

# PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

Thursday, November 16, 2006

7:00 p.m.

ARC, 1701 West Ash

MINUTES

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

**Commission Absent:** Mike Jones

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

Meeting called to order at 7:05 pm by Pauls.

**Agenda:** The agenda was amended to include two new rezoning reviews. The revised agenda was approved on a motion Grus, seconded by Devine.

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

**Monthly Report:** Blevins asked about Tiger Night of Fun?

Ristow said there were 3,500 in attendance this year with 176 volunteers.

The October monthly report was approved on a motion from Devine, seconded by Blevins.

## **Rezoning – WJP Properties request, northeast corner of Brown School Road and Derby Ridge**

Griggs said the rezoning is adjacent to Auburn Hills and the future Cow Branch Trail. The property was originally zoned to PUD-10 based on 10 acres. It has been discovered that the property is 9.8 acres. The additional rezoning is requested to accommodate two additional units under the development that would not be allowed under the current zoning. Griggs said the request is essentially a “housekeeping” item.

Devine asked if land has been donated for the trail?

Griggs said yes, a trail easement has been granted.

Blevins asked about the topography of the area?

Griggs said it is basically flat with a bit of a slope to the road.

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

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

**Motion carried.**

## **Rezoning – Delta Roads request, west side of Rock Quarry, north of Rolling Rock Drive**

This request is adjacent to the lower south portion of Seven Oaks Park and is also near Capen and Grindstone Parks. The request is to rezone from A-1 to PUD-3. Griggs said the property has 11 lots that will likely be turned into duplexes. Griggs said if a connector road is allowed to Seven Oaks Drive, the new neighborhood could be connected to the trails system at Hinkson Creek.

Hood added that if the connector road did not exist, a pedway connection could be a tie-in to the trail. He said the key is to provide some kind of connection from Delta Roads to Seven Oaks.

Blevins made a motion, seconded by Kloeppe to recommend to City Council that no adverse impacts are anticipated from the rezoning, however, Commission recommends that Council consider the need for a connector from the development to the Hinkson Creek Trail, as part of the City’s Master Trails Plan.

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

**Motion carried.**

### Dedication of Gentry and Howard buildings

Hood said that the administrative staff has moved back to the Gentry Building. A re-dedication of Gentry and the Howard Buildings is scheduled for December 1 at 5:30.

### ARC User Survey

Ristow shared results of a survey conducted in October of ARC users. There were 267 responses to the survey which covered areas such as hours of operation, the Water Zone, ARC staff, facility and equipment. The survey results showed high marks in all areas, particularly the cleanliness of the facility which in some areas was scored at 100 percent. A substantial portion of survey respondents indicated they were more than satisfied with the services at the ARC. Most popular among the services were the cardio equipment, the track and the strength equipment.

Blevins asked Ristow about the schedule for replacing equipment at the ARC?

Ristow responded that each piece is on a schedule and it just depends on the type. New equipment is purchased each year.

### Council Items

Hood told Commissioners that at the upcoming Council meeting (November 20), the Council would likely authorize the agreement with four elementary schools for playground equipment. The schools are Mill Creek, Blue Ridge, Ridgeway and Russell. The agreement stipulates that the schools must keep the playgrounds open to the public when school is not in session.

A new outdoor lighting ordinance is also expected to be discussed at the meeting. Hood said the discussion affects Parks and Recreation in regard to athletic fields. An exception to the ordinance would have to be made to allow a regulation size baseball field.

The Council may discuss the issue of the property at Ash and Clinkscales at a December work session.

### Capital Projects Update

Griggs shared updates as follows:

A dedication was held at the new **Nikawa Pavilion** at Nifong Park. The pavilion was built by the Boone County Historical Society.

The **new parking spaces at the ARC** were striped today.

**Tennis courts at Cosmo and Fairview** are nearly complete.

Construction is ongoing with the **suspension bridge that will link Flat Branch Park** to the Chamber of Commerce. Once the framing and pouring is done, crews will add boulders.

Progress continues on the **Elm box at Flat Branch**.

The fence at **Rainbow Softball Center** is being replaced.

**Cosmo-Bethel Lake** was stocked with nearly 2,400 trout for the winter trout catch and release season. A Kids Trout Outing was held on November 5.

### Commission Comments

Devine said that he and his son recently participated in geocaching and asked if Parks and Recreation had a policy about this? He mentioned it was a great way to see the parks.

Griggs told Devine that we normally abide by the state parks policy in relation to geocaching. He said that most of the time, groups will register their locations. We ask that they avoid flower beds, historic sites and other sensitive locations. Griggs added that since this activity is becoming more popular, the department is trying to stay informed about related issues.

Grus said she had received some concerns about people who had trouble finding the Riechmann Pavilion, as well as residents in the area. There is no sign at Walnut and Old 63, indicating where it is.

Griggs responded that it would be possible to put up a sign at that spot.

Knudson asked about the garden plots, and if any were located on the ARC property?

Hood said that the plots can be rented at Fairview, but not at the ARC.

Kloeppe mentioned that he had seen where the CYBA is planning to expand its program. He asked where the additional teams would play, since the CYBA lacks courts now?

Ristow said the CYBA has put it in requests at high school buildings and would be willing to play on Sundays. No practice time would be guaranteed though.

Knudson shared information with the Commission from the latest PedNet executive meeting. The group meets regularly.

### **Staff Comments**

Griggs mentioned the PedNet Project and that Steve Saitta and Mike Snyder were staff liaisons and attend meetings on a regular basis. Hood added that a schedule of the meetings was posted online as well.

Hood asked Commissioners if they would like to hold the regularly scheduled December meeting, or, as in the past, would they prefer to cancel it with the number of holiday activities planned?

Commissioners agreed to cancel the meeting unless urgent business arose that needed immediate attention.

Hood announced that Mike Jones and his wife just had their first child, a baby girl.

### **Public Comments**

None

Meeting adjourned at 8:35 pm.