

# **PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION**

**Thursday, May 19, 2005**

**Daniel Boone City Building, 701 E. Broadway  
Mezzanine Conference Room**

**7:00 pm  
MINUTES**

**Commission Present:** Dan Devine, Bill Pauls, Dennis Knudson, Julia Grus, Larry Hine

**Commission Absent:** Ann Gowans, Terry Kloeppel

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

Meeting called to order at 7:03 pm by Devine.

**Agenda:** Hood asked the Commission to add two rezonings to the agenda. The additions were approved on a motion by Hine, seconded by Grus. The agenda was approved as amended on a motion from Hine, seconded by Knudson.

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

**Monthly Report:** The April monthly report was approved on a motion from Grus, seconded by Pauls.

## **Rezoning – Rte. WW at north fork of Grindstone Creek**

Griggs advised the Commission the property is on the east portion of the city limits, near American Legion Park. The property is actually on the other side of the junkyard that is next to the park. The owners are requesting permanent rezoning of the property as C-3. Griggs added that the Legion Park is the highest point in the area and traffic to the park would not be affected. He noted that the rezoning is located along the north fork of Grindstone Creek and that the city's Greenbelt/Trails Plan identifies the need for a trail along this drainage.

On a motion by Hine, seconded by Grus, the Commission agreed to inform the Council that they see no potential for adverse impact on American Legion Park. However, the Commission would encourage the developer to provide an easement for a trail along the north fork of Grindstone, giving consideration to the greenbelt, as recommended in the City's Master Greenbelt/Trails Plan.

**All in favor:** Hine, Grus, Devine, Pauls, Knudson

**Motion carried.**

## **Rezoning—Northeast corner of Nifong and Bethel**

Griggs informed the Commission this is a vacant piece of land near Cosmo-Bethel Park and the Rock Bridge Neighborhood Park. The developer is seeking a planned commercial rezoning. Griggs added that Nifong already has a very congested traffic load and that storm water drainage is away from the parks, so the parks would likely not see any adverse effect from the rezoning.

On a motion by Hine, seconded by Pauls, the Commission agreed to inform the Council that they see no potential for adverse impact on Cosmo-Bethel and Rock Bridge parks.

**All in favor:** Hine, Grus, Devine, Pauls, Knudson

**Motion carried.**

## **Rezoning—Voluntary annexation on north side of Prairie Lane, east of Creasy Spring Road**

Griggs said the property owner is seeking annexation to tie into the city sewer system.

Hood added that it is a single family residential lot that is seeking the annexation, not the entire subdivision. The back of the lot in question touches the city limits.

Devine asked about other homes in the subdivision?

Hood said it is possible other homes in the subdivision will seek annexation at some point.

On a motion by Hine, seconded by Pauls, the Commission agreed to inform the Council that they see no potential for adverse impact on parks.

**All in favor:** Hine, Grus, Devine, Pauls, Knudson

**Motion carried.**

### **Stephens Lake Park Dedication**

Hood announced the parks staff have been working on plans for the dedication and will be seeking finalization of those plans by the city manager. A suggested itinerary includes the ceremony at 2 p.m. on the island shelter, preceded by activities starting at 12:30. Activities include music by Ironweed, canoe and kayak demonstrations, children's activities, a "scavenger walk" around the perimeter trail with pedometer giveaways. Hood said staff is trying to time activities so as not to interfere with a large group that is arriving at the park at 3 p.m.

Pauls asked about a rain date?

Hood said no rain date has been scheduled.

Devine mentioned that he and Mike Hood had met the evening before the meeting with a group of concerned residents regarding the location of the bathhouse at Stephens Lake. The group is unhappy with the possibility of the structure blocking the view of the lake from Old Highway 63. They wondered if the bathhouse is really necessary and if so, could it be moved somewhere else.

Hood added that Mike Snyder, senior parks planner, was at the meeting as well. Hood said they presented the plans of the park and why the bathhouse needs to be where it is planned, so it's accessible to swimmers. Hood said the group obviously cared a lot about the park and area.

Pauls asked about the size of the bathhouse?

Hood answered that it will be about 30' by 50'.

