

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

Thursday, February 15, 2007

7:00 p.m.

ARC, 1701 West Ash

MINUTES

Commission Present: Bill Pauls, Terry Kloeppe, Dennis Knudson, Julia Grus, Marin Blevins, Dan Devine, Mike Jones

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

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

Agenda: Hood informed the Commission there was another rezoning to add to the agenda. The agenda was approved as amended on a motion by Grus, seconded by Blevins.

Minutes: The January minutes were approved on a motion from Kloeppe, seconded by Knudson.

Monthly Report: Hood commented it has been a tough winter due to bad weather, which explains a decline in attendance numbers, particularly for the golf courses and the ARC.

Blevins said he was surprised there weren't more sledding infractions in the Park Ranger's report.

Griggs answered that the main problems were illegal parking.

Hood added ice skating was open at Stephens Lake Park for a few days, the first time in about 6 years.

The January monthly report was approved on a motion from Blevins, seconded by Kloeppe.

Rezoning – Masonic Home request, northeast Hwy. 63

This rezoning affects three tracts of land within a half-mile of the Atkins property and the Auburn Hills property. It is actually a voluntary annexation into the city, Griggs said. He said there are no drainage issues and no adverse impact seen from the proposal.

Devine made a motion, seconded by Knudson to recommend to City Council that they see no potential adverse impact to parks or trails from the proposed rezoning.

All in favor: Pauls, Kloeppe, Knudson, Grus, Blevins, Devine, Jones

Motion carried.

Rezoning – Pace Properties request, AC and Rock Quarry Road

Griggs said this tract is right off of Grindstone with Rock Quarry Park nearby. The purchase is dependent on the rezoning request; the potential buyer seeks to develop the land as the Rock Quarry Shops.

Hood added that there is a lot of opposition to this rezoning from the neighborhood. There is a lot of residences, as well as the Crossing Church nearby.

Griggs said no adverse impact to parks is anticipated.

Devine made a motion, seconded by Blevins to recommend to City Council that they see no potential adverse impact to parks or trails from the proposed rezoning.

All in favor: Pauls, Kloeppe, Knudson, Grus, Blevins, Devine, Jones

Motion carried.

Rezoning – Ash Street Arts, 1100 E. Ash

Griggs said this rezoning is in the former Sunshine Linens location. The buyer would change it to an art studio.

It would keep in accord with zoning intended for the central business district. The site is near the Village

Aquare Park, the Armory and Douglass Park. As the site is already developed, no adverse impact is anticipated.

Kloeppel made a motion, seconded by Blevins to recommend to City Council that they see no potential adverse impact to parks or trails from the proposed rezoning.

All in favor: Pauls, Kloeppel, Knudson, Grus, Blevins, Devine, Jones

Motion carried.

PedNet Project Report

Ted Curtis shared a presentation with the Commission on the status of the PedNet Project. The promotion and education portion of the project has been approved. Parks and recreation staff are working on some programs and events for the spring and summer.

Curtis showed a map with infrastructure, including bike routes, lanes, boulevards, and other routes. Curtis said he would like to follow the same systematic approach as Portland. Curtis said since Columbia is pressed for time under the constraints of the grant and probably won't see the true mode shifts displayed in Portland, but should see some progress each year toward increased transportation via bicycle and walking.

Curtis showed slides demonstrating different types of trails for both walkers and cyclists. He said developing standards for everyone is not easy but it is important to meet the needs of the community.

Pauls said he was most interested in nature trails and suggested multi-surfaces in some areas to keep the ambience of the area.

Curtis agreed that was important. He is trying get input to develop trail standards.

Jones asked how on the map the bike lanes would work in downtown Columbia?

Curtis said it would be unique. One possible solution is to loop around downtown via Ash and Park with bike lanes, removing some parking. Another unique situation is dealing with the college campuses.

Curtis added that the recreational aspects of the plan are critical. He said getting more people out cycling and increasing their confidence in riding is essential to the success of the project.

Kloeppel asked about bike safety?

Curtis said that would be covered in classes that will be offered.

Council Items

Hood said at the upcoming Council meeting (2/19), the Council will vote to approve new restrooms at Lake of the Woods, MKT-Scott access, MKT-Forum access, Kiwanis Park and Fairview Park. The new restrooms would be similar to the prefabricated state park restrooms, which are known to be durable and functional. All five would be built this summer.

The Council will also consider the idea of trail survey work. Hood said the department needs to begin identifying easements for future trail projects. Staff would like to start a series of studies to determine right-of-ways.

Another item up soon for Council consideration is the annual parks projects, which include adding a road at Nifong Park for the historic village, repairing sections of the trail at Valley View, and replacing the sign at Hickman Pool.

The Council will also consider the development of Longview neighborhood park, an 11-acre tract off of Gillespie Bridge Road. A unique feature of the park is a small lake.

Douglass Park improvements will also be on an upcoming Council agenda. Those improvements include basketball court reconstruction, a perimeter trail, and electrical improvements.

The last item on upcoming Council agendas is the reconstruction of Harris Shelter at Cosmo Park. The original shelter was near Antimi and had to be moved. It is proposed to be located near the front of the park.

Capital Projects Update

Griggs shared updates as follows:

Oakland Pool Bathhouse renovation includes new concession stand, family locker room, flooring and an entire "facelift" for the facility.

At the **Antimi Complex**, concrete was about to be poured when the bad weather stopped progress. This spring, new bleachers will be added.

PMC: crews have used the winter to make updates include new flooring in the forestry and horticulture offices. **New park signs** are being constructed.

Commission Comments

Kloeppel asked if the increase in minimum wage would impact the budget?

Hood said the impact would be most felt in the CARE program but there is enough set aside in the budget to accommodate participants this summer. A bigger concern is the summer of 2008.

Staff Comments

None

Public Comments

None

Meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.