

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

Thursday, May 15, 2008, 7:00 p.m.

ARC, 1701 West Ash

MINUTES

Commission Present: Terry Kloepfel, Marin Blevins, Dennis Knudson, Julia Grus, Gary Kespohl

Staff Present: Mike Hood, Mike Griggs, Tammy Miller

Kloepfel called the meeting to order at 7:02 pm.

Agenda: Hood asked that the naming of the Atkins property be added to the agenda. The agenda was approved as amended on a motion by Blevins, seconded by Kespohl.

Minutes: The April minutes were approved on a motion from Blevins, seconded by Kespohl.

Monthly Report:

Blevins asked about an item in the Ranger's report about some people robbing dumpsters?

Griggs said they were throwing trash onto the ground, looking for cans to recycle. The dumpsters have been a popular target in the past, he said. Some of them are locked, including those at the golf courses and at Twin Lakes.

Kloepfel asked where the Eastport Park is?

Hood said it would be located at the Lake of the Woods exit, south of I-70 in the Eastport subdivision. The land for the park was donated. Hood said it was not an ideal site for a park because it's in a floodplain and is an odd-shaped tract. Plans for the park consist of a playground, open play area, trail and three small one-table shelters.

Griggs added that two plans for the park have been presented and the final one was based on input from the neighborhood. There were large crowds at the interested party meetings, both for Eastport and for the Grasslands.

The monthly report was approved on a motion by Blevins, seconded by Knudson.

Rezoning: Columbia Bass Properties

The site is located northeast of the Highway 63/Vandiver interchange. Plans are to rezone from A-1/PUD to C-P. Vandiver is being routed north to border the east of the property, which led to the request. The rezoning would affect the extension of the Hinkson Creek Trail, said Griggs, so Best Management Practices (BMPs) would be recommended for storm water control.

Grus made a motion, seconded by Blevins, to recommend to City Council that they see no potential for adverse impact to parks and trails as long as BMPs for storm water controls are implemented.

All in favor: Kloepfel, Blevins, Knudson, Grus, Kespohl

Motion passed.

Rezoning: Waters Realty Request

This rezoning request is at 313 E. Ash, south of Douglass Park. The tract is only about .18 acre and the request is to rezone it from general industrial to central business district to match adjacent property, Griggs told the Commission. Griggs said the tract drains away from Douglass, so no problems are foreseen with the rezoning. Blevins made a motion, seconded by Kespohl, to recommend to City Council that they see no potential for adverse impact to parks and trails from the proposed rezoning.

All in favor: Kloepfel, Blevins, Knudson, Grus, Kespohl

Motion passed.

Naming Recommendation for New Regional Park

Hood said after discussing the names for the Crane and Philips tracts for several months, staff felt it was time to put a recommendation in front of the Council. He reminded the Commission of the properties. The Philips tract consists of the lake portion which was donated and the remainder around the lake, which the City purchased. The Crane tract, which was purchased, lies directly across Gans Road. Hood reviewed the department's naming policy and the results of the citizen web survey, that was conducted over the winter. He made three main points: the City is obligated to name the Philips property after A. Perry Philips. Based on that, staff felt the tracts should be named separately. Secondly, Hood said normally a park with an anticipated high recreational use generally went by Recreation Area rather than Park, such as Columbia Cosmopolitan Recreation Area. The third point to consider is the name itself...staff recommends A. Perry Philips Park for the Philips tract and Gans Creek Recreation Area for the Crane tract, but Commission does not have to recommend those names.

Kespohl asked for clarification on just the lake being named Philips?

Hood answered that after reviewing the agreement, the entire park needs to be named that, not just the lake. He added that it was not unprecedented to have a park and recreation area adjoining each other; Capen Park and Grindstone Recreation Area are side-by-side.

Blevins asked if the Crane family had made any wishes known?

Hood said it was understood that since the City paid a fair market price for that property, naming rights were not part of the agreement. He said staff feared that if that tract was named for the Cranes, that it would discourage future gifts of land. Naming rights are generally considered part of a gift of a park.

Kespohl mentioned that it seemed there was no question about Philips needing to be named that. Of the other names, he said he liked Southeast, but realized that with the city's growth, that park may not be "southeast" forever. He liked either Gans Creek or Gans Road, saying that adding Road may make the park easier to find. Blevins agreed with Kespohl on not naming it Southeast Recreation Area. He felt it was important to stay away from directionals in the name.

Kloeppel said he preferred Recreation Area to Park, since at least a portion of the tract will likely be high use. He added that it would likely be shortened anyway, as in Cosmo Park.

