

# PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

Thursday, November 19, 2009 7 p.m.

ARC, 1701 W. Ash

## MINUTES

**Commission Present:** Terry Kloepfel, Marin Blevins, Bill Pauls, Dan Devine, Gary Kespohl, Sue Davis, Meredith Donaldson

**Commission Absent:** None

**Staff Present:** Mike Hood, Mike Griggs, Erika Coffman, Steve Saitta, Tammy Miller

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

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

**Minutes:** The minutes were approved on a motion by Devine, seconded by Davis.

**Monthly Report:** Hood mentioned that many of the participation numbers had decreased in October. He attributed this mainly to the large amount of rainfall, which affected both the golf courses and sports leagues.

Kloepfel asked about an item in the Park Ranger's report regarding a public meeting at Twin Lakes Recreation Area?

Hood said staff would discuss that topic in more detail a little later in the meeting.

Blevins asked about items in the report regarding bounce houses and dunking booths?

Hood responded that these were considered portable recreation devices that some groups bring into the parks. They are required to complete the special use permit process to get permission for those items, so that staff is aware of it and also to prove insurance. The city must be named as co-insured in those cases.

Donaldson asked about the amount of liability?

Hood answered that it varied depending on the event and type of use.

Donaldson mentioned the great job that Ranger Arens does in having to cover so many parks and different events.

Kespohl asked about the mulch site at Capen Park?

Hood said that Parks and Recreation does not take care of that, Public Works does through an agreement between the two agencies.

Monthly report was approved on a motion by Devine, seconded by Kespohl.

### **Rezoning – Corporate Lake**

Griggs informed the Commission that this tract is about 2.61 acres in size, located near Cosmo-Bethel Park. It would be rezoned from O-1 to C-1. Griggs said the rezoning would not impact the park.

**Pauls made a motion, seconded by Devine, that the Commission recommend to Council that they do not foresee any adverse impacts to the park by the proposed rezoning. Motion passed 7-0.**

### **Rezoning – Conley Road**

This tract is near the Wal-Mart on Conley Road, Griggs said, and near Stephens Lake Park. The land is the former Missouri Department of Transportation highway storage and work station. The requested rezoning would be C-3, allowing a broader range of commercial activity. According to the existing trails plan, the future extension of the Hinkson Creek Trail would go through the site, Griggs said.

Saitta added that staff has indicated they would like to work with the developer in planning the trail corridor. Grading for the trail could take place as the site is developed, so that work would already be completed.

Devine asked about the trail development?

Saitta said it would lead from Stephens Lake to Conley, and then across I-70, where box culverts would allow it to go under the highway.

Kespohl added that the development of the Conley Road extension would take out a portion of the Country Club golf course, which has been controversial. Developer Stan Kroenke has proposed a land swap for the tract, and Country Club members and residents are opposed.

Donaldson indicated concern with protecting Stephens Lake Park and Hinkson Creek, though she said City ordinances should protect the creek through the development.

Griggs said the Commission could include in their motion the need to work with the developer for the future trail.

Hood added that the Commission could also mention the need for stormwater controls as well.

Donaldson agreed, saying that would be advantageous if the Conley Road extension develops commercially.

Kespohl said the development raised concerns with him, although he agreed that it seemed a natural spot for development. He is concerned about the type that may take place.

**Devine made a motion, seconded by Donaldson, that the Commission recommend to Council that they do not foresee any adverse impacts to Stephens Lake Park as long as adequate stormwater controls are implemented. In addition, the Commission believes that it is essential that the developer work with the City regarding the future extension of Hinkson Creek Trail.**

Pauls mentioned he did not think it was necessary to include the stormwater controls, as the City already has those in place. Donaldson commented that it didn't hurt to reinforce the idea.

**Motion passed 4-0, with abstentions by Kespohl, Pauls and Davis.**

### **Trails Master Plan**

Hood reminded the Commission of the trails discussion from the last couple of meetings. In their packets, staff had sent the Commission the requested information about the section of the Perche Creek Trail extending from I-70 to Blackfoot Road. Though the plan is conceptual in nature, Hood said it is anticipated that the trail would require the construction of 8 bridges and would cost \$4.7 million.

