

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

Thursday, February 17, 2005

Daniel Boone City Building, 701 E. Broadway

7:00 pm

MINUTES

Commission Present: Ann Gowans, Terry Kloepfel, Julia Grus, and Dennis Knudson

Commission Absent: Larry Hine, Bill Pauls, and Daniel Devine

Staff Present: Mike Hood, Mike Griggs, and Sarah Buckert

Meeting called to order at 7:15 by Gowans.

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

Minutes: The January minutes were approved on a motion from Kloepfel, seconded by Knudson.

Monthly Report: Griggs explained the ranger's surgery on her ankle.

The monthly report for January was approved on a motion from Kloepfel, seconded by Knudson

Rezoning

Griggs-explained the area of the land, which is located south of Atkins. Also, there are not many drainage problems in this area and that there would be no adverse impact.

Hood- If the planned zoning is approved, this area could be key piece to link the fairgrounds and Atkins. Planned rezoning may provide the opportunity to obtain a trail easement across this property for the future construction of the Bear Creek Trail.

Gowan-Planned zoning works to our benefit?

Hood-Planned zoning requires the development plan be approved by the Council. That process provides the opportunity to negotiate a trail easement.

Knudson-Does the stream go by the house right there?

Hood-Yes, I think it does. It was noted that if the property is developed for commercial uses that the house may or may not remain at the site.

On a motion by Knudson, seconded by Grus, the Commission agreed to inform the Council that they see no adverse impact to the Atkins Property from the proposed rezoning.

All in favor: Gowans, Kloepfel, Grus, Knudson

Motion carried.

Cable Communications

Hood explained the different workshops and invited Commission members to participate. The workshops are also open to the general public. Those wishing to attend should register with the clerks office before the workshop.

Adult Financial Assistance Program

Hood explained the new adult scholarship policy. \$5,000 is available to fund the program. The Council adopted guidelines for the program on February 7. Scholarships are limited to Columbia residents. The scholarship is nontransferable, and it also two-tiered. The program is limited to the ARC. Initially, participants will receive a block of twenty admission passes which can be renewed two times. If the participant uses the passes heavily, then the participant may qualify to receive an annual pass.

Gowan-Does it include senior citizens?

Hood-Yes.

Grus-Will community groups be able to make contributions to the program?

Hood-Yes, donations and contributions to the fund are encouraged.

Kloeppe-What if there are more applicants than passes?

Hood-First come, first serve basis. Will get the feel for the level of demand as a first step.

Knudson-It will be interesting to see how it's going after six months.

Hood-Will plan to advise the Commission of status in six months. Anticipate the Council will also be interested in such information.

MPRA Legislative Briefing

Hood-Gary Ristow and I recently attended the MPRA Legislative Day. MPRA has four primary legislative issue. MPRA is sponsoring legislation to give communities the option to prohibit concealed weapons at public park and recreation facilities. Columbia has opted to prohibit concealed weapons in city buildings. Springfield feels strongly about prohibiting concealed weapons in parks due to professional tennis. USTA has held tournaments there and will not hold tournaments again unless they can assure no weapons are allowed at the tournament site. Springfield has taken the initiative to promote this legislation.

MPRA is also working to restore funding to the Local Landmark Parks Program which lost its funding in 2001. The program historically has provided millions of dollars for parks. Funding for the program was deleted from the state's budget due to the state's limited financial resources.

The third issue involves the desire to renew the 1/10-sales tax for Missouri State Parks. This tax provides the primary funding source for State Parks and must be renewed every 10 years. The tax is scheduled to expire in 2008 with a potential vote scheduled for either late 2006 or 2007.

The final state priority relates to the distribution of controlled substances within 2000 feet of a park. MPRA is promoting legislation to add parks to existing legislation relating to schools

which makes distribution of any controlled substances within 2000 feet of a school a Class A felony.

On the Federal level, Hood noted that funding is a top issue in Washington, D.C. The TEA-21 funds is a program due for reauthorization. Trail money will stay if highway funding is figured out. There is a big debate over highway funds.

President Bush has recommended deleting the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF), which is a grant source that has provided us with over 25 grants over the past 30 years. We would like to see this program continue.

Council Items

“Council Items” is a new addition to the agenda. Hood explained that the official procedure for park staff is to route items through the Council who may then refer it to the Commission. This agenda item will allow park staff to inform the Commission on items that will appear on the Council agenda. Hood explains that this coming Monday there will be two agenda items: Paquin Park renovation and Oakland East Parking Lot Repairs. In addition there will be a report on the Farmer's Market Lease as it will officially expire.

Capital Project Update

Griggs explained that due to wet grounds, department has been able to complete smaller, deferred projects such as memorial/heritage benches, LA Nickell carpet replacement, Park Management Center tile replacement, re-roofing buildings at PMC, and painting where needed. We have been able to continue with some work at Stephens and Antimi primarily in the areas of electrical work. The forestry crew has been working on the MKT Trail.

Commission Comments

Kloeppel asked about new lights at Rainbow, and Griggs explained that there is another two days of work to revamp the poles. He noted that it is still too wet to complete the work.

Meeting adjourned at 8:25 pm.

Minutes by Sarah Buckert.