

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

Thursday, March 17, 2005

Daniel Boone City Building, 701 E. Broadway

7:00 pm

MINUTES

Commission Present: Daniel Devine, Julia Grus, Larry Hine, Terry Kloeppe, Dennis Knudson, and Bill Pauls

Commission Absent: Ann Gowan

Staff Present: Mike Hood, Mike Griggs, Gary Ristow, and Sarah Buckert

Public Present: Jacob Eyermann, Josh Harrington, Ben Havens, Jennifer Kammerich, Kendra Varns, Emily Hoel, Sharlene Wales, Katie Grimes, Brian Schlichting, Elizabeth Kauffmann, Kristal Boeckelmann, Mary Henderson, Ryan McFarland, and Greg Little

Meeting called to order at 7:00 pm by Devine.

Agenda: The agenda was approved with a motion from Hine and was seconded by Pauls.

Minutes: The minutes of February was approved with a motion by Kloeppe and seconded by Hine.

Monthly Report: Hine asked a question about number of trees removed in CCRA due to mower damage. Griggs explained that 17 trees had mower damage which had occurred over time. Hine commented that he does not like planting trees and then having them run over by a lawn mower. Griggs indicated that these weren't newly planted trees but trees that have received damage from both mowers and other park users over the past 5-15 years. These trees are scheduled for spring replacement. Hine felt that if they were the trees planted by the Tree Keepers then they should be taken better care of. Staff members agreed.

Kloeppe inquired about the Ranger report and Griggs explained about the Ranger's foot surgery and related light duty assignments. She is scheduled to return to full duty by the first of April.

The February monthly reports were approved on a motion by Grus, seconded by Knudson.

Rezoning

A. Richland Road

Hood explained that the Richland Road Rezoning request was located within the half-mile limit of one of the Department's newest parks, Lake of the Woods South. This property is located south of the park. Staff noted that if appropriate quality stormwater controls are implemented then there should be no adverse impact on the park.

Knudson asked if it would be important to have greenspace along the area because of drainage. He then commented that he felt it was a nice area that would develop quickly.

Hood went on to explain the Department's three priority levels of trails and identified the highest priorities as Hinkson Creek Trail and Bear Creek Trail. He noted that the Department is in the process of updating the trails plan. Hood then discussed the possibility of acquiring trail easements along with sewer easements.

On a motion by Kloeppe, seconded by Hine, the Commission agreed to inform the Council that they see no adverse impact from the proposed rezoning to the Lake of the Woods Neighborhood Park. The Commission further recognizes that the North Fork of the Grindstone Creek passes through a significant portion of the property being rezoned and that the City's Trails Master Plan calls for the development of a linear trail along this drainage corridor. The Commission recommends that the property owner be strongly encouraged to set aside land along the stream for future trails, greenbelts and open space.

B. Blue Ridge Road and Highway 763

Griggs described the site, which is located within ½ mile of the concrete section of the Bear Creek Trail and indicated that staff sees no adverse impact to the trail.

On a motion by Hine, seconded by Pauls, the Commission agreed to inform the Council that they see no adverse impact from the proposed rezoning to the Bear Creek Trail provided that adequate stormwater controls are implemented as part of the project.

C. Broadway and Trimble Road

Griggs described the site, which is located within ½ mile of the Stephens Lake Park and recommended that if adequate storm water controls were utilized, staff sees no adverse impact to the Stephens Lake Park. Hood indicated that this is a difficult rezoning as the current zoning allows for office buildings which could be several stories high and which would impact the aesthetic views from the park as much as commercial buildings. The commercial zoning would likely attract more vehicles but that Broadway is already a high traffic area.

Knudson asked if they were trying to go to a more commercial zoning. He noted that the drainage would bring more trash and run-off down the hillside. He then asked where the boundary was for the zoning.

Hood explained that Stephens Lake Park does not cross over to the east side of Hinkson Creek and that the boundary of the park was pretty much the creek.

Griggs said that the land Knudson was referring had been sold by Stephens College some time ago.

Knudson commented that the rezoning should really be carefully looked at.

Hood explained the potential increase of run-off and potential for adverse run-off.

Devine asked what access would the property have and Griggs indicated that it appears that all access would be from Trimble not Broadway.

Knudson said there would be lots of drainage toward the creek and it would be more confining.

On a motion by Knudson, seconded by Grus, the Commission agreed to inform the Council that the proposed rezoning has the potential to adversely impact both the Hinkson Creek Trail and Stephens Lake Park. Possible adverse impacts include additional stormwater run-off, pollution in the form of litter and other contaminants and increased traffic to the area.

Missouri Park and Recreation Association's Annual Conference

Hood reported that several staff members attended the 2005 MPRA Conference in Osage Beach. Wynna Faye Elbert received a meritorious retirement service award for her 31 years of service with Columbia's Parks and Recreation Department.

Pauls commented on the excellent sessions he attended and was glad he went.

