

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

Thursday, May 20, 2010, 7 p.m.

ARC, 1701 W. Ash

MINUTES

Commission Present: Terry Kloeppe, Marin Blevins, Dan Devine, Bill Pauls, Sue Davis

Commission Absent: Meredith Donaldson

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

Kloeppe called the meeting to order at 7:06 pm.

Agenda: Hood requested that the Commission add the issue of recommending a name for Discovery Garden to the agenda as item 5A. The agenda was approved as amended on a motion by Pauls, seconded by Devine.

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

Monthly Report: Pauls asked if the monthly report itself was online or in electronic format, and if it could be emailed to Commissioners to save on paper copies?

Blevins commented that perhaps the whole packet could be emailed.

Pauls said he would be in favor of having his packet emailed. Miller said she would take care of it, and if other commissioners would like theirs emailed, please let her know.

Davis asked about an item on the monthly report, a park user going too fast while roller-blading?

Griggs said it was likely someone who was being reckless around other park users, particularly in high-use areas.

Blevins expressed some concern about loud music played in the park shelters by groups, particularly when the music contains profanity.

Hood said amplified music in the parks is only allowed with a sound permit and no profanity is allowed. It is up to the Park Ranger to enforce that.

Pauls asked about the double-booking at Riechmann and how that happened?

Hood explained that it was a result of staff error that two weddings were actually booked at Riechmann on the same weekend. One couple had booked the entire weekend, Friday through Sunday, but only Friday was reserved. The second couple then booked Saturday at another time.

The Park ranger was notified when the mistake was discovered on that particular Saturday. Staff then worked to find another venue for the other couple. Griggs said that Recreation Superintendent Karen Ramey worked very hard to secure a wedding location.

Hood said staff has reviewed reservation policies and discussed the matter to try to prevent something like that from happening again.

The April monthly report was approved on a motion by Pauls, seconded by Devine.

Katy Place Connector Trail

Prior to the meeting the Commission toured the proposed site of the Katy Place Connector Trail.

Pauls commented that runners on the trail hate the concrete surface because it is difficult on knees. He'd like to see a gravel type surface on one side of the trail for runners.

Kloeppe said he liked the proposed alternate alignment as making trail users route through the parking lot would be too dangerous.

Davis agreed with Kloeppe, saying the alternate plan made sense.

Blevins commented that he didn't think the trail was too much concrete. He said with the grade of the trail, it seemed concrete may be best.

Pauls said he would be happier with at least a small gravel shoulder on the side for runners, with the rest of the trail left concrete.

Hood suggested that the Commission might want to recommend approval of the alternate alignment with a gravel shoulder be considered by design engineers. Hood said some of the steepest portions of the trail may not be possible for gravel.

Devine said he would only be concerned about potential need for removing more trees if the trail is widened to include a gravel shoulder and he'd also be concerned about the run-off from a gravel trail.

Pauls made a motion, seconded by Davis, that the Commission recommend to Council the approval of the alternate alignment of the Katy Place Trail, with the caveat that design engineers investigate the possibility of adding a running surface adjacent to the concrete trail.

All in favor, motion passed 5-0.

Request to Rename Rockhill Park

Hood said the Council has received a request from the East Campus neighborhood association to consider renaming Rockhill Park in honor of former Mayor and Councilman Clyde Wilson, who recently passed away. He was a long-time resident of the East Campus neighborhood and was very involved with the community. The Commission invited a guest in the audience to speak, who introduced himself as Tom Wilson, Clyde Wilson's oldest son. He said the family was honored that this request was brought to the Council and the Commission. He said his father enjoyed the park and in fact had lived near it. He hoped the Commission would seriously consider the renaming request.

Hood then told the Commission there would be minimal costs in replacing the signage and some time to change the name in printed and web materials. But staff had no objection at all to the request.

Blevins asked about the size of the park?

Hood said it was about 10 acres.

Devine asked if the proposed name fit the park naming criteria guidelines?

Hood said yes, it would be appropriate to name it after a former elected city official.

Pauls made a motion, seconded by Blevins, that the Commission recommend to Council that Rockhill Park be renamed Clyde Wilson Memorial Park.

All in favor, motion passed 5-0.

Discovery Garden

Hood reminded the Commission that a citizens' committee has been formed to raise funds for the proposed Discovery Garden at Stephens Lake Park, to honor former Mayor Darwin Hindman. The committee has requested that the Garden be formally named to assist in their fund-raising efforts. The City Manager recommended that the naming issue be referred to the Commission.