Blevins made a motion, seconded by Grus, that the Commission accept staff's recommendation and recommend to City Council that the Philips tract be named A. Perry Philips Park and the Crane tract, Gans Creek Recreation Area.

All in favor: Kloeppel, Blevins, Knudson, Grus, Kespohl

Motion passed.

Naming Recommendation for Atkins Property

Hood said construction of two fields on the property was winding down and a name would have to be chosen soon for signage. The property is owned jointly by the City and County, as a donation from Thomas Atkins, but the City has naming rights and will be responsible for construction and maintenance of the fields. Since the tract was donated, Hood said staff prefers to name the property after the Atkins family or a name of Mr. Atkins' choosing. Hood said he had spoken with Atkins who indicated support for the idea but said he would like some time to choose a specific name. Hood said he believed he would choose to name it after his father or mother. Hood said if the Commission is supportive of naming the property in honor of the Atkins family, a motion to that effect would be appropriate. Or, if Commission would prefer to wait for an exact name, that would be fine too. He said staff felt a bit pressed for time, since the next Commission meeting will fall after both City Council meetings in June.

Knudson asked about the entire tract, what was planned eventually?

Hood said ultimately 10 fields are planned there, which would occupy 80 percent of the site.

Kespohl asked about naming the tract for the city and county, and the fields themselves after Atkins?

Hood said that leaving the fields unnamed at this point may inspire future gifts.

Griggs added that the signage at the site would stipulate City/County to signify the partnership.

Kloeppel asked when the fields would open for play?

Hood answered that the exact date is not known...weather has delayed construction. The games are being

played at American Legion now, but would move to Atkins when completed.

Kloeppel said he felt comfortable with Atkins naming the whole area, then features could be named within the park, much like Rainbow and Antimi at Cosmo Park.

Kespohl said as long as the City and County's partnership was made clear, he was comfortable with it as well.

Blevins made a motion, seconded by Kespohl, directing staff to move forward in working with the Atkins family to name the tract.

All in favor: Kloeppel, Blevins, Knudson, Grus, Kespohl

Motion passed.

Council Items

Hood updated the Commission on Council items:

The insurance liability ordinance was discussed at the May 5 Council meeting. The item was tabled and a work session scheduled for May 20 to talk about it in more depth. It should be voted on the first Council meeting in June. Hood said Council members debated what the amount of liability should be. Several members of the community spoke to the issue, including hot air balloonists, who said they could not obtain the \$2 million individually. Representatives of the LGBT Coalition also spoke, saying they could not afford the cost of obtaining that type of liability insurance either. They asked Council to consider allowing \$1 million in liability instead.

The shotgun house at the corner of Garth and Worley will be a topic at the May 19 meeting. The house is an historic example of the old row houses that were predominantly African-American housing in the earlier 20th century. The one in question was slated for demolition until two members of the Historic Preservation Commission purchased it, with the goal of restoring it. Hood said they had agreed with the Boone County Historical Society to donate the house and move it to the historic village at Nifong Park, known as Boone Junction. However, the notion of creating a Black Historic District near Douglass Park has gained interest in the First Ward, and Councilman Sturtz requested staff to prepare a report of the possibility of the shotgun house being preserved on a lot adjacent to the park. The lot is one that Parks and Recreation had acquired with the idea of expanding the park one day. There is no source of funding for this, Hood said, and the owners of the house must do something with by the end of June or face demolition.

Grus asked about the vacant lot and the neighboring properties?

Hood said there were five houses there. Parks and Recreation bought the house and lot once it was for sale. There are four other houses in the same block. As they come available and if it's possible, plans call for the City to purchase those, which will allow for additional park space. He said it was unclear who would be responsible for moving and restoring the house if it was decided to keep it in the First Ward.

Grus commented that the City seemed to be in good position because the house is still privately owned and the responsibility falls with the owners at this point.

Capital Project Update

Griggs shared these updates:

Photos of Tons of Trucks and Arbor Day were shown, both good events with heavy public participation.

Oakland Family Aquatic Center: preparations are about complete for the new slide.

Douglass Pool: deck improvements have been made.

Stephens Lake Park: spraygrounds are open, ADA access to the beach is complete and a new red bud collection has been planted near Riechmann Pavilion.

Kiwanis: Connections to the new restroom have been made and walkways need to be completed.

PMC: Work continues on repairs. Landscaping is being completed.

Cosmo: A new directional map has been installed near the park's main entrance, at the roundabout. Harris Shelter is being used.

Louisville Park: New signs and benches have been installed. A dedication is planned there and for Longview Park on June 14.

Atkins fields: work continues, though rain has made it difficult.

