

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

Thursday, September 20, 7 p.m.

ARC, 1701 W. Ash

MINUTES

Commission Present: Marin Blevins, Sue Davis, Terry Kloeppel, Bill Pauls, Dan Devine, Meredith Donaldson, Linda Hutton

Commission Absent: None

Staff Present: Mike Hood, Mike Griggs, Gabe Huffington, Tammy Miller

Blevins called the meeting to order at 7 pm.

Agenda: No additions were made to the agenda. It was approved on a motion by Pauls, seconded by Donaldson.

Minutes: Pauls asked Miller to correct one item from the Commission comments section regarding a comment he had made about the mile marker on the Bear Creek Trail. The August meeting minutes were approved on a motion by Kloeppel, seconded by Davis.

Monthly Report: Kloeppel asked about the number of trespass warnings at Douglass Park? Griggs answered that the private security firm comes in overnight and those are usually folks in the park after it has closed.

Pauls asked if the park hours were posted?

Griggs said the old sign had them, but he would check to make sure the new sign does. The part-time rangers would be on duty through the end of October.

The August monthly report was approved on a motion by Devine, seconded by Hutton.

University of Missouri Parks and Recreation Presentation

Hood introduced David Vaught, the chairman of the University of Missouri's Parks, Recreation and Tourism department.

Vaught commented about the number of students who have contacted the Commission to learn more about their function and what they do for the department. He wanted to introduce himself and thank Commissioners for being receptive to student interview requests and for their service to Columbia. He said he talks to students about civic duty and explains to them how important it is to have community supporters for parks and recreation. Vaught presented a proclamation to the Commission issued by Senator Schaefer's office, in gratitude for their service and assistance.

Blevins thanked Vaught and said he was always impressed by the students' enthusiasm.

Donaldson commented that she appreciated being able to speak to the students. She asked Vaught how the information they provided helped the students?

Vaught said it helped them to understand the difference between administrative and advisory boards and just how the relationship worked with the department.

Bike and Pedestrian Commission

Hood reminded the Commission of the recent Council evaluation of boards and commissions. He shared a memo from Council and pointed out a recommendation related to the Bike and Pedestrian Commission. Both the Planning and Zoning and

Parks and Recreation Commissions have liaisons to the Bike and Ped Commission. However, Planning and Zoning has requested that their liaison be removed which leaves Bike and Ped with an odd number of commissioners. This is not recommended for voting purposes. The City Manager suggested reducing the number of commissioners down to 9, which may be achieved by removing the Parks and Recreation liaison. The matter has been referred to the Commission for their input. Blevins asked for comments from Davis, the current liaison, Kloeppel, who has served in the past.

Kloeppel said that years ago, he may have said that the spot wasn't needed, but there seems to be more interaction between the two commissions now.

Davis said she would like to keep the working relationship between the two boards.

Devine agreed, saying that he thinks the relationship is important and he appreciates the information that Davis brings back.

Pauls said that he appreciates Davis serving in the role, because he would not be interested in doing that. He said he does understand the need for communication between the two boards.

Kloeppel made a motion, seconded by Donaldson, that the Parks and Recreation Commission feels their liaison to the Bike and Pedestrian Commission is important and they would like to maintain that relationship. Motion passed, 7-0.

Devine said he would also like to see more interaction with the County Parks and Recreation Commission. He made a motion, seconded by Hutton, that the Parks and Recreation Commission invite the County on an annual basis to one of their regularly scheduled meetings.

Pauls commented he would welcome those meetings, but since the County Commission has no budget, there is not a great opportunity to collaborate.

Devine said he would just like to keep the lines of communication open.

Devine's motion passed, 7-0.

Schedule Public Hearing for Grindstone Trail

Hood said that staff would like the Commission to consider scheduling a public hearing at their October meeting to get input on the potential Grindstone Trail. An interested party meeting was held August 30 and about 61 people attended. There is a lot of opposition to the trail in the neighborhood, Hood said. The controversy mainly centers on the trail route crossing the back of two lots. The Council has referred the matter to several City commissions.

Hood said staff feels it's important to go through the public input phase thoroughly. The Grindstone Trail was on the list of projects that voters approved on the last ballot issue and it was also part of the IBM location to the Lemone Industrial area. Staff thinks this is a very good project and could provide a future important link to the new high school.

Donaldson said she definitely wants to hear what the residents have to say.

Devine commented that he would not be able to attend the Oct. 18 meeting.

Hutton echoed that, saying she would be traveling on Oct. 18.

Hood expressed that staff would like to have strong attendance from the Commission for the public hearing, so if the date needs to be changed, that would be possible.

Commissioners agreed that they would like to move the October meeting back a week to leave the possibility open for discussion and a vote at their November meeting.

Pauls made a motion, seconded by Davis, that the Commission reschedule their October meeting from the 18th to the 25th and set a public hearing regarding the Grindstone Trail. Motion passed 7-0.

