

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

Thursday, March 16, 2006

Daniel Boone City Building, 701 E. Broadway

Mezzanine Conference Room

7:00 pm

MINUTES

Commission Present: Bill Pauls, Terry Kloepfel, Dennis Knudson, Larry Hine, Julia Grus, Marin Blevins, Mike Jones

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

Meeting called to order at 7:05 pm by Pauls, who welcomed new commissioner Mike Jones. Jones is the new representative of Ward 3.

Agenda: Hood asked the commission to amend the agenda to include a presentation by Fred Young of the Greenbelt Land Trust. The amended agenda was approved on a motion from Hine, seconded by Knudson.

Minutes: The February minutes were approved on a motion from Kloepfel, seconded by Hine.

Monthly Report: Hine asked about a citation for an individual cutting down trees at Kiwanis Park? Griggs answered yes, the property owner was trying to see into the park.

Blevins asked for clarification about the ARC numbers.

Ristow said the average per day over the last month has been 1,213 visitors.

Pauls asked if the ARC was still self-sustaining? Ristow said yes, that in fact, the facility had its busiest day ever on Presidents Day.

Blevins asked about the expanded parking at the ARC? Hood said the Council has approved it, and work should be done this summer.

The February monthly report was approved on a motion from Hine, seconded by Blevins.

Greenbelt Land Trust

Fred Young, representative of the Greenbelt Land Trust, gave a presentation on how the organization works and how it benefits the city parks system. The Land Trust is derived from the old Greenbelt Coalition and has the objective of maintaining a network of green space around mid-Missouri. The trust obtains land and easements through donation or purchase and works in partnerships to manage the lands and conserve the environment.

Young shared information with the Commission on how the trust can benefit parks, including effectively increasing the city's parkland by owning two properties within the city. The trust provides another option to landowners who are interested in donating land, but not to a government entity. The trust may also in the future be able to negotiate real estate transactions that are not available to the city.

Hood mentioned that the city has always had a good working relationship with the Greenbelt Land Trust and added that the trust is valuable for the role it serves in protecting the environment and preserving green space.

Kloepfel asked how many members were in the trust?

Young answered between 40 and 50, and that the trust is undercapitalized.

Rezoning

East side of Fay Street between Smith and Wilkes

Griggs said the request is near Field Park, and that no adverse effect is expected.

Blevins moved that the Commission recommend to the City Council that no adverse impact on city parks and trails is expected from the proposed rezoning. Hine seconded the motion.

All in favor, motion passes.

West of Brown Station Road, near corner intersecting State Route B

Griggs said the tract is near the proposed park on the Smith-Waco property. At this time there is no master plan for this proposed park, but it is anticipated that it may be similar in size and amenities to Cosmo-Bethel Park. Adequate stormwater control would be crucial. Griggs added that traffic will also be a factor, but it was anticipated that this proposed development would generate a lot of traffic, so it is not a real concern.

Hood added that staff had anticipated this park would eventually be surrounded by residential development, which is the reason a park was planned in this location.

Hine moved that the Commission advise the City Council that the commission believes there is the potential for adverse effects to the proposed Smith-Waco park land from increased stormwater run-off, unless adequate stormwater controls are required and implemented as part of the development of this property. Grus seconded the motion.

All in favor, motion passes.

Riechmann Pavilion Dedication

Hood said the pavilion is complete except for some landscaping and other exterior work. The facility had its first public rental on March 3. An open house is planned for the Camp Adventure program on March 18.

A formal dedication for the facility will be held Saturday, April 29 in late morning. The date was chosen to allow members of the Riechmann family to attend. Formal invitations will be mailed in the coming weeks. Hood asked if the Commission would like to hold its April meeting at the pavilion. Commissioners agreed.

MPRA Conference

Kloeppel said he attended one day of the conference and was able to view many of the exhibits and get information.

Ristow added that the conference was well-attended and the keynote speaker was especially good. Hood said one of the best opportunities afforded to staff was the chance to meet with multiple firms regarding work at Douglass Pool.

Council Items

Hood said at the March 6 meeting, the Council approved plans for Smith-Manhasset park. Work will begin this summer. Staff will work to acquire a lot for the turn-around to save the large oak trees in the area. Council also approved the list of paving projects, as well as a partnership with the Department of Conservation for fishing management at Philips Lake. The partnership includes funding from Conservation for the development of facilities at the lake to enable fishing to occur. At the March 20 City Council meeting, Hood said the Council would consider the cost of acquiring easements for the proposed County House Branch Trail.

Capital Projects Update

Griggs shared project updates:

-Restrooms at Nifong Park and Stephens Lake are nearing completion.

- Roller hockey boards at the rink behind the Skate Park are complete and the new rink is ready for programming.
- Work at Flat Branch Phase II is ongoing.
- The contractor at the new concession stand at Antimi is almost finished, then parks crews will work on lighting.
- Work is being done on a sidewalk at Paquin.
- Batting cages at American Legion are nearly complete.

Kloeppel asked about the trail going under Providence?
Griggs answered that it would hopefully be done this summer.

Commission Comments

Grus asked about the Blind Boone Home, if fundraising is still taking place?
Hood said the city is in the process of applying for a grant to fund the work. It would be a similar grant to the one obtained for the MLK Memorial.
Knudson asked about bike racks at Stephens Lake? Griggs told him they had been ordered. Knudson then asked about trail standards.
Hood told him that the only time MoDOT standards come into play are when federal funds are involved.
Knudson asked staff if a leash-free area is planned at Stephens Lake.
Hood said it is not part of the park's master plan at this time.
Pauls followed up with a question about the leash-free area at Garth, if it would be fenced? Hood said staff is considering it. Councilman Janku asked staff to clearly define the leash-free area there, and fencing is one way to accomplish that, Hood said.
Blevins said he had received some questions about a third municipal golf course?
Hood said the demand for golf is flat right now. The city has seen no substantial increase in play at Nickell or Lake of the Woods, so demand for a third course is very limited.
Hine attended the TreeKeepers breakfast the previous Saturday at Rock Quarry and commented it was a nice event. He asked about any follow-up with Rhett's Run?
Hood said staff had met with Dan Clinkenbeard about the upcoming mountain bike race. The race will be held, but Hood said staff made it clear that the planned route must be the one followed.
New commissioner Mike Jones complimented staff on their work. He asked how fees are assessed.
Hood explained that fees are reviewed as part of the budget process and are approved through ordinance by City Council. The fees are reviewed each year to determine if they are in line with other similar cities and if they will help the department meet revenue targets set.
Ristow added that the Missouri Parks and Recreation Association (MPRA) does a comprehensive statewide survey of parks fees, so we have that information as well.
Hood told Jones that the Commission in August will have the opportunity to review the budget and make any comments.
Pauls asked staff about parking lot lights at Stephens Lake?
Griggs said some have been ordered for the lots off of Old 63 and Broadway. They are designed to provide enough light for safety but not to be intrusive.
Knudson asked about the parking issue with the Community College?
Hood said he had received a proposal the day before but had not had time to review it closely.

Public Comments

Hine asked staff to contact him before trying to move any bluebird boxes on Bear Creek Trail. It is nesting season, and the boxes cannot be moved right now.

Staff Comments

None.

Meeting adjourned at 8:37 pm.