



# City of Columbia, Missouri

## Meeting Minutes

### Parks and Recreation Commission

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Thursday, August 16, 2018

7:00 PM

Regular

ARC Meeting Room,

1701 W Ash

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#### I. CALL TO ORDER

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

#### II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

#### III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

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

**IV. APPROVAL OF MONTHLY REPORT**

Park Services Manager Gabe Huffington shared these highlights from Park Services: Sports Turf completed field set-up and maintenance for the Show Me State Games, Forestry completed 40 hours of maintenance at Twin Lakes and the Park Ranger assisted with Fire in the Sky, Lunch in the Park, Family Fun Fests, concerts and Show Me State Games. Recreation Services Manager Erika Coffman shared these highlights from Recreation Services: total recreation participations have increased by 22,000, senior participations have increased by 3,000, ARC total visits have increased by 25,000 and 743 buckets of range balls have been sold at Lake of the Woods.

Donaldson asked about the decrease in financial scholarships?

Coffman said there has been an increase in adult scholarships, that there has been a shift. She explained how the financial assistance funds work and roll over between fiscal years.

Farnen asked about the note about wi-fi at Gans Creek Recreation Area? Huffington said it is used for staff only, to process transactions at the concession stand.

Farnen asked about wi-fi at other parks?

Huffington said it's available at the ARC, Flat Branch, Riechmann Pavilion and Stephens Lake.

Devine asked about the issue of homeless sleeping in parks?

Huffington acknowledged there has been an increase lately in several parks.

The Park Ranger has issued warnings and patrols have increased. After two warnings, a trespass is issued, Huffington said. Many of the homeless are new and the Ranger is doing education on park rules with them, he added.

**The monthly report was approved on a motion by Davis, seconded by Henry.**

**Motion passed 7-0.**

**Yes:** 7 - Blevins, Davis, Devine, Donaldson, Farnen, Hutton and Henry

**V. OLD BUSINESS**

None.

**VI. NEW BUSINESS***FY'19 Parks and Recreation Budget Presentation*

Director Mike Griggs shared a presentation of the proposed budget for the new fiscal year that will begin on Oct. 1. He showed the Commission where to find the budget online and shared a timeline of the planning process. City Council had a work session on Aug. 13 where the Council discussed ways to better compensate employees. Griggs shared information on priority-based budgeting, which City Manager Mike Matthes would like to implement at some point.

As far as the Parks and Recreation budget, Griggs shared highlights which is a decrease due to large capital projects that had been set for FY'18, operation of sports fieldhouse, new sports turf technician position and increase in intragovernmental charges.

The total budget without capital improvements is \$13.7 million. The total with projects is \$16.4 million.

Griggs broke down the budget by category. General fund highlights are moving the marketing specialist position 100% to Community Relations, increase in intragovernmental charges, decrease in temporary salaries and increase in utilities.

Griggs shared information on permanent job positions and how those are not keeping up with per thousand population, as well as information about general fund support for parks and the promise to keep Parks and Recreation funded.

Budget highlights for the Recreation division include a partial year to operate the new Sports Fieldhouse, new sports and grounds technician position, reduction in capital improvement program and increase in intragovernmental charges.

Farnen asked about cost recovery goals?

Coffman said staff considers a five-year forecast to determine potential fee increases to keep up with cost recovery.

There are no fee increases proposed for FY'19, Griggs said. New fees will be established for the Fieldhouse.

Recreation Services capital projects will include the construction of a new indoor pavilion at Philips Park. The Commission will be involved with future discussion about this facility, Griggs said.

He shared information about loans for the Fieldhouse and Clary-Shy Park improvements, as well as projections for the Park Sales Tax.

Capital projects that are planned include Clary-Shy improvements, Kiwanis Park improvements, Philips Park improvements and the Hinkson Creek Trail, connecting Stephens Lake Park to Clark Lane.

Griggs shared staff concerns about the proposed budget, including substantial increases in intragovernmental charges and a decrease in forecasted sales tax revenue.

Donaldson asked if other departments are charged these fees?

Griggs said yes, that other revenue-generating departments pay those to supplement those departments that provide support but do not generate revenue.