Hine asked if the group brought their concerns forward early in the park planning process and commented that it would have been more helpful to have their input at an earlier time.

Hood commented that park planners have worked hard to site the bathhouse at a location that would affect the lake view most minimally. He said the building will fit into the landscape, composed of split block in a natural color with a metal roof and that it will eventually serve as a restroom for the amphitheater. Hood added that staff would review the plan again to see if anything else could be done to make the bathhouse less obtrusive. However, he said that it would be difficult to move the bathhouse location as all the utilities are in place and Council has given instructions that there will be no more changes to the park plan.

### **National Trails Day – June 4**

Hood told the Commission National Trails Day will be held in Columbia from 9 a.m. to noon on Saturday, June 4. A 5K walk/run will be on the MKT Trail, starting at the Stadium entrance. The event is held nationally by the American Hiking Society. There is no fee to participate.

### **Coalition for Recreational Trails Award**

Hood said the staff was notified last week that the department will receive the Coalition for Recreational Trails Annual Achievement Award, a national recognition, for work done in Flat Branch Park. Hood commended Becky Stidham for bringing the award to staff's attention and preparing and submitting the application. The award presentation will be in Washington D.C. in June.

### **June Park Tour**

Hood reminded the Commission of the park tour scheduled for the next meeting on June 16. Commission members should be at the Parks Management Center at 5:30 that evening for a meal, followed by the tour. Mike Griggs will be preparing the itinerary for the tour.

Hood added that Marin Blevins, newly appointed Commission member, will be at the meeting. Hood took the opportunity to congratulate Larry Hine on his reappointment to the Commission.

Hine said he was pleased to be reappointed and enjoys his work on the Commission.

Hood told the Commission there were four candidates for the two available positions.

## **Council Items**

Hood informed the Commission on these items taken action on at the Council meeting Monday:

- Council approved the agreement with University of Missouri for Fire in the Sky, which will be held again at Memorial Stadium on July 4.
- The bulk of the meeting was taken up by discussion of the Lindner commercial property, near Stephens Lake Park. Council voted to approve the project on a 7-0 vote after a lengthy discussion and public comments.
- Council authorized staff to submit a grant application to MoDOT for a trail connection between Grindstone and Stephens Lake. The second portion of the application would include a widened pedway along Old Highway 63.
- The Council retreat will be held Friday and Saturday (May 20-21). The chief topic is expected to be a proposed ballot issue extending the quarter-cent capital project sales tax set to expire December 31 and the quarter-cent parks sales tax that will expire March 31, 2006. The Council will determine the ballot language and what projects would be covered.

## **Capital Projects Update**

Griggs shared project updates in the order he'd like to plan the Commission tour in June:

- Antimi fields: finishing sidewalks and landscaping, putting in lots for tee ball field parking, working on a lot for remote control track and a shelter.
- Nickell Golf Course: zoysia sodding is complete and work on the cart shed is ongoing.
- Stephens Lake Park: work continues on the day camp building, the lots are in shape and trail work continues.
- Nifong Park: new animal pen just installed and log cabin site being prepared.

Hine asked about the RC track and if RC planes would ever be allowed in the parks?

Hood answered that the planes create too much noise for many park users, and can often fly out of control, presenting a safety hazard.

## **Commission Comments**

Pauls commented he had a question from a resident regarding signage on the Bear Creek Trail. The resident had requested a sign clearly marking the path as it winds under Hwy. 763 and comes up along the bank. The resident believes it to be confusing in that area.

Hood said the staff would look at the area.

Pauls then asked about the entrance to Grindstone on Old 63, where cars often bottom out on the driveway apron. Hood said that has been an ongoing issue, and would make contact with Public Works to discuss.

## **Staff Comments**

Ristow shared information about upcoming events, including summer events in Flat Branch Park, the Hershey track and field event and the Special Olympics.

## **Public Comments**

Hine mentioned he'd like to see as many native grasses and plantings on the golf courses as possible.

Griggs said that was a goal of the natural resources staff, and they worked closely with golf maintenance to keep as many native grasses as possible.

Meeting adjourned at 8:25 pm.