

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

Thursday, July 17, 2008, 5:30 p.m.

PMC, 1507 Business Loop 70 West

MINUTES

Commission Present: Terry Kloepfel, Marin Blevins, Dan Devine, Bill Pauls, Dennis Knudson

Staff Present: Mike Hood, Mike Griggs, Gary Ristow, Tammy Miller, Mark Kottwitz, Gabe Huffington

Kloepfel called the meeting to order at 5:45 pm. Griggs introduced two new park supervisors, Mark Kottwitz (Facilities and Grounds) and Gabe Huffington (Golf and Sports Turf).

Agenda: Hood requested that the agenda be amended to include a report on the budget. The agenda was approved as amended on a motion by Blevins, seconded by Devine.

Minutes: The June minutes were approved on a motion from Blevins, seconded by Pauls.

Monthly Report: Kloepfel asked about custodial arrests made at Oakland, listed on the Park Ranger's report?

Griggs said he did not think it was a large group; he was unsure if that was the same group fighting at the pool early in the summer.

Hood pointed out that pool attendance numbers have increased this summer, especially at Douglass Family Aquatic Center.

Blevins asked about the Tree City USA award?

Hood described the award received by forestry and also mentioned the Forest ReLeaf award, made for the plantings at Longview Park.

The monthly report was approved on a motion by Devine, seconded by Knudson.

Budget

Hood mentioned the numerous reports in the media recently regarding the proposed cut of the recreation program at Paquin Tower. At this point, the budget cut is being considered in the City Manager's proposed budget, but that budget will not be announced formally until the end of July. Hood said the cut is a possibility only at this time, and the budget will go through many public hearings and discussions by City Council before it is ever finalized in September.

Hood shared the history of the Paquin program, which dates back to the early 1970s. The facility is actually operated by the Housing Authority, with Parks and Recreation running the activities for residents.

Knudson asked about the budget for Paquin?

Hood said it was difficult to break down since it is within the Life Enrichment budget, but that basically about \$92,000 was budgeted with revenue of \$4,000, meaning that about \$88,000 of the program is subsidized by the City.

Devine asked if a partial cut to services was considered?

Hood answered that several alternatives were prepared but this was the one chosen that will likely be in the City Manager's recommendations.

Ristow mentioned that he had attended a meeting of the Paquin Recreation Council earlier in the day. He said they are interested in running some of the programs, but their resources are limited. He said residents there are emotional but seem committed to trying to save the program.

Election of Officers

Kloeppel opened the floor for nominations for chair and vice-chair of the Commission.

Blevins said that if Kloeppel was interested, he would like for him to continue serving as Commission chair. Kloeppel said he would serve for another year in the capacity.

Blevins moved that Kloeppel be re-elected Commission Chair, seconded by Knudson. All in favor.

Devine then moved that Blevins be reappointed Commission Vice Chair, seconded by Pauls. All in favor.

Hood told the Commissioners they still needed to elect a secretary. **Blevins nominated Miller as secretary, seconded by Pauls. All in favor.**

Hood reminded Commissioners of the meeting with City Council on July 26 at the ARC and of a work session the Council scheduled on July 22 to discuss the GetAbout Columbia trail projects. Commissioners are invited to attend both.

Meeting adjourned at 6:35 pm for the annual park tour.