

# PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

Thursday, January 17, 2008, 7:00 p.m.

ARC, 1701 West Ash

## MINUTES

**Commission Present:** Terry Kloepfel, Marin Blevins, Bill Pauls, Julia Grus, Dan Devine

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

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

**Agenda:** Two rezonings were added to the agenda. The amended agenda was approved on a motion by Devine, seconded by Grus.

**Minutes:** The November minutes were approved on a motion from Grus, seconded by Pauls.

### Monthly Report:

Devine asked about work at Hickman Pool?

Griggs responded that a UV system and pulsar chlorine feed have been installed, which are the same items installed at the ARC. Staff at the ARC noticed an immediate change afterward. At Hickman, the chloramine levels have already declined.

Hood added that the school will be installing a new HVAC system over spring break.

Kloepfel asked for clarification of a disturbance at the Parkade Center, as part of the Ranger's report.

Griggs said it was a homeless person creating a scene, but he left when the Ranger arrived.

Pauls asked about reports of vandalism with signs at Stephens Lake Park?

Griggs answered that it was the main sign, with park users stapling flyers, which is not allowed.

Pauls mentioned that a sign along the Bear Creek Trail has been damaged. It is located at the bottom of the sled hill, just to the west.

Griggs said staff would look into that.

Grus asked how First Night went this year?

Hood told the Commission that the event was successful with about 12,000, although the weather was not good with high winds. The wind affected the fireworks finale at midnight.

Ristow added that the GRO organization has been lobbying to make First Night a free event. He said it would be difficult to put on the same type of event of the same magnitude without funds coming from admission button sales, unless major sponsors stepped up to pick up the cost. Ristow said that may be more of an issue in the future.

Hood commented that without that revenue from ticket sales, and if no sponsors came on board, the event would have to be scaled back considerably.

Ristow said another concern if the event was made free, would be the size of the crowds. Many of the current venues could not accommodate tremendous crowds.

The November and December monthly reports were approved on a motion from Pauls, seconded by Devine.

### Rezoning: Crane property

Griggs said the property is being annexed into the City, causing the rezoning request. The recommended zoning is R1, as with many city parks.

Grus made a motion, seconded by Devine to recommend to City Council that they see no potential adverse impact to parks or trails from the proposed rezoning.

**All in favor:** Kloepfel, Blevins, Pauls, Grus, Devine

**Motion carried.**

### **Rezoning: Creasy Springs**

The rezoning on Creasy Springs is a 2.5 acre tract of land owned by the City. It is also being annexed and is near Cosmo Park and the Bear Creek Trail. The City intends to straighten the curve on Creasy Springs in this area.

Pauls made a motion, seconded by Blevins to recommend to City Council that they see no potential adverse impact to parks or trails from the proposed rezoning.

**All in favor:** Kloeppel, Blevins, Pauls, Grus, Devine

**Motion carried.**

### **Rezoning: McAlester Berry**

Griggs told the Commission that this tract is about 11 acres in size, off of Old 63 near Stephens Lake Park. However, only 4.73 acres was set aside to be rezoned to O-P for a long-term care hospital. He mentioned that this request will likely draw opposition from residents.

Pauls made a motion, seconded by Grus to recommend to City Council that they see no potential adverse impact to parks or trails from the proposed rezoning.

**All in favor:** Kloeppel, Blevins, Pauls, Grus, Devine

**Motion carried.**

### **Parkade Center programs relocation**

Ristow updated the Commissioners on the relocation of Parkade programs to the Stephens Lake Activity Center (Randy Adams building) across from Riechmann Pavilion. Staff had several issues with the Parkade facility, and wanted to explore options since the lease was set to expire this year. The new building is 7,000 square feet, a little bigger than the space at Parkade. The whole operation is set to move there February 1, though some moving is already going on.

Ristow mentioned that City Council had inquired about what it would take to build a facility rather than leasing. He said the staff plans to visit a couple of similar facilities in Lee's Summit and Blue Springs.

Hood said the lease with Randy Adams was one-year with an option for four additional years. Council did have concern with continuing to lease a building for the programs.

Blevins asked about response from the neighborhood.

Hood said one neighbor expressed concern with the parking lot lighting and about the brush that was cleared, leaving not much of a buffer. Parks and Recreation staff will plant trees along the property line and will bring lighting into compliance with City ordinance. Other residents have been very positive, Hood said.

Kloeppel asked if parking was adequate?

Ristow said yes, and in fact, since Riechmann is across the street, there is spill-over parking for both facilities.

Pauls asked staff if there would be an option to buy the facility?

Hood answered that there would, at the end of the lease.

### **Update on Regional Park Planning**

Griggs distributed a handout with results from a recent web survey suggesting names for the new regional park. He explained how the names were compiled, with categories breaking suggested names out by key words such as Gans and Crane.

Grus asked for clarification on how the Philips tract should be named?

Hood answered that staff had researched it, and the lake along with 60 acres around the lake must be named after A. Perry Philips as part of the purchase agreement. The main question comes up with the remainder of the Philips tract and the Crane tract.