**Blevins asked about bringing the previous motion made at the October meeting off the table. He moved, seconded by Devine, that the Commission remove the motion from the table that the Commission accept the plan changes as recommended by staff, with the additional recommendation that staff work to take advantage of any interstate interchange crossing to complete the trail loop around the city. Motion passed.**

Hood resumed the discussion by introducing Park Superintendent Steve Saitta, who is present to answer any detailed questions the Commission might have.

Hood proceeded to discuss the Harmony Creek Trail, which is estimated to cost \$4.6 million to construct.

Saitta added that when staff developed the trails comprehensive plan, they looked at the quadrants of the city carefully. The lowest level of development was in the northwest area. He believes Harmony is a viable connector with two or three possible routing options. Some areas along the options are heavily developed with potential of strong opposition from the neighborhoods.

Donaldson asked about routes to connect to Scott Boulevard through the population there?

Saitta said there are options with the possible new interchange and a new pedway that would simplify the process.

Pauls said he agreed with the idea of access to a northern trail along Gibbs and Barberry, which would be a scenic route for trail users.

Kespohl commented it would be desirable to actually plan the trail ahead of the development and by planning the big trail loop, that is the best way to accomplish that.

Devine added that previous discussions had centered on the best way to cross I-70 with the trail system and it would be most advantageous for staff to be prepared to move quickly whenever the best option came available. He said that Harmony Creek does not seem like necessarily the best way to do it.

Hood said it sounded like perhaps the plan needed to be switched, with the Harmony Creek Trail being made tertiary priority and Perche Creek Trail (I-70 to Blackfoot) being made secondary priority. Another option would be to just upgrade the Perche Creek I-70 to Blackfoot to secondary. Staff could then be ready to move on either; and if one option is eventually selected, the other trail would then fall to a lower priority, since both would accomplish the goal of linking the quadrant to the trail system.

Pauls said he thought it was important to complete the main trail loop around the city as fast as possible, and that Harmony Creek seems like it would have too many problems to be accomplished quickly.

Hood informed the Commission of the Bike and Pedestrian's recommendation which was to make the Colt Railroad trail a higher priority.

Saitta said the trail corridor by the railroad would make the whole area more attractive and would increase bike traffic if it was developed properly.

**With a motion on the floor, a vote was called. The motion was defeated 7-0.**

**Kespohl then moved, seconded by Blevins, that the Commission recommend adoption of the revised Trails Plan to the Council with one revision: that the Perche Creek Trail be upgraded to a secondary priority level.**

Pauls asked staff if raising the priority level means that another level for another project would have to be dropped?

Hood said no, that there was enough of a mixture of priority levels that it would not affect the balance that much.

Saitta agreed, and added that the Council was usually very interested in setting priorities. The priorities would likely change again, depending on residential growth. There will be other opportunities to make more changes in the future.

Donaldson commented that she appreciated being able to offer input on the plan from a recreational standpoint.

**Motion passed 7-0.**

### **NRPA Conference Report**

Coffman was the only representative to attend the conference. She informed the Commission that some key themes at this year's conference in Salt Lake City were advocacy and environmental stewardship. Attendance at the conference was down about 20 percent from last year's conference, Coffman said, though there were still a lot of vendors there. Many of the topics focused on the value of play, No Child Left Inside movement, and social networking.

Next year's conference will be in Minneapolis, just before Halloween, Coffman said.

Donaldson asked if the sessions were online?

Coffman said yes, they were. Miller said she would email the link to the Commission.

### **Council Items**

Hood informed the Commission of these Council actions:

**American Legion Park:** an interested party meeting was held prior to the Commission meeting regarding proposed renovations to American Legion. The project has a budget of \$200,000 from recreation service user fees, and it includes the renovation of the fields and relocation of parking lot. Pending Council approval, the work may begin this winter, although the big field will remain untouched so it can be used next summer. As soon as the season is over, work on the big field will start, so it will be finished in time for 2011 season.

Griggs said staff had received input from the Diamond Council and American Legion, indicating they felt it was important to keep one field larger at 325 feet down the lines. The other field would be smaller at 250 feet.

**Paquin Park:** an interested party meeting was also held on this topic before the Commission meeting. About \$30,000 in funding from the Park Sales Tax would pay for this project which includes renovating and making ADA-accessible the park's community garden. The area is in poor condition and has some gravel surface that is difficult for wheelchairs. The gravel will be replaced with concrete and the raised planters will be renovated. Security around the garden will also be improved, as some residents have had problems with their produce being stolen.