Antimi: shade structure supports have been installed.

Flat Branch II: all finish work was completed for the dedication there on May 3. Dedication went well with a large crowd.

Commission Comments

Kloeppe presented Julia Grus with a plaque and thanked her for her service, as this is her last meeting on the Commission. Grus said she felt fortunate to be part of the Commission, but family obligations made it difficult. She said that in the future, she hoped to be part of the Commission again.

Kespohl asked about the status of a wheelchair access into Stephens Lake Park from Walnut.

Hood said planners would have to look at the site and see what would be possible.

Kespohl then asked if the route of the Hominy Creek trail to Woodridge was final?

Hood said yes, the route is flagged, as long as the engineering does not change anything.

Blevins said he had been notified by someone interested in tennis courts, namely indoor courts at the ARC site. He said he would like to respond but was not sure how to address.

Hood said the same gentleman had talked to staff. The indoor tennis courts were not included at the ARC because of budget constraints. The courts would serve a relatively small number of people, and the cost did not justify the construction.

The redesign of the tennis courts at Cosmo actually would allow a "bubble" to be placed over four of the courts, Hood said. There have been discussions with some in the tennis community to raise funds for this, which is more likely to occur than adding indoor courts.

Kloeppe mentioned that the June meeting is usually the park tour, but he would not be able to attend that meeting. He asked if the tour could be moved to July? He added it might be nice for the new commissioner to attend a regular meeting before having the tour.

Hood said that would be no problem, so the Commission planned to have an early meeting in July with dinner and a tour.

Kespohl commented that he had attended a Special Business District meeting where he saw some plans of the Farmers Market for the first time. He asked about those?

Hood said staff had worked closely with the Farmers Market on the plans, but the final plan depended on the type of funding they would be able to raise. That has not been determined yet.

Kespohl asked about the conflict with the ARC with parking and traffic?

Hood said that issue is one that is going on now. Both facilities share an entrance and parking.

Staff Comments

Hood mentioned numerous events coming up, including the opening of the pools, kickoff of Moonlight Hoops, the Outdoor Cinema Series, and Twilight Festivals at Flat Branch Park.

He added that since the Commission had indicated they did not need an increase in their budget, the City Clerk had requested the same amount in the new FY'09 budget.

Public Comments

None

Meeting adjourned at 8:45 pm.

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

Thursday, May 15, 2008, 7:00 p.m.

ARC, 1701 West Ash

MINUTES

Commission Present: Terry Kloepfel, Marin Blevins, Dennis Knudson, Julia Grus, Gary Kespohl

Staff Present: Mike Hood, Mike Griggs, Tammy Miller

Kloepfel called the meeting to order at 7:02 pm.

Agenda: Hood asked that the naming of the Atkins property be added to the agenda. The agenda was approved as amended on a motion by Blevins, seconded by Kespohl.

Minutes: The April minutes were approved on a motion from Blevins, seconded by Kespohl.

Monthly Report:

Blevins asked about an item in the Ranger's report about some people robbing dumpsters?

Griggs said they were throwing trash onto the ground, looking for cans to recycle. The dumpsters have been a popular target in the past, he said. Some of them are locked, including those at the golf courses and at Twin Lakes.

Kloepfel asked where the Eastport Park is?

Hood said it would be located at the Lake of the Woods exit, south of I-70 in the Eastport subdivision. The land for the park was donated. Hood said it was not an ideal site for a park because it's in a floodplain and is an odd-shaped tract. Plans for the park consist of a playground, open play area, trail and three small one-table shelters.

Griggs added that two plans for the park have been presented and the final one was based on input from the neighborhood. There were large crowds at the interested party meetings, both for Eastport and for the Grasslands.

The monthly report was approved on a motion by Blevins, seconded by Knudson.

Rezoning: Columbia Bass Properties

The site is located northeast of the Highway 63/Vandiver interchange. Plans are to rezone from A-1/PUD to C-P. Vandiver is being routed north to border the east of the property, which led to the request. The rezoning would affect the extension of the Hinkson Creek Trail, said Griggs, so Best Management Practices (BMPs) would be recommended for storm water control.

Grus made a motion, seconded by Blevins, to recommend to City Council that they see no potential for adverse impact to parks and trails as long as BMPs for storm water controls are implemented.

All in favor: Kloepfel, Blevins, Knudson, Grus, Kespohl

Motion passed.

Rezoning: Waters Realty Request

This rezoning request is at 313 E. Ash, south of Douglass Park. The tract is only about .18 acre and the request is to rezone it from general industrial to central business district to match adjacent property, Griggs told the Commission. Griggs said the tract drains away from Douglass, so no problems are foreseen with the rezoning. Blevins made a motion, seconded by Kespohl, to recommend to City Council that they see no potential for adverse impact to parks and trails from the proposed rezoning.

