



# City of Columbia, Missouri

## Meeting Minutes

### Parks and Recreation Commission

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Thursday, January 16, 2020

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, Chad Henry and Paul Morrison

#### II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Agenda was approved on a motion by Farnen, seconded by Davis. Motion passed 7-0.

#### III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes from November were approved on a motion by Donaldson, seconded by Henry. Motion passed 7-0.

#### IV. APPROVAL OF MONTHLY REPORTS

Staff shared monthly reports from both November and December. Park Services Manager Gabe Huffington shared these highlights: Forestry staff spent 208 hours in December planting downtown trees and removing dead trees, more than 300 hours spent on snow removal in December and construction staff installed four memorial heritage benches. Recreation Services Manager Erika Coffman shared these highlights: there have been 245 court rentals at the Sports Fieldhouse for November and December, adapted sports participation has increased over the first quarter of the fiscal year from 2019 to 2020, Silver Sneakers participation has more than doubled, and indoor rentals have increased for Riechmann, Maplewood Barn and Rock Quarry House.

Devine asked about golf?

Coffman said the weather has been substantially better than the previous year.

Blevins commented that Silver Sneakers has been added to supplemental for many major companies.

Donaldson added that Renew Active is a similar program.

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

The December monthly report was approved on a motion by Farnen, seconded by Blevins. Motion passed 7-0.

**V.***L. A. Nickell driving range improvements*

Huffington shared background information: this is a \$50,000 project that would be paid from the Golf Course Improvement fund. It would expand the driving range by 3,700 square feet, extend the artificial mat for winter use and reroute the cart path to #15 tee. The expansion would help the tee boxes not get as worn, Huffington said. He showed a drawing of the proposed improvements. The plan would be to complete this spring.

Blevins asked about the interested parties meeting?

Huffington said it was not well attended, but there are some comment cards available at the golf course, and an online survey also being done.

Devine opened the public hearing for comment. There was none, so the public hearing closed.

Henry asked about sequence of the work with sod and turf, which Huffington clarified.

**Henry made a motion, seconded by Davis that the Commission recommends the proposed driving range improvements to City Council. Motion passed 7-0.**

**VI. NEW BUSINESS***Rezoning - 2550 E Gans Road (near Gans Creek Recreation Area)*

Huffington described the location, which is within a half-mile of Gans Creek Recreation Area and Philips Park. The request would rezone the 56-acre tract to R-1 for single family residential lots.

The site would have to meet all City requirements for stormwater controls.

The Commission discussed the terrain of the property and run-off.

Griggs commented that there would be more steps the developer would have to complete before the development.

Donaldson commented that she is personally against the development but understands that the Commission's role is to only consider its impact on nearby parks and trails.

Donaldson made a motion, seconded by Blevins, that the Commission does not see any adverse effects to Gans Creek Recreation Area or Philips Park due to the proposed rezoning. Motion passed 7-0.

*Rezoning - Switzler Street and Providence Road (near Douglass Park)*

Huffington informed the Commission that this request is to rezone to M-OF to construct a new Columbia Housing Authority building. No adverse effects to Douglass Park are expected.

Blevins made a motion, seconded by Douglass, that the Commission does not see any adverse effects to Douglass Park due to the proposed rezoning. Motion passed 7-0.

*Rezoning - Discovery Parkway hotel and office building (near A. Perry Philips Park)*

This request is at Discovery Parkway near Philips and Gans Creek Recreation Area. The request is to rezone due to building height. All stormwater controls would be required to be followed.

Henry made a motion, seconded by Davis, that the Commission does not see any adverse effects to Gans Creek Recreation Area or Philips Park due to the proposed rezoning. Motion passed 7-0.

**VII. REPORTS***Council Items*

Nothing was reported for Council items.

*Bicycle and Pedestrian Commission Report*

A letter of support was requested from the Bike and Pedestrian Commission to include in the Parks and Recreation Department's 2020 Recreational Trails Program (RTP) grant application for the proposed Perche Creek Trail phase I project. The grant application is due Feb. 14. Staff also updated the Commission on the upcoming interested parties meeting for the Hinkson Creek Trail from Stephens Lake Park to Clark Lane. Alignment changes are needed on the E. Walnut section of the trail.

*Capital Project Report*

Huffington shared these updates:

Norma Sutherland Smith Park - new parking lot lighting and skate spot installed.

Kiwanis Park - work underway on new shelter.

Bear Creek Park - new playground in place.

Sports Fieldhouse - additional parking lot lighting installed.

Atkins Park - warmer weather allowed for new sod.

Rainbow Softball Center - new lights installed.

MKT - new signage in place.

Clary-Shy Park - one room schoolhouse being constructed.

Volunteer opportunities - classes upcoming for Treekeepers, CARP and Adopt-a-Trail.

*Recreation Services Report*

Coffman shared these updates:

Aquatics - instructor certification classes held recently at the ARC.

Junior NBA Skills - held in December at the Armory Sports Center.

Adapted Dance - held monthly at the ARC with different themes.

Osher book talk - held monthly at Hillcrest Community Center with large crowds.

Preschool - Holiday activities held in December.

Upcoming events - Dr. MLK Jr candlelight Walk, ROC Trail Run, Bring Your Own Big Wheel, Black History Month Film Fest, Gospel Explosion and Soul Food Dinner, Boy and Girl Scout Day and Stonegrinder.

**VIII. STAFF COMMENTS**

Griggs reminded the Commission of the MPRA Conference from Feb. 18-21. Because of this, the next Commission meeting has been moved up a week to Feb. 13.

Huffington introduced some information about Perche Creek Trail Phase I, which would be funded by the 2015 Park Sales Tax and possibly the RTP grant. This section of trail would link the MKT Trail to Gillespie Bridge Road, about a mile in length over the Perche Creek. A separate project would connect the trail to the existing sidewalk on Chapel Hill Road. Huffington showed a map of the area. Eventually, future phases would link to Strawn Park and Cosmo Park.

Farnen asked for clarification as to the MKT Trail on the map, staff clarified the location.

The Commission discussed the trail and importance of adding this piece to the City's overall trail system, adding to the proposed trail loop around Columbia. They expressed support for the project. Huffington said they would discuss the trail more at a future meeting.

Griggs shared some preliminary information from the CoMo Gives campaign. The total campaign increased from 2018 and the Parks and Recreation Fund also increased. Griggs said he thought the timing of the campaign as related to the academic schedule may have had an influence as it seemed that college student donations had declined a bit from the previous year. Staff is still hopeful that they will receive the challenge grant for highest number of unique donors under the age of 35.

Griggs said they would have those final numbers soon and will share at the February meeting.

Farnen complimented staff on their efforts for the CoMo Gives campaign. He said he thought by keeping that side of the campaign and potentially adding a high-end event to get larger donors for the Fund, would be a very successful approach.

**IX. COMMISSION COMMENTS**

Farnen said he was pleased to see the City agreement with the County regarding the Fairgrounds. He asked staff to speak to the future?

Griggs said there would be a lot of questions to answer. Development will not take place until the future and there will be some expectations as to the type of amenities that will be built there. The County Fair returning to the site also has an impact. Veterans United has a three-year lease and that is being honored, so there will be no public use except the fair.

Huffington added that there is a web site and list serve established to share information. The new Sports Commission may also have ideas as to usage of the property.

**X. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

None.

**XII. NEXT MEETING DATE**

Feb. 13, 2020 at the Sports Fieldhouse

**XIII. ADJOURNMENT**

Meeting adjourned at 8:20 pm, on a motion by Farnen, seconded by Henry. Motion passed 7-0.

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