

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

Thursday, January 20, 2011, 7 p.m.

ARC, 1701 W. Ash

MINUTES

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

Commission Absent: Meredith Donaldson, Linda Hutton

Staff Present: Mike Hood, Mike Griggs, Erika Coffman, Tammy Miller, Dave Dittmer

Blevins called the meeting to order at 7 pm.

Agenda: The agenda was approved on a motion by Kloepfel, seconded by Devine.

Minutes: The December minutes were approved on a motion by Kloepfel, seconded by Davis.

Monthly Report: The November and December monthly reports were approved on a motion by Pauls, seconded by Devine.

Staff Presentation

Griggs introduced Dave Dittmer, the department's new forester. Dittmer has worked with the department since 1998, when he began part-time employment.

Dittmer presented information to the Commission, describing his duties and division. He is responsible for tree care, trail construction and maintenance, management of nature areas, and programs such as Treekeepers and Arbor Day.

Kloepfel asked Dittmer how staff determines what types of trees to plant at which sites?

Dittmer replied that it largely depended on the site itself. Staff tries to do native species as much as possible, and also does some ornamental plantings.

Davis asked about the memorial heritage program?

Dittmer described the program and said that most people who purchase trees either want a specific tree or want a specific site. They are given a list of available trees.

Rezoning – 1517 McKee

Griggs described the property at 1517 McKee, where owners want to rezone from R-2 to PUD. The owner wanted to build a 10-12 unit multi-family complex with parking lot. About 75 percent of the site would remain open space.

Devine made a motion, seconded by Kloepfel, that the Commission recommend to Council that they see no adverse impacts to McKee Street Park due to the rezoning. Motion passed 5-0.

Natural Resources Inventory

Blevins asked if any Commissioners had any input on the natural resources inventory?

Kloepfel said he had read it, but had no real grasp of what type of input the committee was seeking.

Blevins asked about the funding of the inventory study?

Hood answered that the study was funded by others, not Parks and Recreation. It is intended as a databank to provide staff with information they need to make future decisions, in particular for land purchase.

Pauls commented that it did not seem appropriate for the Commission to analyze the content of the inventory but that he supported the document.

Devine agreed, saying it would be a good tool for the City.

Pauls made a motion, seconded by Davis that the Commission supports the use of the Natural Resources Inventory as a tool for City staff's use and future planning. Motion passed 5-0.

Bonnie View Park Master Plan Discussion

Hood reminded the Commission of the history of the new park, that it had been a 90-acre donation by the Russell family. It has been a controversial property, with the Council tabling a proposed master plan several years ago.

The plan was reinitiated in 2009 when Council asked the department to start the planning process again. Interested party and focus group meetings were held to gather input on the master plan. One more interested parties meeting is set for January 26 on the final proposed master plan.

Following that, staff would like the Commission to set a public hearing at their February 17 meeting and make a recommendation to Council. Council would then set a public hearing at a March meeting and would then make a decision, Hood said.

Staff considered Bonnie View, Fairview and the adjacent Audubon property together when putting together the Bonnie View plan.

Hood shared details of the plan. Some representatives of Audubon had been opposed to a trail and there was also some opposition to a parking lot. Those opposed to parking lots have cited speeding and increased traffic.

Pauls commented that the park seems inaccessible without parking and lots would be needed to make them more usable.

Kloeppel agreed, saying that it seems a parking lot would be better than park users parking in front of homes.

Pauls said that the plan seemed like a good compromise between a natural area and use as a park.

Devine made a motion, seconded by Pauls that the Commission schedule a public hearing at their February 17 meeting to gather input on the proposed master plan for Bonnie View Park.

Motion passed 5-0.

MPRA Conference

The Conference will be held March 8-10 in St. Louis. Donaldson and Pauls will attend the full conference and Blevins will attend on Tuesday.

Council Items

Hood mentioned several items the Council will be taking action on:

Alcohol Ban in Downtown Parks: ordinance is in the process of being drafted.

Park Sales Tax Implementation Plan: was adopted by the Council. Funds have been appropriated for the current budget year.

3M Urban Ecology Restoration Project: Hood shared plans for the project that is made possible by a \$40,000 grant from 3M. An area of the MKT around the Hinkson Creek will be restored by removing invasive species. A groundbreaking event for the project will be held in April.

Capital Projects

Griggs shared these updates:

Atkins: Worn sod was replaced.

Rock Quarry House: roof is being replaced.

Albert-Oakland Pool: structures are being painted in preparation for the summer.

Stephens Lake Park: trees being planted near the amphitheater.

Armory: water-damaged floor being repaired.

Hinkson Creek Trail: safety railing installed along the new portion of the trail.
Hickman Pool: renovations made to the office with tile, counter and new paint.
Lake of the Woods: tile replaced in men's restroom at Clubhouse.
L.A. Nickell: new tile installed at entry to replace carpet.
Indian Hills Park: new fencing installed at dog park.
PMC: office prepared for golf supervisor.

Recreation Services Update

Coffman shared these updates:

Some recreation offices have moved, including CARE office to the Armory, Sports offices to the Gentry Building, one sports position to the ARC and the Golf division to PMC. This meets the recreation strategic plan and eliminates office rental for the CARE program.

First Night had a successful year, though attendance may have been down due to the holiday falling on a Friday night.

Osher program recently had an Open House at SLAC.

TaeKwon Do continues to be a popular part of the Life Enrichment program.

Preschool activities have been successful.

Black History Month activities are planned including Film and Discussion, Health Care Panel Discussion, Talent Show, and Gospel Explosion.

Upcoming Events include: Boy and Girl Scout Day, softball registration, New Leisure Times and the Annual Train Show.

Blevins complimented ARC staff on the Happy New U event held on New Year's Day.

Commission Comments

None

Staff Comments

None

Public Comments

None

Meeting adjourned at 8:25 pm.