

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

Thursday, Nov. 17, 2005

Daniel Boone City Building, 701 E. Broadway

Mezzanine Conference Room

7:00 pm

MINUTES

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

Commission Absent: Larry Hine, Marin Blevins

Staff Present: Mike Hood, Mike Griggs, Gary Ristow, Tammy Miller

Meeting called to order at 7 pm by Devine.

Agenda: The agenda was amended to include a new rezoning review. The revised agenda was approved on a motion from Grus, seconded by Knudson.

Minutes: The October minutes were approved on a motion from Kloeppe, seconded by Pauls.

Monthly Report: As a follow-up from October's meeting, Ristow explained a memo he sent to the Commission, answering questions regarding end-of-fiscal year recreation numbers for women's sports and special events at Douglass Park.

The October monthly report was approved on a motion from Kloeppe, seconded by Grus.

Rezoning – Derby Ridge and Tidewater

Hood said this request is adjacent to the new Auburn Hills neighborhood park. He added that he did not anticipate any adverse impacts from the requested rezoning.

Kloeppe made a motion, seconded by Pauls, that the Commission agreed to inform City Council that they see no potential for adverse impact to parks or trails from the proposed rezoning.

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

Motion carried.

Rezoning – 3510 Rock Quarry

Hood said the property is near Rock Quarry Park. The nearby trail would essentially act as a dam, so as long as adequate stormwater controls are provided, he sees no adverse impact.

Hood added that the whole neighborhood has developed, which was anticipated. He thought it would likely be student housing going on the site.

Pauls made a motion, seconded by Kloeppe to recommend to City Council that the developer be required to provide adequate stormwater drainage to protect the park.

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

Motion carried.

Ballot Issue Results

Hood commented on the passage of Prop. 1 and the failure of Prop. 2, saying that staff felt reasonably good about the results. With Prop 1, he pointed out that it passed but not by as big a margin as other parks-related ballot issues in the past. Staff has developed a list of projects to be funded by Prop 1 that will keep the department busy the next few years. The next step in the process is to work with the Finance Department and the City Manager to develop a cash flow plan, then work with City Council on the list of projects.

Devine asked about the tennis courts at Fairview?

Hood said the courts are targeted to be redone in fiscal year 2007. He said the Fairview courts, as well as

the ones at Cosmo, are near the top of the needs list. Unless City Council decides otherwise, the tennis courts at the two parks will be among the first projects completed.

Griggs added that staff has applied for a USTA Tennis in the Parks grant, and funding from Prop. 1 would allow the city to put up the needed match for the grant. We should know the status of the grant by the end of November.

Hood added that if we needed the match money more quickly, the Council could make a special appropriation.

Kloeppel asked if any private developers had come forward regarding putting in an ice rink?

Hood answered that he had received one call, but that was all. Regarding the Farmer's Market, Hood said he anticipated keeping things as they are for now, with a year-to-year lease for the group.

NRPA Conference Report

Hood gave a brief report on the October conference. He said it was one of the better ones he had attended with informative sessions regarding trends in the parks and rec field. Specifically, Hood said many of the trends we have seen in Columbia are mirrored across the country, including an increasing Hispanic population, planning activities for an aging population (baby boomers), and the desire of more people to have technology available to them everywhere. Other interesting information included a decrease in federal funding for parks and the number of golfers in the country staying flat, while the number of courses increases. There is also an increase in the number of spray grounds around the country which decreases the need for lifeguards.

Council Items

Hood said the Council recently agreed on a playground co-op agreement with Shepard Elementary. This is the eighth elementary school with such an agreement, where Parks and Rec buys and installs the equipment and the school guarantees the equipment is available to the public after school hours. A similar agreement with Mill Creek is pending, and staff has received inquiries from Ridgeway and Blue Ridge, Hood said.

Devine asked if schools typically approach Parks and Rec?

Hood answered yes, the program is well-known throughout the school district, so if schools have a need, parks staff generally hears from them.

Knudson asked about the tennis courts at Shepard?

Griggs said the courts are on school property, but parks staff maintains them.

Hood said in other Council news, the only thing coming up is trail easements for S. Grindstone Creek sewer. He said they would try to mirror the sewer easements with the trail easements. Staff will start getting appraisals, but estimates are that trail easements will be several times more costly than sewer line easements.

Capital Projects Update

Griggs shared project updates:

The Reichmann Pavilion is close to being completely secured. Staff will meet at the end of November to evaluate construction and determine the exact opening date. The HVAC unit has caused some delays. If the weather stays warm, the parking lot will be paved.

Work is being done for the new beach restroom at Stephens Lake. The same contractor is also doing the work on the new restroom at Nifong Park.

The new concession stand at Antimi will be under roof soon.

Staff is starting to look at signs at Stephens Lake and other parks, trying to determine if the same wood signs would be used or a different material. Signage at neighborhood parks will stay the same, but some signs at other parks may change.

Sprayground equipment for Stephens Lake Park has been delivered.

Commission Comments

Knudson said he noticed a couple of places on the north side of the lake trail at Stephens Lake Park where water accumulates. He suggested a couple of cuts may allow the water to drain.

Griggs said staff would look into those areas.

Pauls thanked whoever was responsible for coordinating the recent Boards and Commissions reception at City Hall.

Hood said the event was coordinated through the City Clerk's office.

Staff Comments

Hood mentioned that the Commission usually does not meet in December as there are usually not many agenda items and the holidays make it a busy time of year. He asked the Commission's preference about meeting this December?

The Commission agreed that unless an item of importance comes up, they would not meet in December and would hold its next meeting on January 19.

Ristow mentioned that First Night Columbia was recently featured in Midwest Living as one of the region's top public New Year's Eve celebrations.

Public Comments

None.

Meeting adjourned at 8:20 pm.