Hood said the Committee would like to name the site the Darwin and Axie Hindman Discovery Garden.

Devine asked if the proposed name fit the park naming criteria guidelines?

Hood said yes, since Hindman is no longer in office, that would be appropriate.

Blevins made a motion, seconded by Pauls, to recommend to Council that the garden be officially named the Darwin and Axie Hindman Discovery Garden.

All in favor, motion passed 5-0.

Summer Park Tour

Hood commented that the Commission generally takes their annual park tour in June or July. He asked what the preference would be; he added that the Third Ward Commission seat is still vacant as no applications were made in May. The position would be readvertised. Pauls was reappointed to his seat, Hood said, and congratulated him.

Blevins said he would not be at the June meeting but the Commission could proceed as they wished.

All commissioners favored having the tour as part of the July meeting to accommodate the potential new Commissioner. A dinner meeting and tour will be held on July 15.

Council Items

Hood informed the Commission of these Council actions:

Park naming ordinance: Council accepted the Commission's report of recommended park names and directed staff to draft an ordinance for the June 7 meeting.

Douglass Park lot acquisition: several lots adjacent to Douglass Park along Fifth Street have been identified as potential acquisition if they ever are available, enabling an expansion of the park, which is at capacity. One lot has been acquired another is now available. Staff is hopeful that Council will authorize the purchase. Funds would come from the Park Sales Tax, earmarked for acquisition.

Capital Projects

Griggs shared these updates:

Philips Park: fishing and boat docks, as well as boat ramp have been installed. Blevins questioned the lake stocking and Griggs told him that the Department of Conservation handles that.

Stephens Lake Park: sound stage is going in and seeding will hopefully be the following week.

Albert-Oakland Park: deck is being repaired and a new emergency exit created in case an ambulance would ever need to drive into the pool area. Landscaping is also being done.

Douglass Park: Sprayground construction is ongoing with a target date of June 5.

Cosmo-Bethel Park: tennis court walkways installed.

Smiley Park: cul-de-sac is complete. Will include the park on the July tour.

Flat Branch: repairs made to the sprayground.

Golf courses: improvements made to the tees at both courses.

Derby Ridge: trees planted following the Arbor Day celebration. Conditions were too wet to plant the day of the ceremony.

Recreation Services Update

Coffman shared these updates:

Mill Creek Day: annual field trip held at Nickell for second graders; about 140 attended.

Family Fun Fests: Teen Fest held in April and Fitness is Fun held in May, despite rainy weather which kept crowds down. June will be Explore Outdoors.

50+ programs: day trips are doing well with nice attendance.

Fire in the Sky: upcoming on July 4. City is coordinating this year, but will be held as usual at MU football stadium. Will be free, gates open at 6:30 with entertainment at 7. Coffman said Karen Ramey has done a great job of getting sponsors, including Columbia Insurance Group, KOMU, KBXR, KFRU, Mizzou and the Cosmo Club.

Upcoming events: Whiff and Giggle golf and an OAK dance on May 21, Albert-Oakland Family Aquatic Center will open for Memorial weekend May 29-31, opening day for all pools is June 5, National Trails Day is also June 5, Art in the Park June 5-6, U.S. Cellular Movies in the Park is June 11, Reel time with Kids Fishing is June 12, Francis Hagan is June 12-13 and Family Fun Fest is June 16.

Coffman commented that all of the rain has affected participation at events and on the golf courses. She also informed the Commission that the Golf Foundation Camp is coming up at L. A. Nickell. This is a free camp for kids to learn more about golf.

Blevins complimented staff on all the upgrades to the clubhouses.

Commission Comments

Devine said he was asked about nets on the hockey rink behind the Skate Park?

Griggs said a group may have left them there, but they did not belong to the department. He would look into it. Devine said he was also asked about the possibility of lighting the rink.

Blevins mentioned a kickboard that is on the end of Soccer field #12 and was donated in memory of a local young player who was killed.

Hood said the board is still there but may need some attention.

Griggs said he would ask staff to look at it.

Staff Comments

Griggs told the commission about a GetAbout project called Neighbors on the Go, which is meeting at Fairview Park on Tuesday (May 25) to walk over to Bonnie View to give them an idea of what the property is like. The meeting is at 6 pm.

Public Comments

None.

Meeting adjourned at 8:25 pm.