**Twin Lakes Dog Park:** Council heard a report at the Nov. 16 meeting regarding winter operations at Twin Lake Recreation Area, specifically the Dog Park. When ice forms on the lake in the winter, it becomes a problem with dogs breaking through into the water. Occasionally owners will attempt to rescue their dogs, which is another problem. The fire department has had to make numerous rescues there and is working with Parks and Recreation to find a solution, Hood said. A public meeting was held in late October at the site where several choices were discussed: closing the dog park in the winter, building a fence along the shoreline which would be very costly, or creating an alternate winter dog park. About 35 people attended the meeting to share ideas. It was decided to build a winter dog park, which is easier to do with the closure of the swimming lake. That lake will be drained down for the winter months. Hood said the group at the meeting seemed supportive so staff will prepare the site for the winter, then will re-evaluate in the spring.

Griggs added that the group at the public meeting discussed dog park rules. Some wanted no rules and others wanted some in place. It was agreed that most liked the idea of a dog park etiquette sign posted.

Kespohl asked about the lake depth?

Hood said it had been 10-12 feet in the past and is now about 6 feet. It will be drained to about 3 feet in depth.

Devine asked if the swimming lake would ever open again?

Hood answered that the odds are slim. In the past, staff had many concerns about the clarity of the water, and by the end of summer, water quality there would often worsen. With the opening and popularity of Stephens Lake, there is a strong chance that Twin Lake will not reopen as a swimming lake.

### **Capital Projects**

Griggs shared these updates:

**Philips Park:** boat ramp has been installed with the assistance of Dept. of Conservation and parking lot curbing is also in place.

**Douglass Park:** excavation for the new sprayground has been completed and the outfield on the ball diamond is being leveled.

**Lake of the Woods:** roof has been replaced on the golf cart shed.

**Hickman:** roof over pool has been replaced.

**Stephens Lake Park:** walls of the amphitheater are in place and an ADA fishing bulbout has been installed.

**MKT Trail:** preliminary work has been completed for the replacement of bridges 12 and 13.

**Nifong Park:** security lighting has been installed at the cabin in the Historic Village.

**PMC:** more repairs are being made to the building, including termite treatment.

**Smiley Park:** walkways have been installed.

**Tony Hawk Skateboard event:** Took place at Cosmo Park Skate Park with about 1,500 in attendance on Oct. 17.

### **Recreation Services Update**

Coffman shared these updates:

**Tiger Night of Fun:** another successful event this year with more than 3,600 in attendance. The Mizzou volleyball team played afterward, which was a good partnership.

**Golf:** The new fees are in place and have been relatively well-received, particularly the new senior weekday fee.

**Life Enrichment:** Classes are going well, including a new toddler tumble tots class.

**Family Fun Fest:** last one was held October 21 with the assistance of a light truck from the Fire Department. Next year, the fests will end in September. About 7,450 attended the fests this year. Coffman said the collaborations made it possible and more are planned for next year, although there will not be a Stream Extravaganza. Staff is working on something to take its place.

**Community Recreation:** Youth basketball camps are taking place at the Armory and have been successful.

**Fifty Plus:** day trips continue to be successful.

**Adapted Community Recreation:** Sarah Bowman at Paquin and Jody Cook at the ARC with Special Olympics have been collaborating on projects. The additional funds from Boone County Resources have allowed more evening craft hours for Paquin residents.

**Upcoming events** include: City Kwanzaa, Santa Hotline, new Leisure Times, Santa's Splash and Dash, Holiday Lights and Sights Tour, and First Night.

### **Commission Comments**

Kloeppel mentioned that the Commission traditionally does not meet in December due to busy holiday activities. He asked staff if anything of importance is anticipated for the December meeting?

Hood responded that nothing is expected but staff would let the Commission know.

Kloeppel said at this point, the Commission will not meet in December unless something comes up that needs attention before the January meeting.

Hood said staff would send out confirmation about a week ahead of the normal December 17 meeting date.

Donaldson said she would like to see the Stream Extravaganza stay as part of the Family Fun Fest, and offered to put Coffman or her staff in touch with others in the community to help if needed.

Blevins said he may not be at the January meeting due to surgery. He said he would keep the Commission and staff informed.

### **Staff Comments**

None

### **Public Comments**

None

Meeting adjourned at 8:50 pm.