

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

Thursday, May 21, 2009, 7 p.m.

ARC, 1701 W. Ash

MINUTES

Commission Present: Terry Kloepfel, Marin Blevins, Bill Pauls, Dennis Knudson, Dan Devine, Gary Kespohl, Sue Davis

Commission Absent: None

Staff Present: Mike Hood, 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 Knudson.

Minutes: The minutes were approved on a motion by Kespohl, seconded by Knudson.

Monthly Report: The monthly report was approved on a motion by Devine, seconded by Blevins.

Bike and Pedestrian Commission Representative

Kloepfel introduced Meredith Donaldson from the audience, who is the new Commissioner for Ward 6 starting June 1.

Kloepfel then opened the discussion of who should replace Knudson as the liaison to the Bike and Pedestrian Commission, since he is leaving the Commission.

Davis asked about the duties of the position?

Knudson said it was a well-organized commission that basically acts as a citizen advisory panel. The group works a lot with the non-motorized transportation group and brings up issues affecting bikers and walkers. They meet the third Wednesday of each month.

Davis asked what was expected of the Parks and Recreation liaison?

Hood said the idea of having the liaison was to encourage communication between the two commissions and share information.

Pauls mentioned it may be good to table the idea until the June meeting, after Donaldson has taken her seat.

Donaldson from the audience mentioned that it may be good to have a commissioner with more experience as the liaison.

Davis said she had some interest but was not sure about committing to a long tenure. Kloepfel suggested that she serve a one-year term, then perhaps it could rotate among the Commission

Donaldson said she would back up Davis in the role.

Davis agreed to serve for one year, then re-evaluate it at that time.

Miller said she would notify the Bike and Pedestrian Board staff representative.

Nall Waterfall Dedication

Hood mentioned that last-minute details are being completed for the waterfall. The Nall family is having a reunion at Stephens Lake Park on June 14, and a short dedication will be held on that day at 1:30. Invitations will be sent.

Park Tour

Hood asked the Commission if they would like to have their Park Tour for the June meeting, as has been the case in the past? Hood will be gone for the meeting.

Pauls said that he too would not be able to attend the June meeting. Blevins moved that the tour be held at the July 16 meeting instead. Davis seconded the motion, all in favor. The June meeting will feature the election of officers, Hood said.

Proposed FY'10 CIP

Hood shared a document from the annual capital improvements program (CIP) for the City. The Commission had received summaries of the Parks and Recreation portion of the document. Hood said the entire document is rather lengthy, but if the Commission would like certain copies, staff could provide them.

The document shows capital projects to be funded in the 2010 budget, as well as future projects. The Council will have a public hearing on the CIP in July. It is a planning document and funds are not in place for everything listed. The CIP includes 34 park projects and 7-12 trail projects in various stages of completion. The projects are broken down by priority and Council has the flexibility to make adjustments to the priority order.

Devine asked if there was a process used to determine the priority?

Hood said no the projects are not really scored, but feedback is obtained from the public and from user groups. Projects are entered at the 5-year level until they gradually work into funding levels. From the parks perspective, it depends on the park sales tax. We are currently in the second extension of the park sales tax, with the third scheduled for next year.

Devine asked if we are keeping up with projects?

Hood said all projects named in the last ballot issue will be either completed or at least underway at the time of the next election. A problem has occurred with the decrease of sales tax overall. The park sales tax is not currently at the projected level it was planned for, due to the economy. Some items covered by the sales tax may need to be altered, particularly land acquisition.

Hood went on to describe some of the CIP projects and how the long-range projects may fit into the next ballot issue. One project that may be changed is making improvements at American Legion Park a higher priority.

Devine asked how the new high school in east Columbia would affect plans?

Hood answered that staff would like to acquire land near the planned school site, which is also east of Lake of the Woods. Staff would envision a similar situation to Cosmo-Bethel Park and Rock Bridge High School. Kespohl asked about the note on the Crane property and if that is being paid by the 1/8 cent Park Sales Tax extension?

Hood said that it is actually being paid for by the permanent Park Sales Tax. The payoff schedule for the property is in 2011.

Kespohl asked about projects at Albert-Oakland and if any money is left over, what happens?

Hood said when all the work is completed, any left over funds will go back in the account.

Griggs added that some projects are kept open until staff is sure that all work is done. Once that determination is made, the project is closed.

Hood said one example of keeping a project open is the addition of landscaping at the close of a project. The ARC lighting is one project that may be ready to close.

Devine asked if the removal of street lights being proposed by Water and Light would affect parks?

