

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

Thursday, March 17, 2011, 7 p.m.

ARC, 1701 W. Ash

MINUTES

Commission Present: Marin Blevins, Sue Davis, Dan Devine, Terry Kloeppel, Bill Pauls, Meredith Donaldson, Linda Hutton

Staff Present: Mike Hood, Mike Griggs, Erika Coffman, Tammy Miller, Camren Cross

Davis called the meeting to order at 7:04 pm.

Agenda: The agenda was approved on a motion by Kloeppel, seconded by Pauls.

Minutes: The February minutes were approved on a motion by Kloeppel, seconded by Donaldson.

Monthly Report: The February monthly report was approved on a motion by Donaldson, seconded by Blevins.

Staff Presentation

Coffman introduced Camren Cross, the recreation supervisor over Community Recreation. Camren has been with the department about seven years. Cross described his program which is based at the Armory Sports Center. He said it is geared to offer recreational opportunities to the citizens of the First Ward, but is open to the whole community. He distributed information about his programs and made a Powerpoint presentation to the Commission. The presentation showed photos from many of the Community Recreation programs.

Following the presentation, Donaldson asked Cross if parents had to give permission for their children to participate in Armory after-school programs?

Cross responded that staff rarely saw parents, that kids typically came to the Armory on their own.

Davis asked about the success of the program in averting crime?

Cross said that police did conduct a study where it was found that there was a 36 percent decrease in crime in the Douglass area while Moonlight Hoops was going on.

Blevins complimented Cross on his work and all he does for the department.

Council Items

Hood shared these updates:

Bonnie View - Council received the Commissioner's recommendations on Bonnie View and Scott's Branch. Hood said several dog owners in the area have expressed concern about the proposed policy to ban dogs at Bonnie View. There has also been concern about the route of Scott's Branch from trail users. Hood expects both factions to attend the Council public hearings on those issues.

Davis commented that former Mayor Darwin Hindman had attended the Bike and Pedestrian Committee meeting the night before and asked that the Commission ask the Council to defer the issue of the trail route until they had the opportunity to review it. No such action was taken, Davis said. She added that some members may attend the Council meeting.

Devine asked if these new oppositions would affect anything moving forward?

Hood answered that staff does not anticipate problems with the park plan itself. He said these issues were with management policies so he hoped that the master plan would be approved on its own.

Maplewood Barn – Staff is working with the theater group on the replacement for the barn. The group is planning a fundraiser at ps Gallery and an interested parties meeting is scheduled for April 14 at the ARC so the public can review the latest plan. The goal is to have the structure completed by May of 2012 with construction starting in August.

Donaldson asked if there was contention about the design?

Hood said that not all public input has been received yet, so he was not sure what type of feedback staff would hear.

Fifth Street Lot – Hood showed slides of a new property that the City is planning to purchase next to Douglass Park. This is on the same block as other properties acquired that will someday be part of an expanded Douglass Park. Property owners on that block approach the City when they are ready to sell, Hood said.

Devine asked if there are plans for another park entrance off of 5th?

Hood said not at this time; however the whole park will likely be looked at as part of the master plan.

MPRA Conference Report (skipped on agenda)

The three Commissioners who attended the MPRA Conference shared their thoughts: Blevins mentioned the Forest Park Tour specifically and its recent renovations. He was impressed with the number of staff and volunteers it took to maintain the park.

Pauls said he enjoyed most sessions, particularly the presentation about Lee's Summit's Friends of the Park program. He thought it would be good to implement such a program in Columbia.

Donaldson said the information she received from vendors was very useful. She also attended sessions regarding topics she was not familiar with such as risk assessment. She thought the conference was well-managed and was impressed with the depth of the profession.

Griggs added that Parks Supervisor Gabe Huffington received the Outstanding Young Leader Award at the conference.

Capital Projects

Griggs shared these updates:

Rock Quarry Park: new roof is nearly complete and a new sign has been installed at the park.

Philips Park: new signage has been placed, asking park users to carry out their trash if they are using the trail. Staff is trying to avoid placing trash cans around the trail.

Bat boxes and bluebird houses: built by volunteers and installed.

American Legion: dugouts at the renovated fields constructed.

Antimi concession building: Funds donated by the Diamond Council for improvements to the tournament room.

Cosmo Park: Boards replaced on main entrance sign.

Nickell Golf Course: new counter tops have been installed at Clubhouse.

Heritage tree: new tree planted in front of City Hall in honor of former Mayor Darwin Hindman.

Recreation Services Update

Coffman shared these updates:

Osher classes: newest session at Stephens Lake Activity Center began March 7.

Preschool: latest activities have gone well.

Zumba at SLAC: class that has gained in popularity.

CYBA: season ends this weekend.

Lacrosse: practices began this week for Mid-Missouri Lacrosse, goal is to spark more interest in the sport.

Aquatics: Preparations for the summer continue with sessions of lifeguard training.

Golf: New partnership with Gustin Golf Course on the Golf Super Card. Punchcard allows holder to play at Gustin, Lake of the Woods or L.A. Nickell. Cost of card is \$200.

Upcoming Events: 34th Annual Train Show held on March 19, Tons of Trucks set for April 6, Kite Flying Day set for April 9, Flashlight Easter Egg Hunt on April 15, Family Fun Fest on April 20, Egg Hunt EGGstravaganza on April 23, and Outdoor Movies on May 6.

Coffman also mentioned that the flooring in the second floor of the ARC will be replaced soon. The work will be done in phases and equipment will be moved to ensure availability.

Commission Comments

None.

Staff Comments

None.

Public Comments

None.

Meeting adjourned at 8:25 pm.