



# City of Columbia, Missouri

## Meeting Minutes

### Parks and Recreation Commission

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Thursday, February 15, 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 Farnen, seconded by Davis. Motion passed 7-0.

#### III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

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

#### IV. APPROVAL OF MONTHLY REPORT

Huffington shared park services highlights: Fleet serviced 53 golf carts in February, resulting in \$4,000 in savings by using in-house staff; Golf Course staff completed 98 hours of equipment preparation for spring; Forestry staff spent 161 hours removing honeysuckle at Twin Lakes and Cosmo Park. Coffman shared recreation services highlights: total participations have increased from FY '17 to FY '18, Silver Sneakers comprises about 30 percent of total ARC members, ARC visits and fitness classes participations have increased and the ROC had 177 runners in its fifth year. Griggs added that ARC revenues have increased over \$20,000 from last year.

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

**V. NAMING OF DOUGLASS PARK BASEBALL FIELD**

Griggs said that staff was approached by Columbia resident Frank Schmidt about naming the baseball field at Douglass Park for John and Rod Kelly, who have been instrumental in the formation and growth of the Douglass Bulldog baseball program. Griggs said staff has researched the idea to ensure there are no stipulations or conditions on naming the field. None were found. He also spoke to former department directors Richard Green and Mike Hood, and they could not think of a reason to not name the field for the Kellys. Staff is endorsing the idea of naming the field for them. Blevins invited Schmidt to speak about his idea.

Schmidt said several people had had the same idea. He talked about the Kellys and their history with the Douglass baseball program, as well as their experience and background in the community with the school district and other programs.

Another resident, David Weber, also spoke in support of the naming idea. He believes it would be well-received by the community. Weber talked about how Douglass baseball and the Kellys have brought people from throughout the community together for 60 years.

Steve Calloway addressed the Commission, as a representative of the Minority Men's Network. Calloway said the organization endorses naming the ballfield for the Kellys. He talked about the work they have done with the youth of Columbia, and called them true leaders and heroes and outstanding examples for all of Columbia. Calloway described the Minority Men's Network as a group consisting mainly of men who serve as a support group for individuals to provide leadership and to address issues that are vital to the minority community. He shared some history of the organization, saying the primary participants are African-American and other "at-risk" minority males, striving to be positive role models who step up to lead and serve the community. Calloway said the organization is proud to call John and Rod Kelly members of the Minority Men's Network. After their comments, Blevins then asked if the Commission would approve, what type of signage or commemoration would be appropriate? Griggs said he thought a simple sign would be best, but asked Calloway his thoughts.

Calloway agreed, saying the Kellys would prefer simple to something more elaborate. Calloway said the Minority Men's Network would be willing to work with the department on that.

Griggs reminded the Commission of the department's naming policy. The City Council must approve the naming of parks, but since this is an amenity within a park, the Commission is able to make the approval.

Farnen commented that he did not know John Kelly, but he knows of Rod Kelly and his huge involvement with Douglass baseball and the community as a whole. He thinks the field naming is a great idea.

Davis agreed, and said she would suggest adding some type of information about them in signage or on the web site for those who are not

familiar with the Kellys and their contributions.

Weber said the information is being compiled and would be shared with the Parks and Recreation Department to be used as appropriate.

Devine suggested a simple descriptive sentence to the sign, then more information on the department's web site.

Griggs agreed and said staff would work with the residents on the wording.

Calloway asked about timing?

Griggs said there are events at the park in May and early June, so any type of ceremony could be held in conjunction with those.

**Hutton made a motion, seconded by Davis, that the Commission recommend naming the baseball field at Douglass Park after John and Rod Kelly. Motion approved 7-0.**

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#### **VI. REZONING: POTTERFIELD PROPERTY NEAR STRAWN PARK**

Huffington reviewed the site, which is on the corner of Strawn Road and I-70 Drive SW. It's a 47-acre tract, currently zoned County R-S with request to annex and rezone to R-1. The property was donated to the City of Columbia. As part of the project, the site could house a new facility for the Humane Society along with a Parks and Recreation dog park. Huffington showed a conceptual map of the site.

