

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

Thursday, July 21, 2005

Daniel Boone City Building, 701 E. Broadway

Mezzanine Conference Room

7:00 pm

MINUTES

Commission Present: Dan Devine, Bill Pauls, Dennis Knudson, Larry Hine, Marin Blevins

Commission Absent: Terry Kloeppe, Julia Grus

Staff Present: Mike Hood, Mike Griggs, Tammy Miller

Meeting called to order at 7:30 pm by Devine.

Election of Officers: Devine asked for nominations for the position of Commission Chair. Pauls nominated Devine, nomination seconded by Hine. Devine was elected Chair on a unanimous vote.

Devine asked for nominations for Vice Chair. Knudson nominated Pauls, seconded by Hine. Pauls was elected Vice Chair on a vote of 4-0 with Pauls abstaining.

Devine then asked for nominations for Commission secretary. Hine nominated Tammy Miller, public information specialist to continue serving in the role; seconded by Pauls. Miller elected secretary on a unanimous vote.

Agenda: Hood asked the Commission to add a rezoning to the agenda. The agenda was approved as amended on a motion from Pauls, seconded by Hine.

Minutes: The June minutes were approved on a motion from Blevins, seconded by Knudson.

Monthly Report: Hine asked about the Park Ranger's report, specifically the loose rooster in the trees at Nifong Park?

Griggs explained that the rooster was disturbing a performance at the Maplewood Barn. It's unknown how the rooster got in the trees.

Knudson asked if there had been anything else reported about the drowning at Douglass Pool in June.

Hood said the Parks Department had not heard anything else since the incident.

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

Senate Bills Nos. 420 and 344

Hood told the Commission that this new legislation required written permission from elected officials or anyone on a commission or board to post their personal contact information on a Web site. In this case, the Parks and Recreation Commissioners are posted on the Parks and Rec Web site with their home telephone number and e-mail address. Hood asked if the Commissioners would sign a form giving authorization for this information to remain on the site. If the Commissioners would prefer, the information would be taken down.

Hine commented he appreciated the information being on the site, as it made it easier for residents to contact him. He added he felt it was the duty of being a commissioner to be accessible.

Master Plan Updates

Hood said this past spring, City Council asked staff and the Commission to review the Neighborhood Parks Master Plan. The Council recognizes the City is growing at a rapid pace, and asked that the Parks and Recreation staff affirm that the Master Plan addressed growing areas of the city. Hood added that the city's growth patterns also impacted the Trails and Greenbelt Plan. These proposed revisions were detailed in maps provided to the Commission.

Hood commented that in the past, the Commission had held public hearings to seek public input into the Master Plan, particularly when the plan was adopted in 2002. If the Commission preferred not to hold public hearings, then Hood suggested that the Commission provide a report to the City Council detailing their recommendations. Hood added that the staff is recommending some changes to the Trails Master Plan, such as possible connections

between Rock Bridge State Park and the City's Philips property.

Hine asked if there had been much public comment yet?

Hood said no, that the revised maps had not been shown extensively yet.

Hine then asked about the status of the lake on the Philips property in relation to the Master Plan?

Hood said that the lake is still under Mr. Sapp's possession, and may be determined to have "Waters of the State" status.

Knudson asked about Hinkson Creek Trail in relation to I-70 and future plans to expand?

Hood answered that the trail is proposed to go under I-70, that there would be plenty of room to go under the highway.

Pauls asked if we had conducted public hearings in relation to the Master Plan in the past?

Hood said that we did in 2002 when the Plan was first adopted.

Griggs added that staff could do a formal presentation and then take input as part of the public hearing.

Hood said that August or September would be most desirable to hold the hearing.

Devine asked how the November ballot issue would relate to Master Plan changes?

Hood said, yes that should be considered so August may be the best time to have the hearing to gather input.

Pauls moved that a public hearing be held at the next Commission meeting (August 18) to gather input regarding potential changes to the Parks and Recreation Neighborhood Park Master Plan and the Trails and Greenbelt Plan.

Blevins seconded the motion.

All in favor: Hine, Blevins, Devine, Pauls, Knudson

Motion carried.

NRPA Conference

Hood mentioned the NRPA Conference which will be in San Antonio Oct. 18-22. Any Commission member interested in attending should contact Tammy Miller. Ristow will go as the president of the state chapter, and Hood will likely attend as well.

