## PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

Thursday, May 16, 2013, 7 p.m. ARC, 1701 W. Ash

#### **MINUTES**

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

Donaldson, Linda Hutton

**Commission Absent**: Bill Pauls

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

Blevins called the meeting to order at 7:02 pm.

**Agenda:** Griggs asked the Commission to remove the item Staff Presentation from the agenda; that will be rescheduled to the July meeting. Agenda was approved as amended on a motion by Kloeppel, seconded by Davis.

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

**Monthly Report:** The April monthly report was approved on a motion by Hutton, seconded by Davis.

## **Rezoning – Collegiate Housing Partners**

Griggs told the Commission that Collegiate Housing Partners is requesting this particular rezoning for a development called the Residences at 5<sup>th</sup> and Conley. It would be a 106-unit housing complex, located near the MKT Trail.

Donaldson made a motion, seconded by Davis, that the Commission does not foresee any adverse impact on the MKT Trail from the proposed rezoning. Motion passed, 6-0.

#### **P&R Master Plan Review and Discussion**

Griggs shared a presentation with details about the proposed 2013 P&R Master Plan. He reminded the Commission of how the data was gathered and shared standards of how our facilities are rated, according to state goals. For example, the City surprisingly is somewhat deficient in miles of trails, based on what is expected of our city of our size and population. This is based on comparisons with other cities.

Griggs then shared information on trends. These range from national to municipal to facility and program trends. Those include things such as tobacco-free zones in parks, increased technology, sports tourism facilities, and sustainable design. They are all detailed in the Trends chapter in the Master Plan.

Results of the last citizen survey also played a huge part in drafting the Master Plan, and Griggs shared some of those with the Commission.

Devine asked about a result on the question of what prevents the household from using parks. Seven percent had answered that security is insufficient.

Griggs answered that he was not sure of the reason

Kloeppel added that it may have been at the time of the survey, something had happened at a park which spotlighted an issue. Griggs agreed that that could have been the case.

Griggs then showed park coverage maps to the Commission.

Five new neighborhood parks are proposed. The City is well served by community parks and regional parks.

Griggs commented that staff is making changes to the trail chapter to show all different types of surfaces, rather than focusing on concrete. He then showed how park acreages have changed over the years as related to the population, and projected to 2022. He closed his presentation by talking about recommended capital improvements and shared public comments. He said he included the public comments that were not already in the draft plan.

Griggs asked the Commission to take action on the plan tonight, whether it is to recommend approval or make any changes.

Devine mentioned that he would still like to see mandatory land dedication for parks by developers be enacted by ordinance. He sees that as a solution to acquiring parkland in the future.

Griggs pointed out a section of the master plan that identifies potential funding sources. Devine agreed but said that he thinks the mandatory land dedication could be part of the process as well.

Kloeppel asked if that had ever made it to a Council vote?

Griggs said he thought the issue had only been discussed at the Commission level. Donaldson asked what kind of response such a proposal would have from developers? Griggs said he thought it might have 50-50 support. Some see the value of parks and what they add to property values. Others want to develop as much of their site themselves as possible. He thinks that as time passes, there may be more developers willing to donate land for parks. He added that the current Council may be receptive to discussing such an ordinance.

Devine then asked about the section on trails and the overpass on Stadium over I-70? Griggs said that has been removed. It formerly discussed as a GetAbout project but had little support. The Cosmo Park connector would replace it in conjunction with the new interchange, making it virtually a pedway project.

Griggs added that there are not enough funds for the trails shown. He asked if some should be shifted around on the priority list?

Devine said he would be in favor of moving the north fork of Grindstone up which would lead to Battle High School. He asked Griggs about trail surface, whether there is any type of artificial turf that could be considered?

Griggs responded that he has not seen any. He mentioned a type of trail surface he had seen in Oklahoma City that is almost like a floating concrete, with a one-inch overlay of rubberized track. Such a surface would be less maintenance than a side path.

Devine then commented on how communication is done with residents on projects. He has been concerned with the negative response regarding projects such as the Grindstone Trail and Bonnie View. He has confidence that as these projects are completed, people will see the value of them, but he is not uncomfortable getting to the point of considering eminent domain. He asked if there is a way to forecast projects earlier and avoid such issues?

Griggs said ideally, yes, however it is difficult sometimes to introduce a trail to an area that has been developed for 25 years. With new developments, it is much easier because trail easements can be obtained early in the process. He said the most difficult part now is connecting existing trails.

Davis asked about the city generating its own special events?

Coffman said the idea is to use our own facilities and trails to our advantage. A new recreation specialist is being hired to coordinate events on the trails and entry-level type of races. This will also help promote health and fitness in another venue besides the ARC.

Griggs added that it seems the next level of events is concerts. He said we could plan one and pay for some of our programs. We will keep planning and offering free events but will also explore the idea of larger, paid events.

Davis then asked about the overall plan for Twin Lakes?

Griggs said staff envisions it becoming a water park for all ages with more water features and hill-side types of features. But that would be in the future.

Hutton commented that she would like to see a different photo of Stephens Lake Park on page 374, maybe one of the waterfall. She also said she wants to ensure that any possible shelter off of Old 63 does not alter the view of the lake and the park.

