

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

Thursday, Oct. 18, 2018, 7 p.m.

ARC, 1701 W. Ash

MINUTES

Commission Present: Marin Blevins, Ted Farnen, Sue Davis, Dan Devine, Linda Hutton, Meredith Donaldson, Chad Henry

Commission Absent (excused):

Staff Present: Mike Griggs, Erika Coffman, Gabe Huffington, Tammy Miller

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Blevins called the meeting to order at 7 p.m.

AGENDA

The agenda was approved on a motion by Farnen, seconded by Davis. Motion passed 7-0.

MINUTES

Donaldson requested an edit on the third page of the September minutes, adding that she liked proposed trail loop name after her comment about the watershed. Miller said she would edit the minutes.

The minutes were approved as amended on a motion by Davis, seconded by Hutton. Motion passed 7-0.

MONTHLY REPORTS

Park Services Manager Gabe Huffington shared these highlights: fall maintenance started shutting down spraygrounds, aerification of golf course greens and fall seeding on sports fields; two CARP events held at Stephens Lake Park and Flat Branch Park; and Forestry staff has worked on tunnel cleanup including brush around trail entries. Recreation Services Manager Erika Coffman shared these highlights: volunteer hours increased this past fiscal year by 600 hours, CARE had 196 summer trainees working at 101 worksites, the ARC's total visits increased by 30,000 from last year, with the ARC hitting more than 5 million visits since December 2002.

The monthly report was approved on a motion by Donaldson, seconded by Farnen. Motion passed 7-0.

SPECIAL PRESENTATION

Director Mike Griggs introduced Office of Cultural Affairs (OCA) Manager Sarah Dresser. The OCA has been involved with choosing the art installation at the new Fieldhouse.

Dresser made a presentation to the Commission. She explained how the City's percentage for art initiative works, to ensure that each new City facility has an art component. Dresser explained the Standing Committee for Art and how they chose the finalists for the Fieldhouse project. There were 13 applicants and four were interviewed. Local artist David Spear was chosen. He has worked with the City on other projects and showed a clear understanding of what staff and the OCA would like for the Fieldhouse.

Dresser presented his proposal which is composed of three separate pieces, each of which uses the color scheme planned for the Fieldhouse and images related to sports. The pieces will be mixed media. Dresser showed the Commission the proposed designs. She said Spear may photograph local residents and use silhouettes in the images.

Devine asked if the subjects would know how their images were being used?

Dresser said they would, the artist would work with staff.

Blevins asked if stained glass would be used?

Dresser said it would not, the artist will use lighting to make the art more dynamic. She added that the artist is conscientious that this is a public space and that the art must be able to withstand people being close to it.

Farnen asked if the artist is going to subcontract any of the work?

Dresser said his commission includes all components, including any subcontracting work.

Farnen said he loved how all the pieces flowed together. He asked staff about the court itself?

Coffman said it would be a typical gym floor with light maple wood. The lines would also be typical and there may be some sponsor logos at some point.

Davis asked about the timeline?

Dresser said the project will need to be approved by City Council and then the artist will begin. It is planned to have the art complete by the time the building opens.

Henry made a motion, seconded by Davis, that the Commission recommend to City Council the approval of the art proposal for the Fieldhouse. Motion passed 7-0.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

Lions-Stephens Park improvements

Huffington updated the Commission on the proposed \$100,000 Park Sales Tax project, which includes new shelter, playground, water fountain, bike racks, grill, walkways and new sidewalk along Ann Street. A public input meeting was held on Sept. 18. Following the last Commission meeting, Huffington said that Park Planner Matt Boehner contacted the nearby Montessori school and they are very supportive of the park improvements. Huffington worked with Peter Norgard of the Benton Stephens Neighborhood Association to conduct a survey of neighbors. There were 28 responded with 21 in favor of relocating the shelter to spot on Windsor Street, 20 in favor of new playground, 20 asking for new trash/recycling at non-shelter locations and 18 asking for dog waste stations. Other comments were support for the Ann Street sidewalk, entrance to park from Ann and tree identification.