Ballot Issue Update

Hood described the three areas that will be on the ballot this November (transportation, public safety and parks) and gave background information on the sunset provisions of existing sales taxes. Hood said the ballot structure has been debated among the City Council. The Council has especially relied on two citizen surveys—one in April and one in July—to determine support for the issues. It appears as of this meeting that there will be six questions on the ballot, two of them parks-related. The surveys indicated strong support for either a five-year or ten-year extension of the park sales tax.

Hood said as of now (July 18), the first question would address park improvements over eight years. The second ballot question would involve the development of a multi-use facility at the Ash-Clinkscales property over an additional two years. Hood said there was a lot of support for an ice rink at recent public hearing, however, surveys showed lukewarm support.

Devine asked how much support transportation and public safety had in the surveys?

Hood said that they had the strongest support of all issues, but parks also had strong support.

Council Items

Hood informed the Commission on these items discussed at the Council meeting Monday:

- Hood provided an update to the Council on the bathhouse at Stephens Lake Park. He presented five options: the first three would be to go ahead as originally planned with changes in location, the fourth option would be to dramatically reduce the size of the bathhouse, and the fifth option was to eliminate the bathhouse altogether and build a restroom. Council chose to go with the fifth option. Hood mentioned there had been many concerns voiced about the bathhouse blocking the view of the lake. The fifth option is intended to help eliminate those concerns. Griggs mentioned the restroom would be built near the spot where the two trails connect. Hood added that the restroom would be a third of the size of the bathhouse. After a year of the beach being open, there really has been limited demand for a bathhouse. Hood said Mayor Hindman encouraged staff to upgrade the restroom materials from money saved from not building the bathhouse.

Devine asked what would happen if the beach ever became a paid facility and there was a need for a bathhouse-type structure for patrons to pass through?

Hood answered that staff would have to re-evaluate the idea of a bathhouse and would likely have to construct a facility that would meet such needs.

Capital Projects Update

Griggs shared project updates as follows:

- Day camp building at Stephens Lake is going up, trusses are being set. Also at Stephens Lake, construction on Broadway is at the point to allow the perimeter trail to be completed.
- At Nifong Park, the cabin chimneys are going up.
- At Cosmo Park, staff has been working a lot on maintenance, including an asphalt overlay, widening the road by Antimi and shaping up the RC track.
- At American Legion Park, the batting cages have been started.
- Paquin – Staff is beginning the new fence and shelter.
- At Bear Creek, staff added rock to the trail connection at Garth.

Rezoning – West side of Brown Station Road, north of Starke Avenue

Griggs said the proposed rezoning is set between the sites of two potential major parks. He added that the major concern from the development is storm water control particularly on the Smith property, which will be developed as part of the Master Plan.

Hood added that the Trail Master Plan includes plans for Bear Creek Trail to be extended to the new park, so he would like the developer to set aside easements to allow for the trail connection. He said that the drainage runs right through the tract of land so a trail easement will be necessary.

Devine asked if there is a potential drainage problem for Bear Creek Trail as well as the park property?

Hood answered, yes there is potential but storm water control would remedy those problems.

Hine made a motion to recommend the developer be required to provide adequate stormwater controls to protect the downstream drainage of Bear Creek. It was noted in the motion that the City's Trails and Greenbelt Master Plan identifies the need for a trail along this drainage to link the City's Smith property to the existing Bear Creek Trail. The Commission recommends that the Council work with the developer to establish necessary trail easements through the proposed new development to allow for the future construction of such a trail connection. Blevins seconded the motion.

All in favor: Hine, Blevins, Devine, Pauls, Knudson

Motion carried.

Commission Comments

Pauls thanked parks staff for completion of the Bear Creek Trail connection at Garth.

Blevins thanked Tammy Miller for preparing the minutes and agenda for the meetings, making it easy for Commissioners to prepare for the meeting.

Devine mentioned that his daughter's boyfriend visited from out of town and said that Stephens Lake Park was the nicest park he had ever seen.

Pauls added that the Stephens Lake dedication was great.

Staff Comments

Hood reminded the Commission that the Show-Me State Games are scheduled the next three weekends.

Public Comments

Hine said his neighborhood group appreciates the work done by the forester in selecting trees for the parks. He added that he appreciated the courtesy email he received, letting him know that a bluebird box would be removed to allow for work on Bear Creek.

Meeting adjourned at 9:15 pm.