



City of Columbia, Missouri

Meeting Minutes

Parks and Recreation Commission

Thursday, April 19, 2018

7:00 PM

Regular

ARC Meeting Room,

1701 W Ash

I. CALL TO ORDER

Present: 7 - Marin Blevins, Sue Davis, Daniel Devine, Meredith Donaldson, Ted Farnen, Linda Hutton and Chad Henry

II. INTRODUCTIONS

III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The agenda was approved on a motion by Farnen, seconded by Donaldson.
Motion passed 7-0.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Farnen clarified a comment he had made regarding the Kelly Baseball field naming. Miller distributed amended minutes to the Commission.

The minutes were approved as amended on a motion by Farnen, seconded by Hutton. Motion passed 7-0.

V. APPROVAL OF FEBRUARY AND MARCH MONTHLY REPORTS

Huffington shared highlights from the March report: golf and sports turf crews are in full swing with greens aerification, baseball and softball fields set-up, and lining soccer fields; Horticulturist Ryan Russell and horticulture staff held two Arboretum classes and forestry staff spent 112 hours resurfacing the MKT Trail between bridges #5 and #8. Coffman shared recreation highlights: increases in recreation sessions, total recreation participations, and increases in life enrichment and senior classes. Total ARC visits have increased by about 19,000 over the previous year and total memberships have increased. The CARE summer program received 442 applications.

Donaldson asked about the line on the report about Moss and Riechmann tours?

Coffman said that staff tracks the number of tours they provide of the rental facilities.

Hutton asked a question from the February report about the removal of a turkey on Forum?

Huffington said the Ranger responded to the call but no action was taken.

The February monthly report was approved on a motion by Donaldson, seconded by Davis. Motion passed 7-0.

Hutton asked about a reference on the March report about the Ranger going to Gerbes for an investigation?

Huffington said there had been several thefts in the ARC locker room, with the thieves cutting locks and taking locker contents. With the new surveillance video, staff has clear photos of them and the Park Ranger had visited nearby stores to watch their video, in case they had used stolen credit cards.

Devine asked for clarification on the ARC video?

Huffington said the video placed them in the lobby and in the parking lot. The photos are being circulated via Crimestoppers.

The March monthly report was approved on a motion by Henry, seconded by Donaldson. Motion passed 7-0.

VI. SPECIAL ITEMS**Staff Presentation: Megan Harrington**

Coffman introduced Harrington, who joined the staff in October 2017 as aquatics specialist.

Harrington presented to the Commission about her family, education and background, which includes experience with Warrensburg and Mexico Parks and Recreation departments. Harrington shared details about her aquatics career and what the Columbia Parks and Recreation aquatics staff does, including inservice, Starguard lifeguard training and recertifications. She also shared details about a variety of aquatics programs, including swimming lessons, Little Swimmers and more. Hutton asked about the difference between Red Cross and Starguard training?

Harrington said that Starguard focuses more on prevention and offers a one-year certification, as opposed to Red Cross, which is for two years.

Donaldson asked about the cost of recertification?

Harrington said it is free for guards who work for Parks and Recreation.

Farnen asked how lifeguard employment numbers looked for the summer?

Harrington said there 20 in the first session and she thought many were returning for the summer. She said the department employs between 150-200.

Farnen then asked about the difference in dates of pool openings?

Harrington said the department typically opens the biggest pool, Albert-Oakland Family Aquatic Center for Memorial Day weekend. It is difficult sometimes to have enough guards on staff to open all the pools by that time.

Griggs complimented Harrington, saying that the aquatics staff used to have three full-time employees but now has just two with Harrington and Aquatics Supervisor Janel Twehous. He said they did a great job managing the workload.

VII. OLD BUSINESS

None.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS**Parks and Recreation Fund - update and plant sale discussion**

Griggs reminded the Commission of the upcoming fundraiser for the Parks and Recreation Fund, the plant sale at the CoMo Rummage Sale. He passed around a sign-up sheet for Commissioners to take a shift to work at the event.

Griggs added that if anyone has items to donate as part of the rummage sale, they could bring it by the Parks and Recreation office.

Farnen asked what type of plants would be for sale?

Griggs said horticulture staff is working on that, but they would be native plants.

Farnen mentioned he had promotion ideas, he would share those with Tammy Miller.

Donaldson commented she'd like to see a different name than Rummage Sale for the event.

Griggs said they would discuss it again at the May meeting and finalize details.

Farnen asked if many booth spaces had been reserved?

Coffman said there have been several so far. She said staff would like to eventually expand the event to feature 60 booths.

Commission Tour discussion

Griggs asked if the Commission was still interested in taking a park tour at their June meeting?

All were, so staff shared a list of potential sites to visit: Atkins Sports Complex, Douglass Park, Lake of the Woods Golf Course, Indian Hills Park, American Legion Park, Gans Creek Recreation Area, Norma Sutherland Smith Park, Valleyview Park and Cosmo Park.

Devine asked if the tour could include a visit to the Fairgrounds to see where the Fieldhouse would have been at that location.

Griggs said that would be added.

Rezoning: St. Charles Road near Hominy Creek Trail

Huffington described the rezoning which is located on St. Charles Road at the Richland Road intersection. Current zoning is agriculture and there is a request to rezone to R-1 single family. The proposed development will include six single-family homes. Huffington shared a map of the tract, which is near Hominy Creek Trail.