All in favor: Kloepfel, Blevins, Knudson, Grus, Kespohl

Motion passed.

Naming Recommendation for New Regional Park

Hood said after discussing the names for the Crane and Philips tracts for several months, staff felt it was time to put a recommendation in front of the Council. He reminded the Commission of the properties. The Philips tract consists of the lake portion which was donated and the remainder around the lake, which the City purchased. The Crane tract, which was purchased, lies directly across Gans Road. Hood reviewed the department's naming policy and the results of the citizen web survey, that was conducted over the winter. He made three main points: the City is obligated to name the Philips property after A. Perry Philips. Based on that, staff felt the tracts should be named separately. Secondly, Hood said normally a park with an anticipated high recreational use generally went by Recreation Area rather than Park, such as Columbia Cosmopolitan Recreation Area. The third point to consider is the name itself...staff recommends A. Perry Philips Park for the Philips tract and Gans Creek Recreation Area for the Crane tract, but Commission does not have to recommend those names.

Kespohl asked for clarification on just the lake being named Philips?

Hood answered that after reviewing the agreement, the entire park needs to be named that, not just the lake. He added that it was not unprecedented to have a park and recreation area adjoining each other; Capen Park and Grindstone Recreation Area are side-by-side.

Blevins asked if the Crane family had made any wishes known?

Hood said it was understood that since the City paid a fair market price for that property, naming rights were not part of the agreement. He said staff feared that if that tract was named for the Cranes, that it would discourage future gifts of land. Naming rights are generally considered part of a gift of a park.

Kespohl mentioned that it seemed there was no question about Philips needing to be named that. Of the other names, he said he liked Southeast, but realized that with the city's growth, that park may not be "southeast" forever. He liked either Gans Creek or Gans Road, saying that adding Road may make the park easier to find. Blevins agreed with Kespohl on not naming it Southeast Recreation Area. He felt it was important to stay away from directionals in the name.

Kloeppel said he preferred Recreation Area to Park, since at least a portion of the tract will likely be high use. He added that it would likely be shortened anyway, as in Cosmo Park.

Blevins made a motion, seconded by Grus, that the Commission accept staff's recommendation and recommend to City Council that the Philips tract be named A. Perry Philips Park and the Crane tract, Gans Creek Recreation Area.

All in favor: Kloeppel, Blevins, Knudson, Grus, Kespohl

Motion passed.

Naming Recommendation for Atkins Property

Hood said construction of two fields on the property was winding down and a name would have to be chosen soon for signage. The property is owned jointly by the City and County, as a donation from Thomas Atkins, but the City has naming rights and will be responsible for construction and maintenance of the fields. Since the tract was donated, Hood said staff prefers to name the property after the Atkins family or a name of Mr. Atkins' choosing. Hood said he had spoken with Atkins who indicated support for the idea but said he would like some time to choose a specific name. Hood said he believed he would choose to name it after his father or mother. Hood said if the Commission is supportive of naming the property in honor of the Atkins family, a motion to that effect would be appropriate. Or, if Commission would prefer to wait for an exact name, that would be fine too. He said staff felt a bit pressed for time, since the next Commission meeting will fall after both City Council meetings in June.

Knudson asked about the entire tract, what was planned eventually?

Hood said ultimately 10 fields are planned there, which would occupy 80 percent of the site.

Kespohl asked about naming the tract for the city and county, and the fields themselves after Atkins?

Hood said that leaving the fields unnamed at this point may inspire future gifts.

Griggs added that the signage at the site would stipulate City/County to signify the partnership.

Kloeppel asked when the fields would open for play?

Hood answered that the exact date is not known...weather has delayed construction. The games are being

played at American Legion now, but would move to Atkins when completed.

Kloeppel said he felt comfortable with Atkins naming the whole area, then features could be named within the park, much like Rainbow and Antimi at Cosmo Park.

Kespohl said as long as the City and County's partnership was made clear, he was comfortable with it as well.

Blevins made a motion, seconded by Kespohl, directing staff to move forward in working with the Atkins family to name the tract.

All in favor: Kloeppel, Blevins, Knudson, Grus, Kespohl

Motion passed.

