

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

Thursday, May 17, 2007, 7:00 p.m.

ARC, 1701 West Ash

MINUTES

Commission Present: Bill Pauls, Terry Kloeppe, Julia Grus, Dennis Knudson, Dan Devine, Mike Jones

Staff Present: Mike Hood, Mike Griggs, Tammy Miller

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

Agenda: The agenda was approved on a motion by Kloeppe, seconded by Devine.

Minutes: The April minutes were approved on a motion from Kloeppe, seconded by Devine.

Monthly Report: Kloeppe asked about the new temporary ranger?

Griggs said it is a part-time, non-certified position to work in the evenings when Rosanna is off to mainly keep a presence in the parks. Griggs said the position did not have the same level of authority as the regular ranger, but mainly acted as an ombudsman to help if needed.

Commissioners asked about various incidents on the Ranger's report.

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

Rezoning – Boone Hospital request (Bass and William)

The tract of land is near Stephens Lake and Lions-Stephens Parks. Griggs said there is a building on the site that belonged to Stephens College, but was purchased by Boone Hospital. Plans are to convert it to offices. Devine made a motion, seconded by Kloeppe to recommend to City Council that they see no potential adverse impact to parks or trails from the proposed rezoning.

All in favor: Pauls, Kloeppe, Knudson, Grus, Devine, Jones

Motion carried.

Rezoning – Whirlwind Properties request (Roosevelt & Lenoir)

Griggs said this is a 20-acre tract near Nifong Park and the Philips property that is a mobile home park. The request is to rezone the tract commercial. Hood added that the request will likely result in a negative response from property owners.

Griggs advised Commissioners that adequate stormwater controls should be required.

Kloeppe made a motion, seconded by Devine, the Commission to recommend to City Council that they see no potential for adverse impact to parks or trails from the proposed rezoning, as long as adequate stormwater controls are implemented by the developer.

All in favor: Pauls, Kloeppe, Knudson, Grus, Devine, Jones

Motion carried.

Capital Improvements Program (CIP)

Hood shared copies of the Parks and Recreation portion of the CIP. He told Commissioners that City Manager Bill Watkins wants to gain as much public input as possible on the document. The CIP is meant to be a planning document for all capital improvements in the city, not necessarily a budget document. It provides the means to plan projects over designated timeframes and helps allocate funds as needed. Hood shared charts and a map of project sites with cost estimates. Some scenarios cover projects that are planned to start in the 1-2, 3-5 and 6-10 year timeframes.

The projects listed by year in the CIP indicates the year staff is recommending the start of projects. The CIP

also includes detailed information on individual projects.

The vast majority of Parks and Recreation projects listed in the 1-2 year timeframe are those that were included for funding on the ballot issue passed in 2005. In the future years in the CIP, Hood said staff is identifying projects that could be funded by the ballot issue that will be considered in 2010.

Devine asked how projects were prioritized?

Hood responded that there is not really a point system or anything that formal.

Griggs added that some projects are prioritized if there is a safety issue. If a shelter is in poor condition and is a hazard, that project may receive higher favor. Parks that are more heavily used—such as Cosmo, Stephens Lake and Oakland—are also given higher priority.

Hood said staff is always trying balance new projects with maintaining existing facilities. The Parks and Recreation Master Plan is also a helpful guide in identifying needs and prioritizing projects. Available funds and staff workload are other considerations.

Grus asked if the City Manager was seeking more public opinion to determine what needs to be changed in the CIP?

Hood, said yes, one example was that the Planning and Zoning Commission identified road projects that needed to move from one timeframe to another. If the Parks and Recreation Commission identifies a project that needs to made a higher priority, then that would be their option.

Grus asked if the Commission could take the time to review the document then discuss it later.

Hood agreed and suggested that Commissioners email Tammy Miller (tlmiller@gocolumbiamo.com) with their questions.

