. Griggs said he would establish a schedule for the Commission to sign up to work that day.

Donaldson asked if they would participate in the rummage sale portion as well?

Griggs said that would be possible.

XII. COUNCIL ITEMS

Griggs shared these updates:

Council on Jan. 2 approved the purchase of a piece of property off of Whitegate Drive. It is a 2.24 acre tract with purchase price of \$250,000. It was appraised at \$490,000.

Huffington added that the tract already has utilities and good turf; it's almost ready to build on. The purchase is expected to close in early February.

A donation of 20.24 acres is being made for a buffer acquisition for the Perche Creek Trail. The buffer is needed for access for nearby homes to the trail.

Blevins asked about the next concentration for acquiring neighborhood parks?

Griggs said with Whitegate and the Sinclair school property, that achieves two very high priorities. At this point, land acquisition may be on hold for a while but it depends on development.

XIII. BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN COMMISSION REPORT

At a recent meeting, staff provided an update to the Bike and Ped Commission on the MKT bridge replacement project. The Bike and Ped Commission was also reminded of the Feb. 5 City Council meeting and the opportunity to provide public comment for the Shepard to Rollins Trail alignment 1 and 3 project.

XIV. CAPITAL PROJECT REPORT

Huffington shared these updates:

MKT Bridge #5: progress is being made, the contractor understands the importance of the project finishing on time.

Douglass Park: construction of medium shelter progressing.

Valleyview Park: new grill, sidewalk and water fountain installed.

Little Mates Cove: new shade structure in place.

Cosmo Park: preparations being made for sports field lighting.

Waters House: new storage closet in place and shower installed for ranger use.

Antimi Sports Complex: field renovations continuing.

Henry asked if Diamond Council had contributed funding toward the project?

Huffington said they donated funds toward the player benches and the scoreboard.

Bear Creek Trail: upgrades made to bank under the boardwalk.

XV. RECREATION SERVICES REPORT

Miller shared updates:

Toy Drive: served more than 250 children in 2017.

Community Recreation Lights Contest: judging held in December and prizes were awarded.

Flagline: program based at Armory, participated in Columbia's holiday parade in November.

Stonegrinder 7K Trail Run: inaugural run held in December, sold out with 125 runners.

Preschool: recent holiday activities, Thanksgiving party and Cookies with Santa, had good attendance.

Osher Book Talk: about 40 attended December talk at Waters-Moss.

50+ Surprise Trip: about 30 took trip to Crown Center in Kansas City.

Upcoming Events: ROC 7K Trail Run set for Jan. 27, Black History Month activities include an exhibit at the Armory, film and discussion on Feb. 7, Black History Month Art Expo on Feb. 23 and the Gospel Explosion and Soul Food Dinner on Feb. 25.

XVI. STAFF COMMENTS

Griggs shared a memo with the Commission that was recently provided to City Council, regarding the Fairgrounds property as related to the sports fieldhouse. The City, County and private resident Matt Thornburg are discussing the potential of building an expanded facility at the Fairgrounds. Griggs told the Commission that there will be a work session before the next City Council meeting on Feb. 5. The session will start at 6 pm. At least a portion of it will be open to the public.

Henry asked about the status of the Fieldhouse at Philips Park, if it has been bid?

Griggs said the project is ready to go out to bid. Staff would like to begin that process by the end of February.

Henry said it seemed like the Council could still choose to pursue the facility at the Fairgrounds instead.

Griggs agreed, saying it is a tough decision. Staff has always discussed it being at Philips and it is in the park's master plan. However, it could not compete with a larger facility at the Fairgrounds, Griggs said.

Devine said he would be concerned with maintenance and operating costs of a larger facility, like the one proposed at the Fairgrounds.

Griggs said staff had studied the costs of the proposed four-court facility planned for Philips but have not investigated an eight-court facility.

Everything is still in the preliminary stages.

Devine added he would be concerned if something does not work out with such a facility, who has the financial responsibility?

Griggs said the City shares those concerns. He does not want to burden the department with any future liabilities. Griggs said the City felt it was important to at least investigate this option. Conversations will continue

XVII. COMMISSION COMMENTS TO STAFF

Huffington followed up with a comment from a previous meeting. Staff is contracting with Pro Foundation Systems to repair the the concrete at Albert-Oakland Family Aquatic Center. The work will be completed in the spring.

XVIII. PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

XIX. NEXT MEETING DATE: FEB 15, 2018**XX. ADJOURNMENT**

Meeting adjourned at 8:45 pm.

Members of the public may attend any open meeting. For requests for accommodations related to disability, please call 573-874-7214. In order to assist staff in making the appropriate arrangements for your accommodation, please make your request as far in advance of the posted meeting date as possible.