Council Items

Hood updated the Commission on Council items:

The insurance liability ordinance was discussed at the May 5 Council meeting. The item was tabled and a work session scheduled for May 20 to talk about it in more depth. It should be voted on the first Council meeting in June. Hood said Council members debated what the amount of liability should be. Several members of the community spoke to the issue, including hot air balloonists, who said they could not obtain the \$2 million individually. Representatives of the LGBT Coalition also spoke, saying they could not afford the cost of obtaining that type of liability insurance either. They asked Council to consider allowing \$1 million in liability instead.

The shotgun house at the corner of Garth and Worley will be a topic at the May 19 meeting. The house is an historic example of the old row houses that were predominantly African-American housing in the earlier 20th century. The one in question was slated for demolition until two members of the Historic Preservation Commission purchased it, with the goal of restoring it. Hood said they had agreed with the Boone County Historical Society to donate the house and move it to the historic village at Nifong Park, known as Boone Junction. However, the notion of creating a Black Historic District near Douglass Park has gained interest in the First Ward, and Councilman Sturtz requested staff to prepare a report of the possibility of the shotgun house being preserved on a lot adjacent to the park. The lot is one that Parks and Recreation had acquired with the idea of expanding the park one day. There is no source of funding for this, Hood said, and the owners of the house must do something with by the end of June or face demolition.

Grus asked about the vacant lot and the neighboring properties?

Hood said there were five houses there. Parks and Recreation bought the house and lot once it was for sale. There are four other houses in the same block. As they come available and if it's possible, plans call for the City to purchase those, which will allow for additional park space. He said it was unclear who would be responsible for moving and restoring the house if it was decided to keep it in the First Ward.

Grus commented that the City seemed to be in good position because the house is still privately owned and the responsibility falls with the owners at this point.

Capital Project Update

Griggs shared these updates:

Photos of Tons of Trucks and Arbor Day were shown, both good events with heavy public participation.

Oakland Family Aquatic Center: preparations are about complete for the new slide.

Douglass Pool: deck improvements have been made.

Stephens Lake Park: spraygrounds are open, ADA access to the beach is complete and a new red bud collection has been planted near Riechmann Pavilion.

Kiwanis: Connections to the new restroom have been made and walkways need to be completed.

PMC: Work continues on repairs. Landscaping is being completed.

Cosmo: A new directional map has been installed near the park's main entrance, at the roundabout. Harris Shelter is being used.

Louisville Park: New signs and benches have been installed. A dedication is planned there and for Longview Park on June 14.

Atkins fields: work continues, though rain has made it difficult.

Antimi: shade structure supports have been installed.

Flat Branch II: all finish work was completed for the dedication there on May 3. Dedication went well with a large crowd.

Commission Comments

Kloeppe presented Julia Grus with a plaque and thanked her for her service, as this is her last meeting on the Commission. Grus said she felt fortunate to be part of the Commission, but family obligations made it difficult. She said that in the future, she hoped to be part of the Commission again.

Kespohl asked about the status of a wheelchair access into Stephens Lake Park from Walnut.

Hood said planners would have to look at the site and see what would be possible.

Kespohl then asked if the route of the Hominy Creek trail to Woodridge was final?

Hood said yes, the route is flagged, as long as the engineering does not change anything.

Blevins said he had been notified by someone interested in tennis courts, namely indoor courts at the ARC site. He said he would like to respond but was not sure how to address.

Hood said the same gentleman had talked to staff. The indoor tennis courts were not included at the ARC because of budget constraints. The courts would serve a relatively small number of people, and the cost did not justify the construction.

The redesign of the tennis courts at Cosmo actually would allow a "bubble" to be placed over four of the courts, Hood said. There have been discussions with some in the tennis community to raise funds for this, which is more likely to occur than adding indoor courts.

Kloeppe mentioned that the June meeting is usually the park tour, but he would not be able to attend that meeting. He asked if the tour could be moved to July? He added it might be nice for the new commissioner to attend a regular meeting before having the tour.

Hood said that would be no problem, so the Commission planned to have an early meeting in July with dinner and a tour.

Kespohl commented that he had attended a Special Business District meeting where he saw some plans of the Farmers Market for the first time. He asked about those?

Hood said staff had worked closely with the Farmers Market on the plans, but the final plan depended on the type of funding they would be able to raise. That has not been determined yet.

Kespohl asked about the conflict with the ARC with parking and traffic?

Hood said that issue is one that is going on now. Both facilities share an entrance and parking.

Staff Comments

Hood mentioned numerous events coming up, including the opening of the pools, kickoff of Moonlight Hoops, the Outdoor Cinema Series, and Twilight Festivals at Flat Branch Park.

He added that since the Commission had indicated they did not need an increase in their budget, the City Clerk had requested the same amount in the new FY'09 budget.

Public Comments

None

Meeting adjourned at 8:45 pm.