Council Items

Hood shared these updates:

Heibel March Building: no proposals for the building's use were submitted by the deadline date of August 31. Two parties had shown interest, but were mistaken about what was needed for their submission by the date. A new deadline was set for September 21 for proposals. If any are received, those may be reviewed by Commission in October or November.

Blevins asked if the cost of renovation was still \$250,000?

Hood said yes, that is the estimate that has been given before. That estimate may change, depending on work done to the interior.

Twin Lakes Recreation Area: A public hearing is set for the October 1 Council meeting for improvements.

Albert-Oakland Park: A public hearing is set for the Oct. 1 meeting for improvements.

Columbia/Boone County Open Space Plan: Staff has been working with a group of local organizations about the need to create greenspace in Columbia. The group is identifying strategies on how to preserve critical open space, which also includes stormwater controls and sustainable agriculture. The city of Nashville just completed a plan called Nashville Naturally. There is an item on an upcoming Council agenda to establish this type of partnership. Once a plan is complete, it will be up to involved agencies to implement it. Hood said the idea is to emphasize identifying critical habitats and working with the private sector, not necessarily obtaining huge tracts of land. It's a major step forward, he said.

Park Project Update

Huffington shared these updates:

L.A. Nickell: improvements made to tee boxes at numbers 11 and 15.

Stephens Lake Park: new kiosk for announcements and bike rack installed at amphitheater.

Lake of the Woods: tee improvements made at number 6.

Atkins Park: Sod and seeding done at spaces between the fields, as well as irrigation. Dugout roofs have been completed and trees will be added in October.

Scott's Branch Trail: boardwalk and overlook being completed.

Stephens Lake Park: Hindman Garden is nearing completion with a dedication set for 5:30 pm on October 16.

Bonnie View Nature Sanctuary: shelter completed.

Stephens Lake Park: ADA walkway is completed.

Scott's Branch Trail: connector and parking area being completed.

Capen Park: graffiti removal project on larger boulders is about finished. Staff tried five or six products before finding one that worked.

Donaldson asked for the name of the product so that she might share it with State Park staff?

Huffington said he would get that information for her.

Indian Hills Park: service gate installed.

MKT-3M site: sandblasting done to remove some graffiti from building.

Lion-Stephens Park: photos shown of damage to a 200-year-old tree in the park, which forced its removal. The top of the tree had blown out and great portions of the limbs and trunk were hollow, making it highly dangerous to park users or pedestrians in the vicinity of the tree. The City Arborist and department forester agreed that its unsafe condition warranted immediate removal. However, some acorns were propagated from the tree to plant more trees from it. Wood will be used from the tree to create one or two benches for that park so that the well-known tree will still have a presence in the park.

Nifong Park: the Maplewood Home has a new walkway and paint on the front porch.

Albert-Oakland Park: undergrowth removed to improve sight lines from ballfields to the restrooms.

Hominy Creek Trail: bridge and trail construction ongoing.

Blevins asked if the heat has caused any concrete cracks?

Huffington said that has been common on asphalt, especially on the trail at Cosmo Park and some of the golf cart paths. That will need to be addressed.

Hood commented that former Park Superintendent Steve Saitta deserves credit for adding reinforcing bars in so many concrete projects. Those bars have prevented a lot of cracking.

Staff Work Day: staff gathered at Douglass Park earlier that day to clean the park and do some work. It's an annual tradition which helps the maintenance staff.

Recreation Services Update

Griggs told the Commission that Coffman is at the MPRA (Missouri Parks and Recreation Association) Leadership Development Institute. He shared these updates:

CYFL: photo showed of teams playing under the new lights at Cosmo Park.

Pooch Plunge: 98 dogs participated in this year's event.

Heritage Festival: had great weather for this year's event with great attendance.

C.A.R.E.: School year program is underway with Options and tutoring. The Gallery recently participated in the last Family Fun Fest of 2012, which had great attendance.

Upcoming Events: One Sky One World Day on Oct. 14, Bring Your Own Big Wheel Track or Treat on Oct. 27 and Tiger Night of Fun on Oct. 31.

Commission Comments

Donaldson asked about an event called Swagg the Vote in Douglass Park?

Griggs said that staff was aware of the event but was not involved in planning or co-sponsoring it. The group has completed a Park Special Use Permit and followed all the proper procedures.

Donaldson also mentioned a school group that had recently visited the Audubon site near Bonnie View and enjoyed a day learning about nature.

Kloeppel asked if the Jay Dix Park is in the City or County?

Hood said it is within the city limits, but is owned by the County. The city Parks and Recreation staff will maintain the park. An interested party meeting is scheduled to get public input on the park.

Kloeppel wished Griggs a happy birthday, echoed by the rest of the Commission.

Blevins asked about the number of bow hunters set for the season?

Griggs said that more than 400 had registered, a record number for the City's program.

Blevins asked about the number of deer taken recently?

Griggs answered that there 19 reported in 2011 and only six in 2010.

Donaldson mentioned that she had noticed an opening in the fence at the Twin Lakes dog park.

Huffington said that staff would take care of it.

Staff Comments

None.

Public Comments

None.

Meeting adjourned at 8:40 pm.