



City of Columbia, Missouri

Meeting Minutes

Parks and Recreation Commission

Thursday, April 18, 2024
7:00 PM

Regular

ARC Meeting Room
1701 W Ash

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Dan Devine called the meeting to order at 7 p.m.

Present: 5 - Daniel Devine, Ted Farnen, Chad Henry, Paul Morrison and Jason Patrie

Excused: 2 - Sue Davis and Brendon Steenbergen

II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Agenda was approved on a motion by Farnen, seconded by Morrison. Motion passed 5-0.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes were approved on a motion by Patrie, seconded by Henry. Motion passed 5-0.

IV. APPROVAL OF MONTHLY REPORT

Director Gabe Huffington shared recreation highlights: increases from the first six months of FY'24 as compared to FY'23 in total participations, total sessions, total court and field usage, total ARC visits and total golf. Park Services Manager Zach Nikin shared these highlights: maintenance spent 229 hours on shelter and restroom cleanup, and 417 hours on sanitation and recycling, Fleet spent 20 hours repairing golf cards and 16 hours repairing mowers, Golf turf staff spent 50 hours on top dressing greens at Lake of the Woods, and about 20 hours were spent painting fields with the new GPS painter.

Monthly report was approved on a motion by Morrison, seconded by Henry. Motion passed 5-0.

V. STAFF PRESENTATION

Recreation Services Manager Erika Coffman introduced Recreation Specialist Isaac Hylton, who has been on the aquatics staff since January 2023. He shared information about his education and background which includes an internship with Parks and Recreation in the summer of 2022. Hylton shared information about the pools including number of staff needed at each facility. He also talked about the concessions staff, swim lessons, private lessons, water fitness instructors, lifeguard certification classes and a swim lesson workshop he has developed to help instructors learn from each other.

Farnen asked about the difference in duties between guards and managers?

Hylton said that managers typically are not on stand and handle the daily operations and other things that come up.

Patrie asked if full-time staff floated across facilities?

Hylton said yes, that they were based at the ARC but moved around the outdoor pools, checking inventory and making sure staff had what they needed.

Patrie asked what the most rewarding part of his job is?

Hylton said it was seeing patrons/community happy with the services and facilities they are provided.

The Commission discussed camps at pools and water fitness classes with Hylton.

VI. PUBLIC HEARING*Lake of the Woods Pool*

Devine asked for the staff presentation.

Nikin shared the history of Lake of the Woods Pool, which was last renovated in 2000. More than \$1 million from Park Sales Tax funding is budgeted for pool renovations that include: expanded pool with new ADA accessible zero depth entry; new and expanded pool deck with shade canopies; interactive play features and padded surfacing on south end of pool; new double water slide; new pool liner; concessions stand and pump house renovations; and mechanical, electrical and plumbing upgrades. Nikin shared photos of the existing pool and proposed plans for upgrades. Farnen asked about the timeline for the project?

Nikin said it is aggressive; staff plans to bid the project as soon as possible with work starting after the pool closes this summer. The project would be scheduled for completion by summer 2025.

Farnen asked about the zero depth entry and if a separate kiddie pool would ever be planned?

Huffington said there is limited space on the pool deck for a separate facility, and it would also be out of budget.

Coffman added that a separate kiddie pool would have to be guarded and also have a separate mechanical system.

Devine asked about attendance numbers at Lake of the Woods Pool?

Coffman said it hasn't been open since 2019, pre-pandemic. Since then, there has been a lot of housing development in that area so staff anticipates increased attendance.

Devine opened the public hearing.

Evelyn Alley, student, complimented the process and said that she had friends at Battle High School that would be interested in lifeguarding. She provided her contact information to staff.

Huffington commented that there have been a few comments on BeHeard.CoMo but that there had not been any made at the public input meeting.

With no other public comment, Devine closed the public hearing.

Morrison made a motion, seconded by Henry to recommend approval of Lake of the Woods Pool improvements to City Council. Motion passed 5-0.

