## PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

Thursday, April 18, 2013, 7 p.m. ARC, 1701 W. Ash

#### **MINUTES**

Commission Present: Marin Blevins, Sue Davis, Terry Kloeppel, Dan Devine, Bill

Pauls, Meredith Donaldson, Linda Hutton

Commission Absent: None

Staff Present: Mike Griggs, Gabe Huffington, Erika Coffman, Tammy Miller

City Staff Present: Barbara Buffaloe

Blevins called the meeting to order at 7 pm.

**Agenda:** No changes were made to the agenda. It was approved on a motion by Pauls, seconded by Hutton.

**Minutes:** The March meeting minutes were approved on a motion by Kloeppel, seconded by Hutton.

**Monthly Report:** Hutton commented on the weather impacting participation in some areas.

Griggs agreed, and pointed out that last year's spring weather was great, which made those participation numbers very high. That makes the difference between last year and this year even greater.

Pauls asked about the policy of removing snow from the trails?

Griggs said that usually those trails that link to schools are a higher priority. Those include the hard-surface trails.

Pauls said he had noticed that the only part of the Bear Creek Trail that had been plowed was the hard-surface.

Griggs said that gravel trails such as the MKT are not plowed because historically the cross-country skiers prefer them not to be, as it gives them an area to ski.

The March monthly report was approved on a motion by Kloeppel, seconded by Davis.

# **City-Wide Sustainable Project**

Griggs introduced Barbara Buffaloe, the City's Sustainability Manager, to speak about some recent efforts.

Buffaloe described her job and some of the work she has done with Parks and Recreation to increase efficiency and save energy, such as replacing the lights at the Parks Management Center. She is currently working on a paper conservation project for the City and is talking to boards and commissions as well as city staff about ways to save paper. The City Council and the Planning and Zoning Commission have gone to electronic meeting materials, rather than paper distribution.

Buffaloe showed the Commission the web page, which contains meeting agenda, minutes and other materials that are sent to them each month. She said she would appreciate any consideration by the Commission in saving paper.

Pauls agreed, saying he was not sure why he really needed the paper copies. Hutton said if she had a laptop or iPad available, she may be more inclined to rely on electronic versions.

Buffaloe stressed to the Commission that this was just an idea, she did not want to affect their efficiency or cause any problems.

Devine and Kloeppel both said that if Miller could send an email prompt when the materials were online, they would appreciate that.

Miller said she would do that.

## <u>Annexation and Zoning Request – Country Woods</u>

Huffington described the parcel, which is a single-family home on 1.27 acres located near the MKT Trail. It's in Country Woods Estates and currently located in the County. Owners want to annex into the City as R-1 zoning, which is consistent with other homes along the trail. Huffington said staff did not see any adverse effect to the MKT or the Scott Boulevard access from the request.

Hutton made a motion, seconded by Davis, that the Commission recommend they do not anticipate an adverse effect on nearby trails or park property from the request. Motion passed, 7-0.

## 2013 Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan

Copies of the draft P&R master plan were distributed to the Commission. Griggs asked the Commission to review it before the May meeting and offer any feedback. In particular, he asked them to review each park page as well as chapters about trends to see if we're missing anything, and the proposed neighborhood park and trails plans. Griggs added that one new feature of this plan is the accomplishments section, showing what we've achieved over the last 10 years.

Blevins asked if areas not annexed were addressed?

Griggs said yes, Jay Dix is mentioned as well as Battle.

Griggs added that the plan would be on the May meeting agenda for discussion but if there are questions before then, let him know.

# **Commission Budget**

The City Clerk is preparing budgets for boards and commissions and is seeking feedback. Griggs showed the Commission their current budget and said that a similar budget would be proposed for FY 2014 unless there was a need for an increase. Blevins asked if travel for conferences would remain the same?

Griggs said at this point, it would.

Kloeppel made a motion, seconded by Davis, that the Commission request the same amount of funding for FY2014 as FY2013. Motion passed, 7-0.

### Council Items

Griggs shared these updates:

**Douglass Park Infrastructure:** showed Commission a site plan with proposed improvements, including plantings and fencing. Funding from PedNet will pay for the project which is expected to be approved at the May 6 Council meeting.