Griggs said that utilities for the site are still being worked out.

Henry asked about Parks and Recreation's responsibility?

Griggs said the department is not responsible for it. He said the partnership with the Humane Society with the potential dog park could be a mutually beneficial arrangement.

**Devine made a motion, seconded by Davis, that the Commission sees no adverse impact to Strawn Park from the nearby rezoning. Motion passed, 7-0.**

#### **VII. COUNCIL ITEMS**

Griggs shared these updates:

At the March 5 Council meeting, Council will consider approving easement acquisition for the Hinkson Creek Trail between Stephens Lake Park and Clark Lane.

#### **VIII. BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN COMMISSION REPORT**

The Commission is meeting the following week, so there is no report for this meeting.

**IX. CAPITAL PROJECT REPORT**

Huffington shared these updates:

**MKT Bridge replacement:** project continues. Photos shown of crews placing steel beams and bridges being delivered and placed. The project remains on schedule.

**Cosmo sports field lighting:** wiring and boxes in place.

**L.A. Nickell pump house:** renovations made.

**PMC front desk:** updates made.

**Douglass Park:** medium shelter construction continues.

**Waters House:** new shower installed for Park Ranger use.

**Antimi Sports Complex:** curbs about to be installed, player benches put together, funded by the Diamond Council.

**ARC:** new security cameras in place, located at front desk and lobby, Kid Zone and exterior.

**X. RECREATION SERVICES REPORT**

Coffman shared updates:

**ROC 7K:** 177 runners competed this year.

**ARC:** water classes have good participation, two weightlifters are competing in the National Junior Championship in Spokane, WA this weekend.

**Smaller Ballers:** New session just started at the Armory Sports Center.

**Preschool programs:** continue to be popular.

Upcoming Events: Black History Month events include Art Expo and Gospel Explosion, Boy/Girl Scout Day, Blue Thunder registration day, Train Show and Women's Month 3-on-3 Basketball Tournament.

**XI. STAFF COMMENTS**

Griggs updated the Commission on the recent Mizzou concessions fundraiser for the Parks and Recreation Fund. Earnings from the concession stand totaled about \$3,900 with a portion going to the Fund. He reminded them of the Rummage Sale with Plant Sale on June 2 at Cosmo Park. Details will be discussed at a later meeting.

**XII. COMMISSION COMMENTS TO STAFF**

Donaldson mentioned that if other commissioners are interested in an invasive species removal project coming up at Bonne Femme watershed, to let her know.

Henry asked about the Council work session regarding the Fieldhouse and Fairgrounds?

Griggs said the session was supposed to be about 30 minutes of public discussion, followed by a closed session. However, the whole time was taken up by public comment, which went beyond parks, Griggs said. The main topics discussed were extension of Waco Road and annexation.

Blevins added that comments were mainly in generalities. He complimented Griggs for a comment he made about wanting to do what is in the best interest of Columbia residents.

Davis asked how much longer the process would take before the City makes a decision on next steps?

Griggs said a request was made to have a decision made at next Council meeting on March 5.

Blevins mentioned a KOMU story he had seen about the recent City survey and how highly Parks and Recreation ranked. He encouraged other commissioners to see it.

Hutton mentioned the ARC membership members from the monthly report. She commented that Silver Sneakers patrons would not be coming to the ARC in such high numbers if the facility was not so clean and well-maintained. She gave kudos to Coffman and staff for this. Hutton added that she had heard from the Columbia College golf coach that his team was impressed with Lake of the Woods and would like to play there. She also has heard compliments about L.A. Nickell.

**XIII. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

A student in the audience asked for clarification on naming of a park or facility?

Griggs explained the department policy about naming.

**XIV. NEXT MEETING DATE: March 15, 2018****XV. ADJOURNMENT**

Meeting adjourned at 8 p.m.

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