

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

Thursday, May 19, 2011, 7 p.m.

ARC, 1701 W. Ash

MINUTES

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

Commission Absent: Meredith Donaldson

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

Blevins called the meeting to order at 7:01 pm.

Agenda: Hood requested that the Commission add two rezoning issues to the agenda. The agenda was approved as amended on a motion by Devine, seconded by Hutton.

Minutes: Hutton asked that the April minutes be amended in two different areas, where she mentioned streets instead of sidewalks and Stephens Lake instead of Hulen Lake. With those corrections, the minutes were approved on a motion by Pauls, seconded by Davis.

Monthly Report: Blevins complimented the work of the CARP program, saying it must lead to significant savings in staff time.

Pauls asked about the small fire at Nifong Park?

Griggs said it was determined to have been caused by wet hay, and no damage was really reported.

Kloeppe asked if the new part-time ranger for the summer was on board?

Griggs said yes, her name is Delsie and he will introduce her at a later time with Rosanna.

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

Staff Presentation

Griggs introduced Jennifer Courtney, horticulturist. Jen has been with the department for several years, starting part-time in the natural resources division.

Courtney described how the horticulture division is staffed and the amount of acreage they are responsible for with plantings and mowing. She shared information about the benefits of creating ecology in an urban environment.

Courtney also described the CARP program. Volunteers worked more than 164 hours over the past year, working on aquatic plantings and shoreline erosion control. Courtney showed photos of the greenhouse and spoke about annuals and perennials, and efforts to divide those so we can grow our own and purchase less of them. Other photos in the presentation showed turf and landscape maintenance and other related projects in the park.

Kloeppe asked about an item in one of the CARP photos?

Courtney said it was a coconut roll, something that is biodegradable and is used to stabilize shorelines.

Commissioners thanked Courtney for her presentation.

Great Hangups Rezoning

The rezoning is at the store's property on Broadway and West Boulevard, and is within one mile of Again St. Park. The current use is residential and commercial but it is zoned R1.

Griggs said the request would not impact Again St. Park.

Kloeppe made a motion, seconded by Hutton, that the Commission sees no adverse impact to Again St. Park due to the rezoning request. All approved, motion passed.

Jerry D. Kelly Rezoning

This property is at 3624 Creasy Springs Road with the Bear Creek Trail located within a half-mile. The request is for it to be annexed into the city as R-1. Griggs said no adverse effects were anticipated.

Pauls made a motion, seconded by Davis, that the Commission sees no adverse impact to the Bear Creek Trail or trailhead due to the annexation request. All approved, motion passed.

Responsive Government Initiative

Hood shared copies of the department's Responsive Government Initiative, which was presented to the City Council in April at their request. Each City department prepared such a document, outlining priorities, challenges, and initiatives related to cost reduction, revenue enhancement, customer service and productivity. Hood outlined some of the main points in the three-page document.

Devine asked if this was the first time something like this was done specifically?

Hood replied yes, that the Council initiated it and it was a good exercise for staff.

Blevins commented that it seemed to be a good template for reference.

Council Items

Hood shared these updates:

Scott's Branch Trail: Councilman Dudley made a motion to table the portion of the trail between Weaver and Dublin until the July 18 meeting. He is planning to hold interested parties meetings on three Wednesdays in June, the 8th, 15th and 22nd, in an effort to reach compromise on the trail. Hood said the remainder of the trail was approved.

Blevins asked Dudley, who was sitting in the audience, if he would like to address the issue. Dudley commented that the three meetings would be at 6 pm at the ARC. He is planning to notify the user groups related to the trail: Audubon, PedNet, Dublin Avenue residents and neighborhood parents to ensure they know about the meetings. Dudley said there are many different viewpoints and he would like to resolve something to avoid hours of discussion at Council meetings.

Hutton asked how he would notify them?

Dudley said he had email addresses and would likely notify them that way.

Maplewood Barn: a public hearing is set for June 6. No opposition or controversy is anticipated, so Hood said the final design would likely be approved with contractor starting work late this summer.

Wilson Park: Council approved improvements to the trail section and the reconstruction of bridges.

Capital Project Update

Griggs shared these updates:

Tons of Trucks: Staff assisted in the preparation of this event.

Hinkson Creek Trail: portion between Grindstone and Stephens is 90 percent complete.

Mill Creek: new playground installed as part of school partnership.

Indian Hills Park: third playgrounds and two new shelters constructed and open.

American Legion: work continues with netting, second dugout and foul poles at second field.

Kloeppel asked about the ag-lime fields?

Griggs said staff budgeted about \$10,000 for the two fields. There have been no rainouts there. Staff plans to survey softball players at Rainbow to see if they would like to see a similar surface.

Hood commented that when the ag-lime was put down at Albert-Oakland, some complained, but they no longer do. There are no rainouts there either.

Griggs said the ag-lime is a decomposed granite that will actually crumble in your fingers.

ARC: flooring project is completed.

Lange Park: connecting walkways were constructed.

Philips Lake CARP project: volunteers planted 923 plants and stabilized shoreline on April 16.

Cosmo-Bethel project: volunteers completed a CARP project there on May 14.

Lake of the Woods: new sod put down on tees 11, 13, 14, 15 and 17.

Cosmo: repairs made to the sod after irrigation installed at football fields.

Longview Park: Treekeepers project completed there on May 9.

Recreation Services Update

Coffman shared these updates:

CARE: program has 88 employers this summer with 179 placements and 173 youth hired. The Options program which is finishing for the school year, had 26 students and 18 successful completions.

Preschool: programs continue to be popular with a latest Little Explorers expedition.

Life Enrichment: Ballroom dance is successful and new classes have done well.

Flashlight Easter Egg Hunt: maximum of 150 participated.

Easter EGGstravaganza: had good attendance at Douglass Park.

Bike, Walk and Wheel Week: Mayor's proclamation at Family Fun Fest, other events ongoing.

Family Fun Fests: April and May have both had great attendance.

Movies in the Park: First movie of the summer had 350 in attendance.

Upcoming Events: Philips dedication and fishing derby on May 21, BWWW Trails Day on May 21, Albert-Oakland Family Aquatic Center open for weekend on May 28, Pools open for season June 3-4, Art in the Park June 4-5, Videology on June 9, and Movies in the Park on June 10.

Commission Comments

Kloeppel, who missed the last meeting, said he read the minutes closely and he complimented the rest of the Commission on their discussion and moves regarding Bonnie View and the Scott's Branch Trail.

Pauls complimented staff on Philips Park. He visited recently and said it was a great setting with so many walking the trail and fishing.

Staff Comments

Hood congratulated Davis and Blevins on their reappointments to the Commission. He mentioned that the annual Park Tour would be coming up in June or July. He asked Commissioners if they preferred it at their June or July meeting? Commissioners agreed to have the park tour at the June 16 meeting. The meeting will start at 5 pm, meeting at the Parks Management Center, to allow for plenty of time for the tour.

Hood said that if any Commissioners had requests for the tour, to let Miller know.

Kloeppel said he would like to stop by Bonnie View and Pauls would like to see American Legion.

Public Comments

None.

Meeting adjourned at 8:25 pm.