

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

Thursday, April 20, 2006

Riechmann Indoor Pavilion, Stephens Lake Park

2300 E. Walnut

7:00 pm

MINUTES

Commission Present: Bill Pauls, Dennis Knudson, Larry Hine, Julia Grus, Marin Blevins, Mike Jones

Commission Absent: Terry Kloepffel

Staff Present: Mike Hood, Mike Griggs, Gary Ristow, Tammy Miller

Meeting called to order at 7:07 pm by Pauls.

Agenda: The agenda was approved on a motion from Knudson, seconded by Hine.

Minutes: The March minutes were approved on a motion from Blevins, seconded by Grus.

Monthly Report: Knudson asked why sports recreation numbers were down at programs implemented at Douglass School?

Ristow said it was because the department had not been able to use the school for programming as much as in the past. He said school events often conflicted with recreation programs.

Ristow added that Community Recreation coordinator Camren Cross has been diligent in counting numbers at events.

Blevins asked about L.A. Nickell attendance?

Ristow said an unusually warm winter has helped increase attendance numbers at the golf course.

Knudson asked about the increase of participation in soccer and volleyball.

Ristow said participation usually depends on amount of interest, which fluctuates from year to year.

Blevins mentioned that Terry, an attendant at Nickell clubhouse, is very courteous and goes beyond the call of duty in his job responsibilities.

The March monthly report was approved on a motion from Hine, seconded by Knudson.

Rezoning – 1108 Fay Street and corner of Hinkson and Fay

The two rezonings are near each other and were described by Griggs. Hood added that the rezonings represented an overall renovation in the area. The new zonings are required so that the developer can meet regulations for new uses of the properties.

Grus made a motion, seconded by Hine, that the Commission agreed to inform the Council that they see no potential for adverse impact to parks or trails from the proposed rezoning at 1108 Fay.

All in favor: Pauls, Knudson, Hine, Blevins, Grus, Jones

Motion carried.

Hine made a motion, seconded by Blevins, that the Commission agreed to inform the Council that they see no potential for adverse impact to parks or trails from the proposed rezoning at the corner of Hinkson and Fay.

All in favor: Pauls, Knudson, Hine, Blevins, Grus, Jones

Motion carried.

Rezoning – State Route WW and Hwy. 63

Griggs described the location of the property as being near American Legion Park.

Knudson expressed concern about stormwater controls, particularly as related to the future Hominy Branch Trail.

Grus made a motion, seconded by Hine, that the Commission agreed to inform the Council that they see no potential for adverse impact to parks or trails from the proposed rezoning, as long as proper stormwater controls are implemented by the developer, as related to the Hinkson Creek Trail and the proposed Hominy Branch Trail.

All in favor: Pauls, Knudson, Hine, Blevins, Grus, Jones

Motion carried.

Riechmann Pavilion Dedication

Hood reminded the Commission of the upcoming dedication of the Riechmann Pavilion at Stephens Lake Park. It will be held on April 29; doors will open at 10 a.m. and the ceremony will begin at 10:30 a.m.

ARC Millionth Visitor Celebration

Ristow told Commissioners that the ARC recently saw its millionth visitor pass through the doors, on March 24.

The occasion and the visitor will be recognized during the Health Expo planned on May 9, during Bike, Walk and Wheel Week.

Community Visioning Forum

Hood described the forum, which will be held on May 8 to gain input from residents as to the future of Columbia. Hood said the forum is in keeping with City Manager Bill Watkins' focus of determining where the city is going in terms of development and planning. Input gained at the forum will determine if city leaders will move forward with developing a visioning process for the city. Other cities have gone through visioning, including Springfield, and they will be at the forum to describe their experiences. Hood told commissioners they would be receiving invitations to the forum.

Blevins asked if city departments had individual mission statements?

Hood said yes, most did as part of their master plans. He said Parks and Recreation's has sought more citizen involvement than some others.

Council Items

Hood told Commissioners that City Council heard an interesting proposal from the Columbia Youth Basketball Association on April 17. The CYBA proposed raising funds for a major indoor sports center on the ARC grounds. Representatives of the organization believe it would take \$3 million to build the facility. They would be in charge of raising the funds, in exchange for building it on city-owned land (ARC grounds) and then would turn it over to Parks and Recreation to operate. Hood said the organization would want some priority over court usage. He added that staff has looked at operating costs and would move the sports staff to the building if it is built. He said there would be some increase in the budget, but he believes that would be made up in revenues. A formal report is expected to be presented at the Council's May 15 meeting.

Another proposal was heard at a recent Council meeting. Hood said owners of the Mid-Missouri Mavericks are interested in building a new stadium and have proposed using land at American Legion Park. They would build the stadium and would offer it for some community usage, but field currently there would be eliminated.

Knudson asked if this would be beneficial? He said if the park was taken away from youth teams and given to a professional team, it did not seem like a good thing.

Hood said if that would be the case, he'd agree that it may not be beneficial.

Hine asked about the fairgrounds being used?

Hood answered that the Mavericks had proposed that, but that the county was not overly receptive to the idea. In other Council news, Hood said Council members approved tennis court renovations at Fairview and Cosmo. A grant from USTA in the amount of \$100,000 stipulates that the work must be done in 2006, so the projects will start quickly.

Griggs added that Fairview would likely begin in June and Cosmo in July. Completion will be in the fall.

Capital Projects Update

Griggs shared updates as follows:

Riechmann Pavilion/Stephens Lake—preparing for the dedication. The bicycle racks have been installed.

Antimi—concession stand is now open. Will see on the June tour.

Highpointe—finishing, and then work will start on the Smith-Manhasset park.

Nifong and Stephens Lake restrooms—open at Nifong and nearly complete at Stephens Lake.

Paquin—construction crews completing flatwork on new basketball court.

Flat Branch—haz-mat cleanup is complete and construction has started. Hood complimented staff on the clean-up work, which was more extensive than originally thought.

Pauls asked if the new concession stand at Antimi had been damaged by hail?

Griggs said, yes but it was still under construction, so the contractor handled the repairs. Hood added that about 50 parks and rec vehicles sustained damage in the recent hail storms.

Commission Comments

Hine mentioned Clean-Up Columbia and complimented Brett O'Brien and Chad Herwald for their work as related to the event. Hine asked about Rhett's Run?

Hood said the mountain bike race would be held there in early May.

Hine complimented appearance of the Riechmann Pavilion but questioned the acoustics?

Griggs said staff had noticed an echo effect in the facility and were looking into methods to baffle the noise.

Pauls mentioned an event he had participated in at the Philips property. He said it had gone well and thanked staff for their efforts.

Grus said she had been part of the Broadway Bicycle/Pedestrian Corridor Plan Steering Committee at one time. She said the issues of widening Broadway have resurfaced and she wanted to ensure work done in the past would not be duplicated.

Hood responded that parks staff is not really involved at this point, but that planning department staff likely was.

Grus mentioned there had been discussions of connecting Broadway to the trail system.

Staff Comments

Hood told Commissioners that Arbor Day would be recognized on April 28 at Lange School with tree plantings and a ceremony.

Public Comments

None

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm.