

imagine **Columbia's** future!

Parks Recreation and Greenways

Meeting Minutes

June 20, 2007

Lange Middle School

Co-Facilitator: Kim Stonecipher-Fisher

Support Staff: Jill Stedem

Present: John Holmes, Don Laird, Steve Stonecipher-Fisher, Mike Snyder, Mariel Stephenson, David Bedan, Dan Smith

Guests: Ted Curtis- City PedNet; Tim Teddy- City Planning; Mike Hood, Mike Griggs, Gary Ristow- City Parks Dept.

Next Meeting: *Wednesday, July 18, Lange Middle School, 6-8pm.*

I. Minutes of the May Meeting:

Mariel Stephenson made motion to approve, Steve Stonecipher-Fisher 2nd, so moved.

II. Key Meeting Discussion Topics:

The goal of this meeting is to complete the summary vision statement and action steps. Kim summarized the strategies and goals previously created by the group. Guests were introduced and then asked questions based on the goals of the group.

Ted Curtis summarized the plan for the non-motorized transportation pilot program and where the funds would be spent.

Tim Teddy discussed how Planning and Zoning works with developers to keep some land open for parks/open space in new subdivisions. There are no ordinances requiring developers to include trails or parks in their development, but it is normally part of the negotiation process. The new stream buffer ordinance will allow the city to obtain easements to possibly put in trails in newly developed areas.

Parks staff discussed some plans for trails connecting to the new Phillips property south of town and how the parks department works to acquire land. They usually purchase land or receive the land as a donation. Time is usually a factor more than funding is due to how long it takes to acquire land and appropriate funding for it. The city has a foundation called "The City of Columbia New Century Fund, Inc." established to receive funds for future parks and other projects. There is a lack of indoor recreation facilities in Columbia

Committee Members made these contracts before the meeting:

1. Rails to Trails: is working to help communities get grant funding for various projects in the U.S.
2. Ducks Unlimited: might be interested in partnering with the city to create habitat along MKT and Perche Creek areas.
3. Sierra Club: not interested in helping at present time.

Changes to Goals & Strategies:

Parks:

add: 5. Pass a mandatory land dedication ordinance to set aside land and open space in new developments

change #4 to say "Expand a program of volunteers to help support the parks."

Recreation: ok as is

Greenways:

add: #5 Hire an Acquisition Agent to facilitate acquisitions of green space and parks.

Trails:

Add: #3 Actively pursue future funding for additional trails.

Action steps:

Parks:

1. Appoint a committee to review a mandatory land ordinance based on a population needs in developments.
2. Support the existing parks master plan.
3. Initiate discussion with county officials to coordinate parks and recreation planning.

Recreation: to be discussed next meeting

Greenways:

Hire an acquisition agent to facilitate acquisitions of green space and park land.

Trails: to be discussed next meeting

Final meeting: July 18th, finish action steps and wordsmith the Vision statement.

Meeting Adjourned