Devine asked if it was possible to just name the lake for Philips?

Hood said that staff had thought that was a possibility, but the language in the contract indicates that the park

around the lake must be named that too.

Grus wanted to know if a “combination name” with Philips in it would fulfill the requirement.

Hood said he was not sure of that, but a combination name could be too lengthy. He mentioned that it may be proper to come up with two names. There is another example in the park system of two parks adjoining each other with two names: Capen Park and Grindstone Nature Area. The area is actually managed as one park.

Kloeppel commented that two names seemed to be the most logical answer.

Griggs added that plans are being formulated to widen Gans Road, and that may include an underpass between the Crane and Philips tracts. He said the street would actually separate the two parks, so it may be beneficial to have two names.

Devine agreed, saying it seemed the two tracts would have different uses.

Griggs said staff was in no rush to come up with a name, he had just wanted to share the survey results with the Commission and give them some things to consider.

Hood said the issue would be brought back before the Commission again in coming months.

Devine said he would be disappointed to see the Philips name attached to entire property.

### **MPRA Conference**

Hood reminded Commissioners that the MPRA Conference is approaching, Feb. 26-29 at Lodge of the Four Seasons at Lake of the Ozarks. If anyone is interested in attending, contact Tammy Miller in the next couple of weeks so she can process registrations.

Blevins asked if a van would be going every day?

Ristow said a transportation plan was being formulated.

Kloeppel asked if there was enough in the budget for this?

Hood told him that the national conference went in last year’s budget, so there would be enough.

Pauls stated he was interested in attending.

### **Council Items**

Hood updated the Commission on Council items:

**Special event liability insurance-** Council asked for a staff report on liability requirements by the City for larger special events in the parks that require outside equipment or large crowds. Currently, the permittee must have a \$2 million liability policy and name the City as co-insured. A particular group was not happy with the policy and had asked for the City to waive the requirement, as it would cost \$2,600 for them to have such a policy for their event.

City staff is drafting an ordinance that clearly outlines the requirements and amount of insurance needed.

The City’s Risk Management office requires the \$2 million policy, as that is the limit set by the State legislature. Hood let the Commission know the drafted ordinance may be referred to them for their review.

**Hominy Trail Grant-** Council authorized the grant agreement that will take the trail from Stephens Lake Park to Woodridge.

**Heibel Building-**Council received a letter from the organization attempting to renovate the building at Field Park, requesting that Parks and Recreation handle water management issues at the site. Hood said staff considered the problem and concluded that a proper solution cannot be identified until problems with the building’s roof are corrected. Staff shared with the Council a report on the condition of the building with photos showing recent work on the roof that has not been completed. Essentially, the building’s roof was never completed and the building’s structure may be receiving weather damage. Staff prefers not to proceed with any work at the site until the roof is secured.

Devine asked about the status of the agreement with the group?

Hood said it was five years, which means it will expire in 2012.

## **Capital Project Update**

Griggs shared these updates:

Harris Shelter at Cosmo- A large patio was added to shelter, which will be easier for catered events, or park users who have large grills.

Paquin Park- The wooden retaining wall has been replaced.

Antimi- Frames for new shade structures have been erected, which will provide shade for spectators sitting on the bleachers.

Stephens Lake- Work continues on the sprayground pump house.

Rainbow Softball Center- Some retaining walls and fences have been replaced.

Golf courses- The clubhouses have been painted (interior) and new hardware has been added to cabinets at LA Nickell.

Parkade Shelter- Snow caused the collapse of the shelter in December. Instead of building a new shelter right away, staff will create a sun deck with metal fencing for this season.

Louisville Park- TreeKeepers have planted trees on a hillside in the park.

Hickman Pool- A new pulsar chlorine feed and UV sanitizing unit have been installed. Parks and Recreation staff worked overtime over the holidays to get the pool ready, after some contractor delays.

PMC- Renovations are going on to repair water damage and prepare an office for the engineering aide.

## **Commission Comments**

Blevins asked about the Audubon Society's involvement with the Russell property?

Hood said Audubon owns 19 acres on the south side of the tract. Steve Saitta is trying to determine how a trail would fit on the property.

Blevins asked if houses have infringed on the property?

Griggs answered that staff monitors and works with adjacent property owners. Adjacent home owners can grade to the edge of the yard or just a short distance beyond. If they infringe too much on the park property or take out any trees, they are reported to Protective Inspection.

Pauls said he had heard from the woman who complained about lack of access from the parking lot to the leash-free area at Garth Nature Area. She is very happy with the new sidewalk.

Hood said staff is now looking at the parking issue at the Nature Area. A report will be made to Council in coming weeks.

Kloppel complimented staff on the Facility of the Year designation bestowed on Cosmo Tennis Courts by the USTA.

## **Staff Comments**

Griggs mentioned that there have been several staff retirements on the Parks side. Jerry McCauley, supervisor of grounds and facilities retired in January and Jim McClelland (Golf and Turf) will retire in March. Applications are being taken for both positions.

## **Public Comments**

None

Meeting adjourned at 8:40 pm.