MoDOT Enhancement Grant Application

Hood informed Commissioners that City Council had submitted applications to the Missouri Department of Transportation for enhancement grants, federal funding for transportation projects. Columbia submitted four applications: Hominy Branch Trail (Stephens to Woodridge), Bear Creek Trail (Blue Ridge to Lange), Providence Road Pedway (Southhampton Dr. to Peach Tree Drive), and County House Branch Trail. Griggs shared details of the projects. Hood said Commission support would be helpful to the applications.

Devine moved that the Commission express support for the enhancement grant applications, seconded by Knudson. All in favor, motion carried.

June Park Tour

The next Commission meeting will be held at 5:30 pm on June 21 at the Parks Management Center, with a meal, short meeting, then tour of the parks. Hood said if Commissioners had specific requests, then to let staff know.

Pauls requested to visit the Crane property and the Atkins property.

Kloeppel requested to visit the Garth Nature Area, Cosmo-Bethel Park, the Cosmo tennis courts, and Antimi. If Commissioners have other requests, they should notify Tammy.

Council Items

Hood shared these updates:

At the June 4 Council meeting, the agenda will include a proposal for the resurfacing of the Cosmo-Bethel tennis courts. It has been 5-6 years since the project was last done. It will be in conjunction with the schools—four courts are on school property and four on city property. The resurfacing is slated to be completed mid-summer.

Council will also look at a draft policy on the sales of alcohol in the park. Council had directed staff to draft the policy, which is intended for outside organizations that are hosting special events in the larger parks.

Hood said staff reviewed policies of other parks departments in drafting the one for Columbia. He told Commissioners that Council would likely refer the policy to the Commission for their comment. The draft

policy has tight restrictions on alcohol sales, limiting it to beer, wine and champagne. Sales must also be in support of a recreational activity, such as the Art in the Park event.

The last item on the June 4 agenda will be consideration of a memorandum of understanding with the Columbia Farmers' Market. The memorandum is very similar to the one with the CYBA, in that after funds are raised, the facility would be turned over to the city for management and operations. Hood said the memorandum would give the city control over the structure.

Grus asked about a timeframe for raising funds?

Hood answered that the Farmers' Market would have two years to raise \$900,000.

Capital Projects Update

Griggs shared updates as follows:

Nifong Park – A road is being built in the historic village in front of Easley Store.

Cosmo-Bethel – The playground and new shelter are under construction.

Longview – Earthwork is happening and the pond has been rip-rapped.

Louisville – Open to the public, sidewalks are now connected to the playground and mulch has been applied.

Stephens Lake – The sprayground is under construction with the holding tank being installed.

Oakland – Changing rooms are being completed.

Commission Comments

Jones asked if the sprayground construction is affecting the beach at Stephens Lake?

Hood said the beach is operating as usual but there is a smaller area. The construction fence will remain in place as a safety measure.

Devine asked about Hickman Pool repairs?

Hood said school officials have studied several options to repair the pool. Those options range from a basic "band-aid" to building an entire new pool. School staff has put together a report and submitted it to Superintendent Chase for her review. The report recommends improvements costing \$660,000. Hood said the HVAC system at the pool is a major problem and needs replacement. This relates directly to chlorine levels and air quality at the pool. Hood said he is scheduled to meet with the City Manager regarding the pool. Any costs of repairs would likely be split 50-50 with the school district.

Pauls complimented Parks and Recreation staff on the recent dedication ceremonies held at Garth Nature Area, the underpasses at the MKT Trail, Antimi Sports Complex and the Cosmo tennis courts.

Kloepfel asked for details regarding National Trails Day events on June 2.

Miller shared details, then told Kloepfel she would email him more information.

Pauls reminded Commissioners of the breakfast stations scheduled for the next morning as part of the Mayor's Bike, Walk and Wheel Week.

Staff Comments

Hood distributed copies of the CIP progress reports.

Public Comments

None

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.