



News Release

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Editor's Note: The meeting will be held on Thursday, April 17. The previous release stated Wednesday, rather than Thursday.

Public Meeting Scheduled for Parks and Recreation Fees & Charges Study

The Columbia Parks and Recreation Department announces a public meeting for Interested Parties regarding the Fees & Charges/Staffing study being administered for the Department by PROS Consulting headquartered in Indianapolis, IN.

The meeting will be held at 7 p.m. on Thursday, April 17 at the Activity & Recreation Center (ARC) located at 1701 West Ash. The public meeting will be a part of the Columbia Parks & Recreation Commission meeting. The purpose of the public hearing will be to obtain comment from the public and to discuss the various fees and charges the Columbia Parks & Recreation Department uses for recreational programs and facilities, develop a pricing strategy for recreation programs, determine revenue recovery goals for general program areas and to discuss staffing needs of the Department. PROS Consulting will lead a short presentation followed by the public hearing.

The Parks & Recreation Department, in conjunction with PROS Consulting, will be having a series of Key Leader interviews as well as Focus Group meetings to obtain citizen input. The final report from PROS Consulting will address the following issues:

- ◆ Analysis of current recreation fees and charges and revenue recovery goals.
- ◆ Identification of pertinent direct and ancillary costs when establishing revenue recovery goals.
- ◆ Benchmarking and Best Practices Survey of similar cities regarding fees/charges and staffing.
- ◆ Establishment of community-acceptable revenue recovery goals for major programming areas (e.g. youth sports, adult sports, aquatics, golf, ARC, senior programs, etc.)
- ◆ Evaluation of the Department's full-time staffing levels, responsibilities and organization.

If you have any questions about the meetings, please contact the Parks and Recreation Department at 874-7460.