

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

Thursday, October 21, 2010, 7 p.m.

ARC, 1701 W. Ash

MINUTES

Commission Present: Marin Blevins, Sue Davis, Terry Kloepfel, Bill Pauls, Meredith Donaldson, Linda Hutton

Commission Absent: Dan Devine

Staff Present: Mike Hood, Mike Griggs, Erika Coffman, Andrew Baier, Tammy Miller

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

Agenda: The agenda was approved on a motion by Kloepfel, seconded by Pauls.

Minutes: The September minutes were approved on a motion by Kloepfel, seconded by Davis.

Monthly Report: Hood commented that this report is actually year-end, since the fiscal year ends September 30.

Kloepfel asked if the security firm was still being employed?

Griggs said there is really no need, as the beach at Stephens Lake Park is closed, and that was the biggest concern.

The September monthly report was approved on a motion by Pauls, seconded by Davis.

Staff Presentation

Coffman introduced Andrew Baier, recreation specialist in Golf.

Baier told the Commission he has been with the department for 27 years. He oversees daily operations at the Clubhouses at Nickell and Lake of the Woods, group outings, and staff.

He said that nationwide, golf outings are down at many courses. At our two courses, we've experienced a decrease from FY2006 to FY2010 of about 25,000 rounds of golf. A sluggish economy and poor weather here have contributed to that as well.

Staff is promoting the courses through web coupons, student coupons, electronic media, and by making course improvements. Adding blue tees to L.A. Nickell has made a tremendous difference in number of private outings.

Baier is also on the board of the Columbia Golf Foundation, an organization designed to introduce golf to youth. The organization conducts free golf clinics; those were held at L.A. Nickell over the summer.

Hutton complimented Baier on those efforts, saying those types of things were long overdue for kids interested in golf.

Blevins told staff he golfed often and said Andrew was a consummate professional.

Hood agreed with Blevins and thanked Baier.

Park Sales Tax Update

Hood said many speaking engagements are going on now, with about two weeks left until Election Day. Staff has met with the editorial boards of the newspapers. The Tribune has endorsed it, and while the Missourian cannot endorse, they have published several articles. One column has published in the Business Times with another planned.

Blevins said he just spoke earlier in the day to about 25 State Farm claims agents and promoted the park sales tax. There was some misconception about its relations to GetAbout funding and Blevins was able to clarify that.

Hood and Mayor McDavid spoke to the Downtown Rotary Club earlier as well. The Friends of Columbia's Parks has raised about \$7,000 for print and radio ads which will begin soon. An email blast is scheduled as well.

A watch party is planned for Election Night at Boone Tavern.

Upcoming Park Events

A ceremony is scheduled for October 22 at the new Diana Ash Memorial Garden. Diana is the late wife of former Councilman Brian Ash.

A groundbreaking ceremony will be held at 10:30 am on November 6 at the Darwin and Axie Hindman Discovery Garden Stephens Lake Park.

Council Items

Hood said there have not been many Council items lately. An item that may surface is a project at Grant Elementary, a standard playground agreement.

Capital Projects

Griggs shared these updates:

ARC: concrete work is done in the parking lot.

Hinkson Creek Trail: concrete is being removed and replaced. Donaldson asked why work is being done in stages?

Griggs said the contractor had planned the stages of the work.

American Legion Park: ballfields are being renovated.

Lake of the Woods: #11 and #12 greens are being replaced and renovated. Weather conditions over the summer caused us to lose those greens, for the first time ever.

Indian Hills Park: west playground installed.

Philips Lake Park: trail improvements made on dam for accessibility.

Lake of the Woods pool: new holding tank installed for backwashing water.

Lange Park: new shelter under construction.

Stephens Lake Park: loading zone added to amphitheater.

Nifong Park: brick at Maplewood Home sealed.

Cosmo: Diana Ash Memorial Garden completed, dedication planned Oct. 22.

CARP: project done at Smiley Park on Oct. 9.

Roots and Blues: Maintenance crew assisted with set-up.

Stephens Lake Park: supervisors held a work day there in September, was great team-building exercise.

Recreation Services Update

Coffman shared these updates:

Heritage Festival: huge crowds on Saturday, but the event was rained out on Sunday.

Preschool Picassos: popular preschool event going well.

Other preschool activities: busy time of year, many holiday-themed activities are planned.

Tumble Tots: another popular youth activity.

Little Explorers: recently toured a fire station in honor of Fire Prevention Week.

OAK Tours: just had fall getaway to mid-Atlantic states, planning holiday excursion to Branson.

Holiday Toy Drive: about to kick off for 2010. Will run through December 17.

Active Kids Club: operating in four elementary schools this year.

BYOBW/Tiger Night of Fun: coming up Halloween weekend.

Upcoming: New Leisure Times will be out November 10. Holiday events include Santa's Splash and Dash, Santa Hotline, City Kwanzaa Celebration, Christmas at Maplewood, and First Night.

Commission Comments

Donaldson complimented staff on recent mentions in the MPRA magazine.

Blevins asked about recent news of the Historic Preservation Commission related to the Maplewood Barn?

Hood explained that the Commission expressed concerns about the two building proposals.

They felt neither stayed true to the design of the barn. The Commission also expressed dissatisfaction that they had not been involved in the design process at an earlier time.

Hood said the Commission at first wanted to bring an old barn to the site to replace Maplewood Barn. However, that option was not economically feasible. Parks and Recreation staff met with members of the Commission as well as the Maplewood Barn Community Theater. Progress is being made, Hood said. Staff feels that since the structure burned to the ground, there is nothing to preserve. This will be new construction and current building codes and accessibility issues will need to be met.

However, staff also feels that it is important that the new barn maintain an authentic appearance in keeping with the historic nature of the park and site. The groups are trying to reach a compromise before going to the City Council.

Donaldson asked how the Boone County Historical Society feels about the designs?

Hood said they are supportive of both options.

Griggs added that members of the Society had expressed their thoughts at interested parties meetings that were held.

Hood said staff is attempting to find "middle ground" with the design.

Staff Comments

Hood commented on the Natural Resources Inventory reports distributed to the Commission.

Asst. City Manager Tony St. Romaine has requested comments and feedback by February 18.

the item will be placed on the November Commission meeting agenda.

Commissioners also received copies of an essay written by David Wilson, son of former Mayor Clyde Wilson regarding the value of parks.

Hood also informed the Commission that applications are being sought for the City's Vision Commission in case there is interest.

Public Comments

None.

Meeting adjourned at 8:25 pm.