**Society of Municipal Arborists:** a student from outside our region will work an internship with our Natural Resources division this summer. Cost is reimbursed to us and it provides the student an opportunity to learn about urban forestry and horticulture in a different climate and environment. Council needs to approve as it is an agreement. **Grindstone Trail:** Council has requested that staff schedule another interested parties meeting or public hearing; Griggs said he is clarifying what type of meeting they would like. Several citizens spoke at the most recent Council meeting and said they did not feel like they were being heard. Councilwoman Hoppe made the request for another meeting to give them another opportunity.

Devine asked if there were any changes since the last proposed trail design? Griggs said there were not.

## **Park Project Update**

Huffington shared these updates:

Scott's Branch Trail: porous paver lot off of Plymouth is under construction.

Twin Lakes: work continues on Little Mates Cove and concession building, as well as

entry to the dog park and ADA access.

Albert-Oakland Park: fencing project ongoing.

Fairview Park: new tennis practice wall installed.

Flat Branch Park: spraygrounds are being renovated.

Rock Quarry House: floors sanded and refinished.

**Nifong Park:** landscaping improvements made at Maplewood Home.

**L.A. Nickell:** renovations going well to restrooms, office area and Clubhouse.

Cosmo Park: new concession and shelter being constructed at football/lacrosse fields,

repairs being made to roadways.

**Antimi:** new crown installed along tops of fence.

Stephens Lake Park: new filter installed at spraygrounds to improve system.

Again Street Park: new park sign installed.

Kloeppel asked if there is a shortage of fields since Albert-Oakland is still under

construction?

Coffman said staff is making it work with other fields.

Blevins asked about next steps at Bonnie View?

Huffington said the restroom is supposed to be delivered the week of May 5. After that is in, the sidewalk to the shelter will be built as well as turf improvements.

## Recreation Services Update

Coffman shared these updates:

**Tons of Trucks:** was a great event with over 4000. The helicopter was great addition, thanks to Huffington and Travis March for arranging it.

**Flashlight Easter Egg Hunt:** was rescheduled from an earlier date, but still good participation.

**Easter EGGstravaganza:** rained, but decent attendance.

Kite Flying Day: about 150 participated. Blue Thunder Track: preparing for season.

**Glow Zumba:** about 125 attended. **Sports:** spring seasons are in full swing.

Intro to Disc Golf: about 75 participants, held at Stephens Lake Park.

**Life Enrichment:** 18 participants recently advanced to next level.

**OAK**/**50+:** recent trip to Arkansas.

**Preschool:** holiday activities and other activity days have been well-attended. **GetAbout Columbia:** recent resource fairs held at Rock Bridge and Hickman high schools, sharing safe cycling information.

**Upcoming events** – Earth Day, Family Fun Fest, Friends of Parks Appreciation Day, Hershey Track and Field, SLP Amphitheater Concert Series, Movies in the Park, Pitch, Hit and Run, and Bike, Walk and Wheel Week.

## **Commission Comments**

Hutton asked for updates on the Heibel March Building and Roots & Blues? Griggs said that the attorneys for the City and Grove Construction are working on the agreement for Heibel March. He said that Grove wants to add some parking. With the Roots and Blues event, conversations continue with Thumper Entertainment regarding logistics and fees.

Donaldson asked about the clearing of the site off Old Hwy 63 that recently received some media attention. She is concerned about protecting the watershed.

Griggs said that Parks and Recreation staff had actually cleared a lot of honeysuckle and invasive plants at the site late last year before GetAbout began work there.

Pauls commented that the photos of the removed trees in a pile did not look good in the public eye.

He added a thank you to staff for the mile markers on the Bear Creek Trail. He also shared photos of art pieces in some other parks he had visited and asked about the possibility of similar pieces being displayed in Columbia parks?

Coffman said she and GetAbout coordinator Janet Godon had talked to Cultural Affairs Manager Chris Stevens about art pieces along the trails. Since Stevens is leaving the City, the idea will be revisited after his replacement is named.

Pauls commented that the tone at the end of the recent Council meeting during the Grindstone Trail discussion seemed to be anti-parks. He added that staff still has the backing of the Commission. Other Commissioners agreed.

## **Staff Comments**

Griggs and Miller showed the Commission the department's Facebook page and encouraged them to "like" the page if they had Facebook accounts. The social media site has been invaluable in marketing efforts this spring.

Griggs reminded the Commission of the tradition of a dinner and park tour at a summer meeting. He asked the Commission's preference for a month?

The Commission agreed to have the dinner/tour at the June 20 meeting, starting around 5 pm at Parks Management Center.

## **Public Comments**

None.

Meeting adjourned at 8:20.