

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

Thursday, March 21, 2013, 7 p.m.

ARC, 1701 W. Ash

MINUTES

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

Commission Absent: None

Staff Present: Mike Griggs, Gabe Huffington, Erika Coffman, Tammy Miller, Janet Godon, Intern Matt Schuster

A short reception and presentation was held for recently retired director Mike Hood.

Following that, Blevins called the meeting to order at 7:15 pm.

Agenda: No changes were made to the agenda. It was approved on a motion by Kloeppe, seconded by Devine.

Minutes: The January meeting minutes were approved on a motion by Devine, seconded by Donaldson.

Monthly Report: Kloeppe asked about the cost of snow removal provided by parks staff?

Griggs said that Public Works pays for the time parks staff has spent clearing city streets. In the case of recent snowfalls, priorities have been set for staff to clear the ARC lot first, followed by the lot for the Stephens Lake Park sled hill. Staff has then been assigned some streets in those areas to clear. This may be done regularly in the future with excessive snowfall, Griggs said.

The January and February monthly reports were approved on a motion by Devine, seconded by Hutton.

Staff Presentation

Coffman introduced Janet Godon, new GetAbout Columbia outreach coordinator. Godon was hired in December. She told the Commission she had actually worked for Parks and Recreation 31 years ago and was glad to be back. She shared some of her background with the Commission, including an avid interest in bicycling and hiking. Godon showed a presentation with some of the goals she has, including cyclist education, increasing bicycling and modes of alternative transportation, and awareness of Columbia's trail system. She is also coordinating Bike, Walk, and Wheel Week which is coming up May 11-18. Godon is working to promote the MKT as a tourist destination. Hutton asked about the Greenbriar connection, if it is nearly complete?

Godon said that yes, it was.

Donaldson suggested the possibility of partnering with big employers to educate their employees on using the trails for transportation.

Pauls asked about the difference between trails used for transportation and fitness-nature trails?

Godon said many trails can't be used for transportation all the time since snow and other weather conditions can make them unpassable. She said she wanted trail use to be stress-free and not create so much pressure for users to use the trails all the time.

Pauls then asked about trail users who preferred walking or jogging to biking?

Godon said she liked the idea of a gravel sidepath alongside concrete trails so that both user groups can be happy. She agrees that concrete is not good for knees, and thinks that would be a win-win situation. However, she said she is not advocating that all trails be paved.

Pauls agreed, saying there is a need for nature trails as well.

Griggs commented it seems that there has been increased use of bicycles around town. The number of bike racks on the Mizzou campus has tripled, but they are still full.

Review of Waters-Moss Master Plan

Huffington showed a map of the property. The first phase would include renovations of the garage and office building to allow the relocation of staff and programs from Stephens Lake Activity Center. The move would add 1,600 square feet of programmable space for staff.

Donaldson asked if the meeting room would be available to the public?

Huffington said yes, and also that typical neighborhood park amenities would be added to the site. The home on the site that was recently purchased would be used for rentals, similar to the use of the Rock Quarry house. Another older home on the site, the Sears house would be razed. A portion of the Waters house on the property would be used for meeting space, Huffington said, and the other portion of it would be used for a permanent office for the Park Rangers.

Funds from the Park Sales Tax are allocated to the first phase of work at Waters Moss. Some funding from the dedicated loan program may also be used, Huffington said.

Griggs added that more funding from the Park Sales Tax may be available than originally thought, as funds are higher than anticipated. That will be a topic of discussion with the Finance Director, Griggs said.

Hutton said she liked the idea, but wondered about the entrance to Waters-Moss off of Old 63?

Griggs said there are plans by Public Works to improve the road though he is not sure of the timetable.

Coffman added that better signage to the entrance may help, as well as educating users of the facility.

Donaldson added that she liked the plan too, but thinks that both turns—into Waters Moss and across the street at Grindstone Nature Area—need to be safer.