VII. NEW BUSINESS*Rezoning near Magnolia Falls Park*

Nikin said that the request is off of Old Mill Creek Road would rezone from single family residential to annex into the City limits as open space. The plans reza to potentially created sports fields with supported parking. Nikin suggested that a potential negative aspect is that the Magnolia Falls lot may be used as overflow parking, although this may lead to road improvements that are needed in that area.

Huffington added that not a lot of detail is known about these plans; development could take several years, if approved.

Devine commented that this would definitely change traffic patterns on the road and could affect park users crossing the road to get to the fields.

Patrie asked if it is appropriate to discuss use at this point of the development?

Huffington answered that the Commission could point out problems of pedestrian traffic and lack of sidewalks.

Henry commented that Public Works would do a traffic study as part of the rezoning, and that would trigger concerns related to the road and accessibility.

Patrie made a motion, seconded by Farnen, that the Commission has concerns related to overflow parking and the volume of traffic on the road. Motion passed 5-0.

June Park Tour

The June 20 meeting will include the annual park tour. Some potential sites are: Parks Management Center, Cosmo Bike Park and RC Track, MU Health Care Pavilion, Fairview Park - Beginner 9-Hole Disc Golf Course, Columbia Sports Fieldhouse Phase II, Philips Tennis/Pickleball Courts, Gans Creek Recreation Area race headquarters, North Village Park Property, Albert-Oakland Park, Norma Sutherland Smith Park Dock and Northeast Regional Park.

Huffington said the list may be modified, depening on time. He asked the Commission to consider the list and bring any suggestions to the May meeting.

Patrie made a motion, seconded by Farnen, that the Commission has concerns related to overflow parking and the volume of traffic on the road. Motion passed 5-0.

VIII. REPORTS

Council Items

Huffington shared these recent City Council actions:

- Community Welcome Center
- Blind Boone Home exterior improvements
- Rockhill Road land purchase, 2.6 acre wooded tract adjacent to Clyde Wilson Park, owned by Harry-Phyllis Wulff trust. The purchase price is \$40,000 and is offset by a \$25,000 donation from the East Campus Neighborhood Association. The tract will be incorporated into the park and preserved as a natural area.

Bicycle and Pedestrian Commission Report

The Commission met April 17 and discussed the Missouri Department of Transportation's (MoDOT) Improve I-70/63 project's lack of sidewalks. The Commission voted unanimously to present City Council with a list of sidewalk construction projects needed to fill gaps. Huffington said that MoDOT is aware of the extension of the Hinkson Trail.

Capital Project Report

Nikin shared these updates and photos:

Gans Creek Recreation Area race headquarters, Cosmo football fields 5 and 6, Rainbow, ARC foundation, Smith Park foundation, Albert-Oakland Park improvements, Fairview Park beginner disc golf course (dedication June 4), Perche Creek Trail and the Columbia Sports Fieldhouse expansion.

Recreation Services Report

Coffman shared these updates and event photos:

CARE, internship update, life enrichment classes and special events, rentals, ARC, Splat participation numbers, adapted recreation and sports, aquatics, community recreation, Golf and Sports.

IX. STAFF COMMENTS

Huffington reminded Commissioners Devine, Patrie and Farnen their terms will expire May 31; deadline to reapply is May 3 at 5 p.m. The annual tree giveaway will be at the Farmers Market April 20 and the Plant Sale will be May 5.

X. COMMISSION COMMENTS

Henry asked if the 7 p.m. start time of meetings is something that has ever been discussed. He asked other Commissioners' thoughts on potentially moving up the start time.

Huffington added that moving the time would have to be acceptable to all seven commissioners.

Devine asked everyone to think about it and asked staff to put it on the agenda for discussion at the May meeting.

XI. PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

XII. NEXT MEETING DATE

May 16, 2024, 7 p.m. at the ARC

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 8:39 p.m. on a motion by Farnen, seconded by Henry.

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