

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

Thursday, Sept. 15, 2005

ARC, 1701 W. Ash

7:00 pm

MINUTES

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

Commission Absent: Larry Hine

Staff Present: Mike Hood, Mike Griggs, Tammy Miller

Meeting called to order at 7:04 pm by Devine.

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

Minutes: The August minutes were approved on a motion from Kloepfel, seconded by Blevins.

Monthly Report: Kloepfel asked about warnings issued by the Park Ranger at a recent soccer game. Griggs told him it was a parental argument at the Show Me Games.

Pauls asked about the new ranger?

Griggs informed the Commission that Tony Rodriguez is the new part-time Park Ranger. He has background in security and is currently enrolled at LTI.

Blevins commented he had received a message from a constituent asking why there are no golf course rangers?

Hood answered that the courses used to have rangers but they were not that effective at keeping action moving. He said it may be time to revisit the policy.

Blevins said it seemed to be a problem when there were groups of five or six playing.

Griggs responded that groups should never be that large.

The August monthly report was approved on a motion from Pauls, seconded by Kloepfel.

Joint Discussion with Boone County Parks Commissioners

Devine opened the joint meeting with county commissioners with introductions. Attending the meeting from the County were: County Commissioner Skip Elkin and Parks Commissioners Larry McBee, Mary Lottes, Mona Menezes, Stan Fadler, David Moore and Debby Lancaster.

Devine and Hood explained the role and purpose of the city's Parks and Recreation Commission.

Elkin asked about the city's budget and how large the parks and rec budget is.

Hood provided information on the budget.

Devine asked about the county's parks system and what services were provided.

Elkin said facilities management maintains the parks, so the county's parks budget goes through that division.

McBee asked for input from the city on how to develop revenue sources.

Hood answered and provided information on the city's parks funding sources.

Devine mentioned the importance of starting with a Master Plan, similar to the one used by the city.

Pauls asked if there was an opinion among county residents that they can find recreation opportunities in the city?

McBee said there was.

Elkin said the city and county owed it to citizens to work together on projects down the road, and to keep up with growth and changes.

Pauls mentioned that it might be a good idea to attend each other's meetings from time to time. Kloepfel asked how other cities and counties worked together, and Hood mentioned Greene County as an example of a merge between city and county parks departments. McBee said that at some point, it would make sense for the city and county to work together on projects. Hood mentioned that each summer, the City's Parks Commission tours the parks to see new developments and projects. He suggested that inviting the County along may be a good way to continue the dialogue.

Ballot Issue Update

Hood described the ballot issues that will be on the ballot in November, and described the Parks questions (Propositions 1 and 2) in detail for the benefit of the County Commission. Elkin asked about maintenance costs for the proposed multi-use facility that would be funded by Prop. 2? Hood answered that the facility would be revenue generating and that if any subsidy was needed, then the perpetual 1/8 cent tax would likely be the source. Hood added that staff anticipates recovering 80 percent of the cost on the proposed ice rink, similar to how costs are being recovered on the ARC. Devine asked that since Proposition 2 is an additional two years after Proposition 1, if staff would have to wait that long before starting the multi-use facility? Hood said the City's finance department would handle the timing and details, but that projects covered by both parks questions could proceed concurrently. With Prop 1, he said the work would have to spread out over a time period.

Rezoning – 1414 West Worley

Griggs told the Commission that this rezoning is near Again Street Park. The applicant is replatting the tract for duplexes. Griggs sees no adverse impact from the proposed rezoning. The park is just south of the proposed area and the drainage from the property is to the east. Kloepfel made a motion, seconded by Pauls, that the Commission agreed to inform the Council that they see no potential for adverse impact to parks or trails from the proposed rezoning.

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

Motion carried.

Heritage Festival

Hood reminded the Commission that the Heritage Festival would be the following weekend, Sept. 17-18, at Nifong Park. He described the event with its many activities, and encouraged Commissioners to stop by.

Commission Comments

Kloepfel asked about the funding for the trail loop from Stephens Lake Park to Grindstone? Hood said staff did receive notice of approval this week from MoDOT. The grant would cover 60 percent of the first phase of the project and the parks department will have to put up a match. Hood said staff would be constructing a south connector from Grindstone to Old 63/Stadium, which would link to the existing sidewalk. The sidewalk would be followed to the Old 63/Hinkson Creek bridge. From the bridge, a north connector would link to Stephens Lake, passing beneath the new Broadway bridge. The second phase of the project includes widening the sidewalks, and the third phase includes linking to the East Campus neighborhood. Hood added that a consultant will be hired to plan the design. Staff hopes to have construction on the project underway by next fall. Blevins asked if there any other outstanding grant applications?

Hood said we have received written notice of an approval for \$149,000 for further Flat Branch Park development. The first phase is environmental clean-up which should occur over the next few months. Construction may begin next spring.

Knudson asked about potential pedways where Smiley intersects with Hwy. 763?

Hood said a new neighborhood park for the area where Smiley dead-ends is on the next City Council agenda. If this goes through, he anticipates more pedways for greater park access.

Pauls commended Park Ranger Arens for issuing warnings to youth for inappropriate language and behavior in the parks.

Devine mentioned the recent allocation by the Columbia Board of Education for artificial turf and asked if the Parks Department ever considered a joint venture?

Hood said, no, that had not been discussed.

Devine said the new turf at the schools may free up some soccer fields at Cosmo Park that are so overcrowded.

Hood said that staff had established priorities for the soccer fields several years ago. Staff tries to limit each field to 80 games per season and allows no practices. However, even 80 games can be too many and takes a toll on the fields.

Staff Comments

Griggs shared the latest water quality data on Stephens Lake. He commented staff had received many calls from residents, expressing concern about the safety of the water. There have been no spikes or high measures since one high reading in June. Griggs attributes the low counts to pumping well water into the lake.

Kloeppel asked if the next meeting date would still be Oct. 20?

It was decided that the normal meeting date would remain.

Public Comments

None.

Meeting adjourned at 9:10 pm.