

**PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION**  
**Thursday, March 20, 2025, 5:30 p.m.**  
**ARC Meeting Room, 1701 W Ash**

**DRAFT MINUTES**

**Commission Present:** Dan Devine, Ted Farnen, Paul Morrison, Jason Patrie, Ellen Young

**Commission Absent (excused):** Chad Henry, Brendon Steenberg

**Commission Absent (unexcused):**

**Staff Present:** Gabe Huffington, Erika Coffman, Mitch Dooley, Tammy Miller

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Dan Devine called the meeting to order at 5:36 p.m.

Huffington introduced new Park Services Manager Mitch Dooley to the Commission. This is also Recreation Services Manager Erika Coffman's last meeting so she addressed the Commission and thanked them for all their support over the years.

**AGENDA**

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

**MINUTES**

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

**MONTHLY REPORTS**

Huffington shared park services highlights and Coffman shared recreation services highlights. February monthly report was approved on a motion by Young, seconded by Morrison. Motion passed 5-0.

**NEW BUSINESS**

*Review Parks and Recreation tour sites*

Huffington shared an initial list of park tour sites for the June meeting, including: Lake of the Woods Pool, Albert-Oakland Park, Cosmo Park, Bike Park, Columbia Sports Fieldhouse, Philips Park, Gans Creek Recreation Area, Blind Boone Home, Douglass Park, Westwinds Park, Whitegate Park and Capen Park/Grindstone Park. Patrie said he would not be able to attend the June meeting.

*Parks dedication update*

Huffington informed the Commission about three upcoming dedications: Albert-Oakland Park (east side improvements) with National Park Service on April 8, Perche Creek on May 1 and Cosmo Bike Park on May 22.

Farnen asked about golf carts for the Perche Creek dedication?

Huffington said they would be available for those who need them.

### *FY'26 CIP update*

Huffington reviewed information showing the capital projects that are funded for FY'26 including Strawn improvements, Northeast Regional Park development and Perche Creek phase II.

Patrie asked about trail construction at Northeast Regional Park?

Huffington said the master plan process for the park has to be completed, that timeline is getting closer.

## **REPORTS**

### *Council Items*

Huffington shared these updates:

Columbia Mall agreement and CPS agreement for mutual aid.

### *Bicycle and Pedestrian Commission Report*

At the March 19 meeting, staff shared information regarding completion of a Recreation Trails Program grant application for the replacement and repair of MKT bridges #9 and #10. Grant status available in October.

Action item: A motion was made and approved to prepare a report for City Council outlining Commission recommendations that have been included in MoDOT's planning documents for the I-70 improvement project (Rte B to Kingdom City).

### *Capital Project Report*

Huffington shared photos of recent and ongoing projects:

Columbia Sports Fieldhouse expansion, Cosmo Bike Park, Lake of the Woods Pool, Nickell Shelter, Valleyview and Louisville court improvements, Gans Creek indoor building, MKT bridges 9 and 10, Douglass Skate park, Blind Boone Home improvements and Albert-Oakland Park.

### *Recreation Services Report*

Coffman shared photos and information:

CARE interviews being conducted for summer, promotion ongoing for summer employment, information shared about free programs that rely on sponsorships as well as fee-based programs. Other information shared about life enrichment programs, ARC monthly visits, Splat registration, Adapted recreation, Sports, Community Recreation and Golf.

## **STAFF COMMENTS**

Huffington reminded the Commission of Coffman's retirement reception on April 11. He informed them that he will be out of town for the May Commission meeting; it is the same time as City Council's retreat.

## **COMMISSION COMMENTS TO STAFF**

Morrison said he was disappointed in the most recent Leisure Times activity guide because it needs more information on disc golf and other events for adults. He said there was no mention of the 9-hole course at Fairview, nor any mention of pickleball courts or where the parks or trails are. He said the guide should be of more service to

the community and is not meeting needs. He said parks are our biggest investment and we are not bragging on ourselves enough.

Coffman said that the direction of Leisure Times is predominantly recreational programs and has been as long as she has been with the department. She said it is a balance of putting items in the guide with limited space.

Miller added that staff has discussed making the guide more web friendly that would allow space to add information about parks and trails.

Farnen asked about a survey on what Leisure Times could look like? He said he knows there are limited resources for printing and postage.

Devine said he will be out of town on April 11 and would miss Coffman's reception. He thanked her for everything she has done and appreciates her.

Coffman thanked him and said it has been an honor to be able to serve the public, as her family does too.

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

None.

### **NEXT MEETING DATE**

April 17, 2025, 6:30 p.m. at the ARC

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Meeting adjourned at 6:37 p.m. on a motion by Farnen, seconded by Young. Motion passed 5-0.