

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

Thursday, August 16, 2007, 7:00 p.m.

ARC, 1701 West Ash

MINUTES

Commission Present: Marin Blevins, Dennis Knudson, Dan Devine, Mike Jones, Julia Grus

Staff Present: Mike Hood, Gary Ristow, Mike Griggs, Tammy Miller

Blevins called the meeting to order at 7:01 pm.

Agenda: The agenda was approved on a motion by Grus, seconded by Devine.

Minutes: The July minutes were approved on a motion from Devine, seconded by Grus.

Monthly Report: Blevins asked about the report of a homemade bomb?

Griggs said it was a report of people with a tube, some gunpowder and a firecracker; it was nothing major.

The July monthly report was approved on a motion from Devine, seconded by Knudson.

FY '08 Budget

Hood showed a Powerpoint presentation with highlights of the proposed budget for FY'08, which is being reviewed by City Council. The City is experiencing a "slow down" in revenue, so the budget does not show a lot of growth. Commission will have time to review the budget and make any comments to staff or Council. The budget will likely be approved at Sept. 17 meeting of the City Council, to take effect October 1.

The proposed budget for Parks and Recreation totals \$12,497,565, a 1.4 percent growth from FY'07. Hood showed a breakdown of the budget which includes 56 percent for personnel. The budget is broken into general fund and the recreation services fund. The general fund budget is proposed to be \$4,624,273, a slight decrease from the current year. The recreation services fund is proposed to be \$7,863,292, a slight increase. One highlight of the budget is a new engineering aide who would be hired in January. The position will be paid out of the capital projects source, to assist with completing ballot issue projects by 2010.

The ARC is again budgeting conservatively, with the goal of achieving a full recovery of operating costs. Another goal will be continue the CARE program at the current level of participation and continue the financial assistance program.

Devine asked how the financial assistance program is advertised?

Ristow said it is included on our web site and in all Parks and Recreation publications.

The budget also includes the rental of a new building for the Senior and Life Enrichment programs currently housed at Parkade Center. The new site would be located on Walnut across from the Riechmann Pavilion in Stephens Lake Park. Hood said staff expects a rent increase at the Parkade location.

Knudson asked about the street and traffic in that area?

Hood acknowledged the narrow street was a concern, but that seniors in the 50+ program have indicated they would be comfortable driving to the facility.

Highlights in the capital improvement program for FY'08 include the development of neighborhood parks in the Grasslands and Lake of the Woods, restroom improvements at Cosmo, four new tennis courts at Cosmo-Bethel, a new water slide at Oakland Pool, planning for the new regional park, PMC improvements, and

development of phase I of the fields on the Atkins tract. Trail projects under the CIP include Hinkson Creek Trail from Stadium to Rockhill and phase I of Hominy Branch Trail from Stephens Lake to Woodridge Park.

Proposed fee changes include increases in adult kickball, Noon Club, and Camp Adventure and a decrease in admission at Douglass Pool to \$1 as a trial fee, Hood said.

Grus asked if the \$1 fee implemented in July had an impact on attendance for the rest of the summer?

Ristow said 192 patrons took advantage of the discounted fee, plus the pool remained open an additional three days past the planned Aug. 12 closing date. The extreme heat on Aug. 13-15 led staff to make the decision to keep the pool open to give children a place to go to cool off. Ristow added that Douglass Pool attendance actually increased in 2007 over 2006, while other city pools experienced a decrease in attendance.

Blevins asked if patrons could purchase punch cards they could use?

Ristow said yes and there are also season passes available. At this time of year, it is difficult to keep pools open because of students going back to school.

Devine asked about sales tax projections?

Hood said the new budget is based on predicted 3 percent growth. The current budget was based on 4.7 percent growth and the city is currently at 2.2 percent. Finishing the fiscal year with less money means less carry-over into the 2008 budget year. If growth does not occur, Hood said the city may be facing tough decisions in the FY'09 budget.

Upcoming Events

The next few weeks will be busy with special events in Columbia. Ristow reviewed some of the highlights: Teen Garage Band Bash: will be Aug. 17 for the third straight year on top of garage at Sixth and Cherry.

Columbia Balloon Invitational: Aug. 23-26. Cosmo-Bethel is being promoted as a "watching area."

Flat Branch Outdoor Cinema will continue on September 6 with Princess Bride in Flat Branch Park. The last outdoor movie was held in August at Stephens Lake Park with a big crowd.

Twilight Festival activities will go on in Flat Branch Park every Thursday in September with Kids Camp activities, Stream Extravaganza, the circus, Curreykorn and the Norm Ruebling Band.

Roots 'n Blues 'n BBQ will be held September 7-8 at various venues downtown, including Flat Branch Park.

Tour of Missouri will roll through Columbia Sept. 14. This will be last time the Discovery Team will race.

Heritage Festival and Craft Show will be at Nifong Park Sept. 15-16 with lots of new features, including a trick roper and yodeler and the Haskell Nation Indian dancers.

Festival of the Arts will be September 29-30 downtown.

Council Items

Hood informed the Commission that the alcohol sales policy was discussed by the Council at the August 6 meeting. He said Council members were very complimentary of the effort and thought that Commission spent on the issue. Council voted to hold a public hearing on the issue, with Councilman Wade voting to accept the Commission's recommendation to veto the policy. A public hearing has not been set; it may be held in October after the budget has been approved.

Hickman Pool improvements-a list of possible options was presented to Council. The HVAC system was the biggest concern and expense. Hood said minor renovations would also be done to the chlorine room. The total cost would be about \$340,000, to be split with the school district. That item will be considered at the Sept. 4 Council meeting.

Auburn Hills neighborhood park- Hood said the biggest issue seemed to be the road alignment rather than the park. After a meeting with the neighborhood, concerns were expressed with the West route option of the park master plan. Staff will recommend the Council accept the East option which will allow flexibility for

road alignments.

Herigon donation- The developer of Vanderveen has set aside 39 acres to be donated to the city. This will allow the connection of the Bear Creek Trail through Vanderveen to Providence Road.

Capital Project Update

Griggs shared updates as follows:

Cosmo-Bethel- shelter is nearing completion. It features a concrete pad for catering access and grilling. The sidewalks and parking lot are complete and lights will be installed this fall. The playground is open.

Flat Branch II- The bridge has been installed, but cables have not arrived so the bridge is not open yet. The trails have been completed and work continues on the sprayground.

Longview- The basketball court and playfield are complete. The perimeter trail and shelter will be constructed next.

Atkins fields- Earthwork continues with on-site meetings about to begin.

Stephens Lake Park- A rain garden sign has been installed Stephens Lake Park, indicating the location and features it will have. Pipes are being installed for the sprayground.

Harris Shelter at Cosmo- The berm and parking lot are installed and a contract to build the shelter is about to be awarded.

Commission Comments

Jones informed Commission and staff that he will be resigning his position. He and his family will be moving to Baton Rouge in the middle of September.

Staff Comments

None.

Public Comments

None.

Meeting adjourned at 7:59 pm.