Donaldson made a motion, seconded by Davis, that the Commission recommends approval of the Parks and Recreation FY'19 budget as presented, including proposed new fees. The Commission recognizes that Parks and Recreation has the ability to control their budget with the exception of some intragovernmental charges. Therefore, in future budgets, the Commission requests that increases in intragovernmental charges be offset with the City's General Fund. The Commission also shares the budget concerns as stated in the budget document that future growth will either need to come from the General Fund or another funding source or the department may have to reduce services to the public. Motion passed 7-0.

The Commission then discussed sharing their concerns with City Council in a memo from Chairman Blevins.

Henry made another motion, seconded by Davis, that the Commission authorizes Chairman Blevins to draft a cover letter to the Council, further outlining the Commission's concerns with the department's FY'19 budget, as discussed. Motion passed 7-0.

## VII. REPORTS

### *Council Items*

Griggs reported that the City Council approved the revised master plan and cross country course at Gans Creek Recreation Area.

### *Bicycle and Pedestrian Commission Report*

Huffington said that staff submitted an application for status as a bicycle friendly community. Commissioners are encouraged to complete a survey about their experiences and perceptions of bicycling in the community. Miller will email them the link to the survey.

### *Capital Project Report*

Huffington shared these updates:

**American Legion Park:** new flag poles are in place.

**Norma Sutherland Smith Park:** fencing is being installed.

**Clary-Shy Park:** grading underway for new Farmers Market.

**Cosmo Park:** bocce courts under construction.

**Gans Creek Recreation Area:** grading underway for new cross country course.

**Barberry Park:** new soccer goals installed.

**Antimi Sports Complex:** finishing work being done with access driveways.

**Stephens Lake Park:** new electric being installed to accommodate Roots n Blues.

**Philips Park:** grading underway for Sports Fieldhouse.

**Lake of the Woods:** work complete on #10 tee box.

### *Recreation Services Report*

Coffman shared these updates:

**Leisure Times:** new guide for fall and winter is now available.

**Aquatics:** Albert-Oakland Family Aquatic Center is open only on weekends through Labor Day, other outdoor facilities are closed for the season.

**Family Fun Fest:** Fitness is Fun themed event held at Cosmo in July.

**SLP Amphitheater:** BXR showcase held in early August with high school acts.

**Dance Camp:** annual camp held at Hillcrest in July.

**Armory Summer Camp:** successful summer with large participations recently completed.

**Blue Thunder:** 46 athletes competed at AAU Junior Olympics, with seven champions and 30 All-Americans.

**Coolin' Down with the Blues:** end of summer concert at Douglass Park.

**ARC Little Gymmers:** held daily at the ARC.

**CARE:** mural dedication was recently held.

**Show Me State Games:** aquatics staff assisted with triathlon.

**Upcoming Events:** Kaleidospoke, Night Flight Glow Golf, SLP Amphitheater Concert Series Shades of Blue, Neighborhood Park Block Party, SLP Amphitheater Concert Series Pigweed-Vintage band, Neighborhood Park Fun Day, Movies in the Park, Heritage Festival and Family Fun Fest.

## VIII. STAFF COMMENTS

None.

## IX COMMISSION COMMENTS

Davis asked about the new ranger?

Huffington said that background checks are being conducted.

Devine said that he had heard about the rink behind the Skate Park at Cosmo Park collecting water?

Huffington said he had not heard that, but would look into it.

Hutton commented that she had received a call about questionable activity involving homeless at Field Park.

Griggs said that the ranger and staff were aware and had asked Grove Construction, who occupies the building at Field, to notify staff if they observe anything.

Davis said she had recently attended the Family Fun Fest at Cosmo and it was really well done. She also complimented staff on the fences at Stephens Lake Park.

Henry asked about the next phase of construction at Douglass Park?

Griggs said funding would still be needed for the next phase as well as the acquisition of the house on the corner near the park, when it becomes available for purchase.

Farnen asked about the recent editorial in the Tribune that mentioned possibly eliminating the CARE program, as well as some other City expenditures?

Griggs said staff would still like to respond and are discussing it.

## X. PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

## XI. NEXT MEETING DATE

Sept. 20, 2018, 7 p.m. at the ARC

**XII. ADJOURNMENT**

Meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

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