Hood said it could, but if parks are adequately lit, nearby street lights may be removed. We don't expect to hear that we have to remove lights from park.

Kespohl commented that in looking at the CIP map, it seems the Sixth Ward does not have many projects.

Hood said that was a good point, that staff needed to look at the map closely to make sure all projects are reflected there. He thought some may be missing from the map, such as Gans and Philips. Hood mentioned that staff pays close attention when planning a ballot issue to make sure that all areas of the city are fairly treated and represented.

Kespohl asked if more thought had been given to the timing of the ballot issue in 2010?

Hood answered that it may be discussed in more detail at the upcoming Council retreat, but at this point, the City Manager is contemplating November 2010.

Kespohl commented that it may be difficult to be one of the last ballot issues considered by voters in 2010.

Council Items

Hood shared these updates:

County House Trail – a public hearing was held at the May 18 Council meeting. This phase of the trail will run from the Twin Lakes picnic shelter to Stadium, crossing under Chapel Hill Road. The bid should be awarded in the fall if everything goes well.

Blevins asked if deer hunting would be eliminated in that area at Twin Lakes after the trail is built?

Hood said that hadn't been discussed, but with the restrictions placed on deer hunting and proximity to trails, that area would be closed to hunters.

Strothman property: Located along Burberry, staff has been in discussions with the owner for several years about acquiring the property for a park. The Council may be approving this purchase.

Capital Projects

Griggs shared these updates:

Lake of the Woods- new tees on #3 and #11. Work is being done on #9 to improve drainage.

Rock Quarry tennis- new courts are under construction.

Douglass Park- improvements being made to outfield with new fencing.

Antimi Shelter- new roof is complete.

Parkade Park- new pre-fab shelter is being installed to replace the one that collapsed under the weight of snow.

Atkins Park- New signs were in place in time for the dedication held there May 11. An ADA walkway was also built and shelter is under construction.

Garth Nature Area- ADA access to dog park is complete

WiFi service is now in place at Flat Branch Park and some areas at Stephens Lake Park.

Cascades Park – site is being prepared.

CARP volunteer program received \$1000 grant award submitted by Becky Stidham.

Arbor Day celebration was held at New Haven Elementary on April 24 with the planting of 50 trees with students.

Recreation Services Update

Coffman shared these updates and photos:

Tons of Trucks was held on April 2 with great attendance despite the weather.

Kite Flying Day held at Douglass Park on April 4, followed the next weekend with the Easter

EGGstravaganza on April 11, also at Douglass. Both events went very well.

Hershey Track and Field was held on April 18. Many Blue Thunder athletes participate. There are 95 involved in Blue Thunder this year.

Pitch Hit and Run was held on May 2.

The Mayor's Council on Physical Fitness had their annual Health Expo at the ARC on May 5.

The first movie in the Movies in the Park series was held on May 8 with about 200 in attendance to see *Wall-E*. Movies will be at Flat Branch the second Friday of every month through September.

Bike Safety Day was held on May 16.

The first Family Fun Fest was held on May 20 with the ARC sponsoring the event called Fitness is Fun. It was very well-attended.

Coffman mentioned upcoming events including: the opening of the pools, Whiff and Giggle golf, Special Olympics state meet, Art in the Park, Kids fishing clinic, National Trails Day, Junior Golf Camp at LA

Nickell, *Madagascar Escape 2 Africa* as the next outdoor movie, Juneteenth, Camp Adventure and Family Fun Fest on June 17.

Kespohl asked about the Family Fun Fests in relation to the Twilight Festivals?

Coffman said Family Fun Fest was basically a continuation of the youth events we had been hosting at Flat Branch during the Twilight Festivals. They have just been expanded a bit, but are still geared towards kids and families. We are targeting a younger population.

Kespohl asked what we would do if Twilight returned?

Coffman said we would evaluate it at that point.

Commission Comments

Kloepfel presented a plaque to Knudson for his 9 years of service to the Commission, stating that he would be missed.

Devine commented that it has been a pleasure to serve with Knudson.

Pauls agreed, calling Knudson a true gentleman.

Pauls said he had spoken to a Boone County parks commissioner at the Atkins dedication and he expressed interest in having a joint meeting, as we had a couple of years ago. Pauls thought it might be a good idea.

Hood said September or October might be good months to have such a meeting.

Kloepfel suggested that staff make contact with the Boone County Commission to see if they would be interested.

Pauls complimented staff on Atkins Park and the dedication.

Staff Comments

Hood commented that he was pleased that Kloepfel and Devine were both reappointed to their seats on the Commission.

Public Comments

None.

Meeting adjourned at 8:40 pm.