Capen Estate Donation

Hood reported that several years ago Lucy and James Capen donated 30-40 acres to the City of Columbia which became Capen Park. He then explained that Lucy Capen passed away in 2004 and that the Capen Estate left \$118,000 to the Parks and Recreation Department for park improvements.

Council Items

Hood explained that this was added to the agenda as a way to inform the Commission on items that have recently appeared or will appear on the City Council's agenda. Hood informed the Commission on the following items:

1. Improvements to Paquin Park and Oakland East Parking Lot. The Paquin project consists of a new shelter, half-court basketball court and miscellaneous site improvements such as new benches and sidewalks. The second park improvement project is the asphalt overlay to the east parking lot at Oakland Park. Council authorized both projects to proceed.
2. Farmer's Market Lease. The current Farmer's Market long term lease has recently expired. Staff negotiated a one year lease that will be renewed annually and will allow the market to continue to use the Ash and Clinkscapes property. Council approved the annual lease.
3. Twin Lakes Leash Free Fence. The Department plans to fence in the leash free area at Twin Lakes Recreational Area. This fence would clearly define the leash free area and help prevent conflicts between dogs and park users.
4. Godas Golf Course on Clark Lane. The Department recently met with the engineering staff planning a proposed 18-hole golf course and apartment complex that will be located on Clark Lane, west of the St. Charles Road intersection. The City is trying to continue the trail along the Hominy Branch Creek that will be part of the proposed development.

Pauls asked about the rezoning of this golf course and Hood indicated that the rezoning was reviewed by staff, but it isn't within a half-mile of any park. He then said staff is going to try to work with developers to plan for the trail.

Pauls commented that trails and golf courses cannot coexist. Hood said the course is being designed so that the trail would go around the edge of the course.

When asked if additional golf courses would have an impact on Columbia's LAN and LOW golf courses, it was noted there is a some concern with the over saturation of courses. He then added that if you look at mid-Missouri, the number of courses that have been added within the last few years is a substantial number.

Pauls inquired about the timing of when park staff gets to discuss concerns with developers and Griggs said they get to comment on various plat reviews.

Capital Project Update

Griggs reported on the following Capital Projects;

1. Stephens Lake Park. The Gordon Shelter is completed. A new climbing boulder will be added as part of the adjacent playground. He also noted a portion of the perimeter trail was being poured today. Hood further explained that the contractor poured about a ¼ of mile of trail on Tuesday, and said there was a chance they poured that much today.

2. Antimi Sports Complex. Griggs explained that staff is currently working on the 2 new fields at Antimi so that they will be ready for their first games on April 18, 2005.

3. Rainbow Softball Center. Staff is planning on replacing the chainlink fence fabric on an annual basis by using both park staff and operation budget. Ideally, staff would replace the fence on two fields per year. Ristow talked about the future Rainbow Hall of Fame and the number of individuals whose service would be recognized by being inducted in the Hall of Fame. The first inductees include Al Flischel, Ken Scruggs and Tony Antimi. A plaque with their photo will be placed at the Rainbow concession facility. Griggs further explained that other Rainbow improvements include new light fixtures to the fields.

Pauls asked about lights in the parking lots at Stephens and Griggs indicated that lights are part of the project. The Department is also considering solar powered or other alternative energy source lighting.

Kloeppel asked about the day camp building and Griggs indicated that they were close to having approval of the building permit and that park staff is ready to begin construction.

Grus inquired about staff plans for the summer day camp and if attendance is going to be impacted this upcoming summer. Hood said attendance was down last year during summer school, but when summer school was out the attendance went up. Ristow said there was plenty of notice for camps, and attendance may still be down, but not as much. He said staff is adjusting the day camp sessions to better reflect the end of summer school.

Hood then discussed the Martin Luther King Memorial and removing the old sewer digesters. The digesters are now gone. Later this year, a small shelter will be constructed on this site.

Commission Budget

Hood said the City Clerk is trying to move on the budget and has requested that the Commission's request for FY06 be submitted by the end of March. He then went on to explain the proposed budget, and asked the Commission for recommendations.

Knudson made the motion to approve the FY06 commission budget request as recommended by staff. Motion was seconded by Kloeppe and approved unanimously.

Commission Comments

Pauls commented about Art in the Park, specifically about the requirement for having commissioned art when the park contains natural art. Hood said that per city policy, when city projects are budgeted at more than \$1 million, then one percent of the budget is required to be used for arts. A committee is appointed and that committee goes through a process to select an artist.

Pauls asked who do you voice concerns to? He then noted that there might be students who could do it for less money.

Hood suggested he visit with Marie Hunter who is the Director of Cultural Affairs.

Pauls asked if the waterfall was part of the plan.

Griggs said yes.

Hood said there was a possible gift being considered towards development of the waterfall.

Grus said she brought a card for Beth.

Hood noted staff was in the final steps of selecting Beth's replacement.

Staff Comments

None.

Public Comments

None.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15.

Minutes by Sarah Buckert.