Kloeppel asked if there was more support shown for an ice rink? He'd like to see a higher priority for that, even if a private partnership is needed.

Griggs said citizen surveys don't rate ice as high. But he thinks it will be an important discussion to have when it comes time for the next Park Sales Tax ballot.

Devine made a motion, seconded by Donaldson that the Commission recommend adoption of the 2013 Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan with the following changes: shifting the north fork of the Grindstone Trail to Battle High School from secondary to priority trail, proposed changes to bike polo court size, camping along the MKT Trail, and revisions to the Trails chapter. Motion passed, 6-0.

### **Columbia Imagined Comprehensive Plan**

Griggs reminded the Commission of Planning's request that they offer input on the City's comprehensive plan, Columbia Imagined. An on-line survey has been established. Commissioners agreed that they would complete the survey individually. Hutton made a motion, seconded by Davis, that the Parks and Recreation Commission supports the plan and encourages continued collaboration between the Parks and Recreation and Planning departments to ensure the goals of the master plan are being met. Motion passed, 6-0.

#### Naming of 3M Project

Griggs shared a list of potential names of the urban restoration project that was shared with 3M. A name was chosen and the Commission agreed that due to 3M's financial support, their choice should be honored.

Kloeppel made a motion, seconded by Donaldson, that the Commission recommend to Council that the site be named the 3M Flat Branch-Hinkson Creek Wetlands. Motion passed, 6-0.

### **Council Items**

Griggs shared these updates:

**Blind Boone Home:** P&R will serve as project manager on the project of renovating the home's interior. About \$326,000 in funds are available. Council is expected to approve it at an upcoming meeting.

**School Agreements:** two agreements are expected to be approved, one for the resurfacing of the tennis courts at Bethel and the other for expansions of the gyms that will be built as part of the two new elementary schools that will be built in upcoming years. The department will contribute \$150,000 for each so that the gyms will be built slightly larger than usual for use outside of school activities.

**COW:** Otherwise known as Cell on Wheels, this could be a contentious item, Griggs said. If state legislation is passed, that would give cell companies authority to locate towers wherever they wish, if the city has a cell tower already. A COW is planned right now for the middle of the parks management facility. Should this become permanent,

staff will propose that it remain in PMC, not Cosmo Park. The company had originally wanted to place it near Harris Shelter. The department will get funds from the company for the youth sports fund.

**Bgreen for CoMo:** this is a collaborative effort between Parks and Recreation, the University of Missouri, Columbia Public Schools, and the Columbia Center for Urban Agriculture. Their work will focus on research pertaining to environmental education within the community. We'll assist by coordinating field activities at the 3M area with fourth and fifth graders.

### **Park Project Update**

Huffington shared these updates:

**Twin Lakes:** work is ending on the Little Mates Cove office and concession building, as well as Little Mates itself. A small shelter is also planned near the site which will serve as a location for birthday parties. ADA parking improvements and a new entrance sign will complete the work.

Albert-Oakland: work on the baseball fields continues as the weather allows.

Nickell Clubhouse: new windows have been installed.

Lions Stephens: trail construction has begun.

**Bonnie View:** new restroom is in place, as is a new stone park sign, walkways and landscaping.

**Cosmo Park:** new shelter/concession at football/lacrosse fields underway.

Atkins Park: concessionaire parking in place. New ag lime infield at Gold field.

Bear Creek Trail connector: has new signs.

**Parklet:** temporary installation at Ninth and Cherry that has been a huge success. It may be moved around to different locations.

## **Recreation Services Update**

Coffman shared these updates:

**Earth Day:** first-time bike valet event was successful with 98 taking advantage of the free service.

Friends of Parks: event held at Cosmo on April 28. Another event will be held in the fall.

**GetAbout Columbia:** some trail etiquette signs were installed temporarily to remind trail users of basic safety. They will be moved around to different locations.

**Bike, Walk and Wheel Week:** has been a big success with great participation all week, including ABCs of On-Road Cycling, Cyclofemme Ride, Walking Art Tour and Family Fun Fest bikes.

**Family Fun Fest:** Fitness is Fun was this month's theme with great attendance.

Community Recreation: lock-ins were held in April.

Preschool Programs: continue to be successful.

**Tumble Tots:** a long-time life enrichment program, continues in popularity.

**OAK Tours:** spring surprise trip recently to Flint Hills Discovery Center in Manhattan, Kansas.

**Upcoming Events:** BWWW Breakfast Stations, Trails 5K/10K, Stephens Lake Amphitheater Concert Series, Pools open, Fishing Derby, Art in the Park, Shred Fest, and Movies in the Park.

#### **Staff Comments**

Griggs reminded the Commission that the June meeting would consist mainly of the park tour, starting at 5 pm at Parks Management Center. He asked if there were any particular sites the Commission would like to see?

Kloeppel requested a stop at the property near Battle High School.

Griggs said it would be added and that if there were any more requests to let Miller know.

Griggs shared a performance report prepared by the City Manager's office and the latest statistics from the department's Facebook page.

# **Commission Comments**

Davis asked if the garden plots at Fairview had been plowed? Huffington said he would check and let her know.

# **Public Comments**

None.

Meeting adjourned at 9:20.