Devine asked about the drainage and if it would flow toward Hominy Creek?

Huffington said that it would, but would have to be captured on-site before it gets to the creek.

Donaldson made a motion, seconded by Davis, that the Commission sees no adverse impact to Hominy Creek Trail from the proposed rezoning. Motion

passed, 7-0.

IX. REPORTS

Council Items

Griggs shared these updates:

Approval was given to spend Park Sales Tax revenues to replace some concrete sections of the Cosmo Skate Park. Also a grant was approved that will fund a 10-week intern in the forestry division. The grant was provided by the Society of Municipal Arborists.

Farnen asked if the Skate Park would have to be closed during repairs? Huffington said staff is working on creating a map and will rope off certain areas. Work won't be done until late summer when school resumes in August.

Bicycle and Pedestrian Commission Report

At their April meeting, the Bike and Pedestrian Commission heard a presentation from Community Development planners with preliminary documents for the 2018 Sidewalk Master Plan. Park facilities are included in the sidewalk priority matrix key. Public input will begin in the late fall. City boards and commissions will have the opportunity to comment on priority sidewalk projects.

Capital Project Report

Huffington shared these updates:

MKT Bridges replacement: opened ahead of schedule in March.

Gans Creek Recreation Area: new concession stand about to open.

Bear Creek Park: honeysuckle abatement project completed.

Atkins Sports Complex: wifi has been added.

Cosmo Park: LED lights will be added.

Douglass Park: Ralph Shelter has been completed.

Grindstone Creek Trail: Bluff Creek Drive trail connector was installed.

Farnen asked if it connected to the movie theater nearby?

Huffington said no, it was on the south side of the creek.

Lions-Stephens Park: posts installed as Eagle Scout project to allow park users to put up hammocks. This is a pilot project, Huffington said, so posts may be added at other locations.

Littles Mates Cove: new shade shelter installed.

Antimi Sports Complex: Weather has delayed the project, but more progress has been made lately. Backstop is installed, more concrete work has been completed. Dugouts, player benches and bat racks in place.

Recreation Services Report

Coffman shared these updates:

Train Show: held at Paquin on March 17 with good crowd.

Eggstravaganza: two events held at Douglass and Indian Hills parks.

Preschool: recent Easter activity held at Hillcrest Community Center.

Life Enrichment: new judo class just started.

Women's Month 3 on 3: tournament held at the Armory Sports Center.

ARC: busy spring break at the facility. Gym floor was recently refinished.

Aquatics: in service training was held.

Golf: private outing took place.

Upcoming events: Intro to Track and Field, Kite Flying Day, Yappy Hour, Tons of Trucks, MLB Pitch, Hit and Run, Jr. Home Run Derby, Amphitheater Concerts, Movies in the Park, Heritage Day block party and dedications, Family Fun Fest and Bike, Walk and Wheel Week.

Farnen asked about Bike, Walk and Wheel Week?

Coffman said Pednet is organizing it.

Davis asked about specific times for Tons of Trucks?

Coffman said it was 4-7 p.m.

Griggs added staff has been approached about having a "quiet" portion of Tons of Trucks, as the noise of horns honking can be difficult for autistic children. Staff is trying to come up with a solution for the event for the future to accommodate everyone.

X. STAFF COMMENTS

Griggs updated the Commission on the Fieldhouse. At pre-bid, 75 official questions were made to the purchaser. Bids will open next week. Staff is concerned about the increased prices of steel and how those might impact the bids.

Huffington let the Commission know that Park Ranger Andrew Bell resigned his position. The job has been posted, but it is a long hiring process, Huffington said.

Farnen asked about operations with one full-time ranger?

Huffington said Rosanna Johnson is adjusting her schedule to work additional weekends and take more time off during the week. A part-time ranger who has worked for the department in previous summers will return to assist.

Donaldson asked about using the Park Patrol?

Huffington said they are generally used for events and traffic control.

Griggs reminded the Commission of the deadline of May 4 to reapply for another term.

XI. COMMISSION COMMENTS

Donaldson said she was impressed with the level of honeysuckle abatement that has been performed. She mentioned a group working at Kiwanis Park.

Huffington said there will be several groups working in parks as part of the For Columbia effort on April 28.

Farnen asked if staff had received the Facebook comment from Greg Ahrens regarding trucks on the walkways at Stephens Lake Park?

Griggs said yes, it was our responsibility to make sure trucks did not cut corners on the walkways. Staff is constantly reminded of this.

Farnen complimented staff on the excellent work on the MKT Trail; he likes the idea of adding guardrails at the new bridges. He added that he attended many good sessions at the MPRA Conference, particularly those on trails and vandalism in parks that was presented by Huffington.

Davis asked about the tour and adding the greenhouse at Parks Management Center?

Huffington said staff meant to stop there last year but missed it. He'll make sure it's added for this year's tour.

XII. PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

XIII. NEXT MEETING DATE

May 17, 2018, 7 p.m. at the ARC

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Members of the public may attend any open meeting. For requests for accommodations related to disability, please call 573-874-CITY (573-874-2489) or email CITY@CoMo.gov. 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.