Griggs said that patrons of Stephens Lake Activity Center attended interested parties meetings and expressed support after learning more about it. He said when they moved from Parkade, they had reservations about the new facility but they adapted.

Kloepfel made a motion, seconded by Hutton, that the Commission recommend to City Council approval of the plan as presented by staff. Motion passed, 7-0.

Council Items

Griggs shared these updates:

Cosmo Shelter/Concession- the CYFL donated an additional \$20,000 for the project which will allow for another restroom stall. This meant an alteration to the plan, which Council approved on Monday.

Missouri Arbor Award of Excellence- Natural Resources Supervisor Brett O'Brien nominated 3M for this award, which is the highest honor from the Missouri Forestry Council. This will be presented to 3M at the April 15 Council meeting.

Griggs added that the Grindstone Trail issue will come back before the Council at some point. There are other large topics also being discussed, so the timing on those is being worked out.

Park Project Update

Huffington shared these updates:

Armory Sports Center - flooring and restroom improvements completed.

Twin Lakes – improvements made at dog park with fencing and entrance gate. Work is ongoing at Little Mates Cove. Grading work done for concession/shelter building.

Atkins Park – Gold field is being converted to ag-lime surface.

Albert-Oakland Park – construction at ballfields is ongoing.

Nifong Park – roof repairs done at Maplewood Home.

Scott's Branch Trail – boardwalk under construction, as well as Bridge 1 and porous paver parking lot.

Flat Branch Park – sprayground is being renovated with lights being added.

Nickell Golf Course – clubhouse being renovated.

Hickman Pool – ADA pool lift installed.

Bear Creek Trail – wayfinding signs being added here and to other trails.

Brown Station Park – new park sign installed.

Lake of the Woods – new cart shed fence constructed.

Recreation Services Update

Coffman shared these updates:

GetAbout – recent promotion on Valentines Day, placing hearts on bikes redeemable for free bike light.

ARC – recent events include the Bring Your Own Big Wheel and Highsteppers performance at the MDA MuscleWalk.

Sports – CYBA season just concluded, registration is open for adult softball which is going to three seasons this year: spring, summer and fall.

Community Recreation – Lil Lady Bulldogs has been active during the basketball season.

Preschool – recent activities include Valentines party, Pirate party, Dora Party and St. Patty's Party.

OAK Tours / 50+ - Members recently went on eagle viewing trip and celebrated National Pie Day.

CARE – Preparations in full swing for summer with more than 400 applications received.

Adapted Community Recreation – dances have been popular.

Train Show – More than 700 attended recent event at Paquin.

Upcoming events – Easter EGGstravaganza, Tons of Trucks, Flashlight Easter Egg Hunt, Kite Flying Day, Family Fun Fest, Earth Day, SLP Concert Series.

Commission Comments

Donaldson commented that she is always impressed by the amount of work that staff is able to accomplish without outside contractors.

Griggs agreed, but added that contractors are valuable as well.

Huffington informed the Commission that Zach Weitkemper was recently promoted to the position of Construction Superintendent to replace Paul Scolaro.

Devine asked if there are any plans to build completely accessible parks?

Griggs said that all our parks currently meet ADA codes. However, staff is working on a grant to build a completely accessible playground at Woodridge, near the Ronald McDonald House.

Devine commented that he had been part of the committee that interviewed candidates for the director position. He said four were interviewed and the other three candidates

were exceptional and had great backgrounds. He added that Griggs stood out above all the rest of the candidates.

Staff Comments

Griggs asked the Commission about their experiences at the MPRA Conference?

Davis commented that she enjoyed a social media session she had attended.

Pauls added that the Expo was great as usual, with good ideas.

Donaldson said she also gained a lot of information from the sessions she attended.

Blevins commended Coffman for her help at the conference.

Huffington and Griggs commented on the awards won by Mike Snyder and Chip Cooper.

Public Comments

None.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30.