

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

Thursday, June 18, 2009, 7 p.m.

ARC, 1701 W. Ash

MINUTES

Commission Present: Terry Kloepfel, Dan Devine, Gary Kespohl, Sue Davis, Meredith Donaldson

Commission Absent: Marin Blevins, Bill Pauls

Staff Present: Mike Griggs, Erika Coffman, Tammy Miller

Kloepfel called the meeting to order at 7 pm.

Agenda: The agenda was approved on a motion by Devine, seconded by Davis.

Minutes: The minutes were approved on a motion by Donaldson, seconded by Devine.

Monthly Report: Kloepfel asked about the report of a black cow on the MKT Trail? Griggs answered that it was handled by Animal Control.

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

Rezoning - Annexation

This request is off of Richland Road and is an annexation request of a 271 acre tract. The developer is planning between 1,300 and 1,500 residences on the property. It is near Eastport Park, Griggs said.

Griggs added that the large number of residential units planned indicate a need for a neighborhood park.

Another item to consider is that the north fork of the Grindstone Creek runs through the property, so a trail easement would be appropriate as well for a future trail.

Devine mentioned that on the map, it appears that the easement would go through a private lot as well as the development. He asked if the easement could be obtained along the creek?

Griggs said yes, that staff would go through the normal processes to obtain the easement. He pointed out that the stream buffer ordinance would allow the trail.

Donaldson asked if there were any type of guidelines as to what size of neighborhood park was appropriate for a development of this size?

Griggs said a 10-acre park is standard; it usually allows space for all the usual components of a neighborhood park.

Devine mentioned that is a good example of how a land dedication ordinance would mean that the City would not have to ask for the land for a neighborhood park.

Devine made a motion to recommend to Council that the development could have an adverse impact to the Eastport Park in terms of traffic, use, and access, and that the developer should implement adequate storm water controls. The motion also included the recommendation that the developer work with City staff to provide 10 acres for a neighborhood park and a 100-foot trail easement for the Grindstone Creek Trail. The motion was seconded by Kespohl. All in favor, motion passed.

Election of Officers

Kloeppel opened the nomination of officers with the position of secretary.

Devine moved, seconded by Kespohl, that Miller be re-elected as Commission secretary. All in favor, motion passed.

Kloeppel then opened the floor for nominations for chair. Devine nominated Kloeppel to serve again as chair, seconded by Kespohl. All in favor, motion passed.

For the position of vice chair, Kespohl nominated Blevins to serve again as vice-chair, seconded by Davis. All in favor, motion passed.

July Park Tour

Griggs reminded the Commission that the July meeting would consist of a short business meeting with dinner, followed by a tour of the parks. The meeting will be held at the Parks Management Center on the Business Loop, near the entrance to Cosmo Park. Griggs shared a list of suggested sites to visit, including: Atkins, Grasslands, Douglass, Auburn Hills, Smiley Lane, and Rock Quarry. He asked for other ideas? Kloeppel said he would like to visit the Anderson property. Griggs said he'd add it to the list.

No other parks were named, and Kloeppel told Commissioners to notify Miller or Griggs if they had any other suggestions.

Council Items

Griggs shared Council reports regarding repairs to the MKT bridges #12 and #13, the construction of the Stephens Lake Park amphitheater, and a report on the roof at Hickman Pool. He added that the roof has to be repaired quickly, and the department's share of the cost would be \$64,000. Funds will have to be reappropriated to pay for the cost.

Donaldson asked about the lifespan of the roof?

Griggs said it was about 30 years, and it was possible that the one at Hickman is the original roof.

Kespohl asked if a new pool was planned?

Griggs said there are no plans for one right now. The Hickman Pool is in decent shape with recent improvements but is not just up to the standards that new pools are built to. He said it was difficult to predict how much longer the pool would last.

Donaldson asked about the amphitheater and how noise would affect the neighborhoods nearby?

Griggs said that would have to be addressed. The amphitheater has been designed to help the noise, with a large berm and plantings. He said the venue would likely not be the site of really loud concerts late at night, so that should not be a problem.

Capital Projects

Griggs shared these updates:

Nall Waterfall Dedication was held on June 14.

Rock Quarry Park tennis courts: posts have been installed.

Douglass Park: the fence has been installed and a gate has been installed at the park entrance. Police are concerned about cars parking there late at night. They are going to take care of locking and opening the gate.

Antimi: t-ball lot has been paved.

Cosmo Park: paving has been completed.

Parkade Park: new shelter has been completed.

Atkins Park: new shelter there has been completed.

Stephens Lake Park: walkways have been repaired and access drive is now concrete.

Smiley Lane: site preparations are underway.

Grasslands Park: nearing completion.

Recreation Services Update

Coffman shared these updates and photos:

Life Enrichment: classes are going well, particularly martial arts, fencing and ballroom dance and the 4th Friday Kids Nights.

Family Fun Fests: very successful with good attendance. Have been great collaborations with sponsors and partners as well. The next one is July 15.

Preschool Programs: Have been well attended lately, with some exceeding maximum attendance.

ARC: Advantage Basketball Camp going on June 15-19 with 52 participants from seven different states in attendance. Most camps nationwide have seen decreased attendance, but not the one held at the ARC.

Golf: First ever Junior Golf Camp held June 8-11 with 25 participants, has been great exposure for young golfers.

Upcoming events: Juneteenth, Go Skateboarding Day, Francis Hagan Tournament, Fire in the Sky, Teen Night at Albert-Oakland Family Aquatic Center, US Cellular Movies in the Park, and Itty Bitty Beach Party. Devine asked about attendance at summer camps?

Coffman said attendance at Camp Adventure has increased this summer after being down slightly the last couple of summers. She thinks the relocation to Stephens Lake Park has been a positive one.

Commission Comments

Davis asked on behalf of the Bike and Ped Commission who is responsible for trail closures?

Griggs said the trails don't really close unless there is flooding. A portion of Bear Creek Trail is closed presently because of construction. Public Works is in charge of that particular project.

Davis clarified then that signs are not usually posted when there are closures?

Griggs said staff puts up caution signs when some trail work is being done. When there was serious flooding last fall, it was posted on the department's web site. He said it was difficult to find exact locations for signs on the trails, since there are different entry points for users.

Kespohl asked about the County House Branch Trail?

Griggs said bids going out now. It might be done by the end of the year.

Kespohl said he'd like staff to consider options for replacing Hickman Pool.

Griggs said that staff has discussed this, and would likely continue those discussions.

Staff Comments

None

Public Comments

None

Meeting adjourned at 8:00 pm.