

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

Thursday, July 20, 2006

Daniel Boone City Building, 701 E. Broadway

Mezzanine Conference Room

7:00 pm

MINUTES

Commission Present: Bill Pauls, Terry Kloepfel, Dennis Knudson, Julia Grus, Marin Blevins, Mike Jones
Staff Present: Mike Griggs, Tammy Miller

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

Agenda: Griggs asked Commissioners to amend the agenda, moving the public hearing after election of officers. The agenda was approved as amended on a motion from Knudson, seconded by Blevins.

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

Monthly Report: The June monthly report was approved on a motion from Blevins, seconded by Knudson.

Election of Officers

Pauls asked for nominations for Commission secretary. Knudson nominated Tammy Miller, public information specialist to continue serving in the role; seconded by Blevins. Miller elected secretary on a unanimous vote. Knudson then said if others on the Commission were agreeable, he would like to see Pauls and Kloepfel continue in their roles as chair and vice-chair, though he did not mind which one served in which position. Pauls commented that Kloepfel had been on the board for a longer tenure, and he would defer to Kloepfel to be elected chair.

Blevins nominated Kloepfel as chair and Pauls as vice-chair, seconded by Grus. However, Kloepfel declined the nomination, saying he preferred to remain vice-chair.

Blevins amended his motion to nominate Pauls as chair and Kloepfel, seconded by Grus. Pauls elected chair and Kloepfel elected vice-chair on a unanimous vote.

Public Hearing: Garth Dog Park

Pauls opened the public hearing by asking for the staff presentation.

Griggs pointed out on a map where the proposed Garth Nature Area dog park would be. He said he thought it would be a popular spot for a leash-free area. Griggs added that an informal public meeting was held on July 10 at the site and it was well-attended. Concepts were reviewed at that time and a strong consensus was reached on where the area should be located. It will be about two and a half acres in size.

Knudson asked about the size of the leash-free area at Twin Lakes?

Griggs answered that it was about six acres, but much of that is hillside and is not really used by dog owners. Active use of the area is about three acres.

Grus asked about how the Twin Lakes area has been received?

Griggs said that there have been no complaints from fishermen about dogs since the leash-free fence was installed. It has been a very positive response.

Blevins mentioned code requirements and asked if there would be a problem with one entrance and one exit to the area?

Griggs said no there would not, but additional gates may be added at some point.

Pauls said the area would be a big help to the Park Patrol as far as the trails and helping separate dogs from non owners. He added that the dog park has a great deal of public support in his ward. He asked Griggs about an unimproved area along the creek where there are many unleashed dogs, and if this would be eliminated.

Griggs said yes, the new ordinance would allow the director to define leash-free areas.

Pauls asked about hours of the dog park?

Griggs said it would be the same as the parks, 7 a.m. to 11 p.m.

Pauls then asked if there were plans to create a leash-free area at Stephens Lake Park.

Griggs said no, it was not supported when the master plan for the park was created, but that might change pending public input.

Pauls then opened the public hearing to public comment.

Randy Williams, 304 Whitetail, representing the Hunter's Gate Neighborhood Association, spoke in favor of the proposal. He had attended the July 10 meeting and said there was only one person advocating for keeping large and small dogs separated, but that the majority of the group favored the proposal before the Commission. He asked about the lake near the area and if dog owners would be allowed into that area?

Griggs said there are some manholes in that area and staff is trying to work around it. He said a change there could be made at the Council meeting.

Pauls mentioned that he would like to stay as close to the proposal on the table so that supporters of the plan would not be surprised by any sudden changes.

A member of the press asked various questions of Griggs for a newspaper article.

Pauls closed the public hearing.

Kloepfel made a motion, seconded by Knudson, that the proposed leash-free area at Garth Nature Area be recommended to the City Council for approval.

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

Motion carried.

Rezoning – West of Parker, north of Northland

Griggs said this rezoning is near Oakland Park and is being requested by the Albert family. They plan to redevelop the sites as originally intended by Paul Albert some years ago. Basements are already there.

Grus 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, as long as adequate stormwater controls are implemented.

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

Motion carried.

Rezoning – Stadium 63 Properties

Griggs told commissioners that this rezoning is within a half-mile of the Old 63 roadside park, near Shepard Park and is also near Grindstone. It may affect future trails in that area.

Grus made a motion, seconded by Knudson, that the Commission agreed to inform the Council that they see no potential for adverse impact from the proposed rezoning, but recommends that proper stormwater controls are implemented by the developer to protect Hinkson Creek at the Grindstone Nature Area. The Commission also recommends greenspace be reserved for future trail considerations.

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

Motion carried.

Council Items

Griggs told the Commission that City Council has referred to them the matter of the four proposals for the land at Ash and Clinkscales. He passed out copies of the proposals and the staff report and asked them to review the material before the next Commission meeting on August 17. That meeting will be held at the ARC to accommodate an anticipated large crowd.

Grus asked about the longevity of the four organizations making the proposals?

Griggs said that BIG and PRIDE are relatively new and that CYBA and the Farmers Market have been around a long time.

Blevins asked what he and other Commissioners should keep in mind as they review the material before the meeting?

Griggs said they should keep in mind the mission of each project and the end result. He said the missions are similar and difficult to distinguish but that commissioners should try to look for those differences.

He added that the BIG organization is still exploring the feasibility of whether the community can support ice.

Pauls asked what end result the Council would be seeking?

Griggs said they would have options of making a recommendation to Council or tabling the issue until the September meeting.

Capital Projects Update

Griggs shared updates as follows:

Highpointe- amenities are nearly complete with shelter, playground, trail and a half basketball court slightly larger than normal.

MLK Memorial- paving projects are ongoing.

Stephens Lake Park- Entry signs are bricked, awaiting lettering. Fountains in the lake are operational and bike racks and swingsets have been installed.

Fairview/Cosmo tennis courts- work started the day of Commission meeting, with removal of fences at Fairview. The courts there will be slightly larger, but not much because trees surrounding the courts will be maintained.

Commission Comments

Blevins said he had out-of-town guests recently who were impressed with Stephens Lake Park, calling it a showpiece.

Jones asked about men's leagues for fall softball, commenting that they seemed to fill up more quickly than normal. He asked if leagues had been cut and said that he knew of four teams wanting to sign up. He asked if anything could be done.

Griggs responded that he knew leagues on Fridays had been cut but didn't know of others. He said staff would look into it.

Knudson asked for an update on the Mavericks proposal and the possibility of building more leagues for youth.

Griggs said staff has been working on cost estimates for building two new fields in time for the 2007 summer season. He said the fall is not as much of a concern because high school fields can be used.

Knudson asked which would be more helpful to us, one big stadium or several new fields?

Griggs said the stadium would not be helpful to providing more fields to the Diamond Council or others. He said the additional fields would help.

Knudson then asked when the next deadline is in the process of the memo of understanding between the Mavericks and the City?

Griggs answered that he did not know of any deadlines, that there were none set as far as he knew. He told the Commission that the process would have to move very fast in order to have fields built by next summer.

Staff Comments

Griggs mentioned that the MLK Memorial rededication will be held on August 28. Show-Me Games will be held the weekends of July 21-23, 28-30 and August 4-6. Parks staff will be busy with fields and Park Ranger Arenas will be under the jurisdiction of the Columbia Police Department at those times.

Public Comments

None

Meeting adjourned at 8:20 pm.