Devine asked why not all respondents were in favor of trash and recycling receptacles?

Huffington said the survey included many choices and these were just the top ones. He said there are some who don't believe that any funds should be used to improve the park.

Blevins acknowledged there is no public in attendance so he open and closed the public hearing.

Hutton thanked staff for working with the neighbors, she said she really appreciates their efforts.

Griggs said that staff will share the survey results with City Council.

Hutton made a motion, seconded by Davis, that the Commission recommend to City Council approval of the Lions-Stephens Park improvements. Motion passed 7-0.

Oakwood Hills Park improvements

Huffington described this \$125,000 Park Sales Tax improvement project. The playground and fitness equipment there is more than 30 years old. A public input meeting was held on Oct. 17 at the park. The playground would be replaced and new playground equipment added. The fitness equipment would not be replaced. Other improvements include additional benches, improved ADA access to the basketball court and playground, renovation of the basketball court, retaining wall renovation and updated sign and gate.

Huffington said the neighborhood would like the new playground equipment to blend with the surroundings, rather than being bright colors. Out of 50 people at the public input meeting, Huffington said there was one who expressed interest in the fitness equipment, so staff may try to add a pull-up bar near the trail, or something similar.

Henry asked about the access off of the cul-de-sac, if neighbors had mentioned it?

Griggs said there was fencing on each side of the concrete path to keep park users off of private property. Since it is a neighborhood park, there is nothing to attract anyone to drive to the park, which should limit any parking on the cul-de-sac.

Farnen commented that the park's location off of a long street in the Green Meadows area is similar to Dublin Park in that it is in a wooded area. He agreed that the majority of park users walk there. Farnen said Oakwood Hills is a good neighborhood park, and serves the people in the area well.

Huffington said he had talked to a resident at the meeting who said he learned of the park while doing the department's Playground Challenge with his kids. The family loved the area and chose to buy a home nearby, mostly because of the park.

Blevins acknowledged there is no public in attendance so he open and closed the public hearing.

Farnen made a motion, seconded by Donaldson, that the Commission recommend to City Council approval of the Oakwood Hills Park improvements. Motion passed 7-0.

OLD BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

MFA/Shelter agreement at Clary-Shy Park

Griggs said that MFA and Shelter Insurance are partnering with a \$250,000 contribution toward Clary-Shy Park. Sponsor banners will hang for five years for the donation.

Rotary Club playground groundbreaking

All six Rotary Clubs in Columbia collaborated to fund a \$250,000 playground at Clary-Shy Park, as part of the new agriculture park development. A short groundbreaking ceremony will be held at 4 p.m. on Nov. 1 at the site.

REPORTS

Council Items

Griggs offered these updates:

Council approved the emergency tower at Cosmo-Bethel Park. Clary-Shy Park improvements and a grant approval will be on the Council's Nov. 5 agenda, and the AmerenUE easement and TRIM grant will be on the Nov. 5 and 19 agenda.

Bicycle and Pedestrian Commission Report

Huffington reported that there were no items or comments related to Parks and Recreation at the last Bike and Pedestrian Commission meeting. Bike and Ped commissioners were reminded of the public input meeting on Oct. 25 regarding the proposed Hinkson Creek Trail connector from Stephens Lake Park to Clark Lane.

Capital Project Report

Huffington shared these updates:

American Legion Park: repairs made.

Epple Field Recreation Trail: repairs made after a car ran off the road and onto the trail.

Clary-Shy Ag Park: work ongoing with site preparation.

MKT Trail signs: new signs will be installed to commemorate the old railroad stations along the trail.

Cosmo Park: bocce courts under construction.

Gans Creek Recreation Area: work continues on the cross country course; irrigation system being installed.

Norma Sutherland Smith Park: loop trail being constructed around the lake.

Sports Fieldhouse: construction ongoing.

Lake of the Woods: new tee markers in place.

Antimi: new scoreboards will be installed at first two fields.

Recreation Services Report

Coffman shared these updates:

Bear Creek Run Half Marathon: About 200 runners participated.

Backpack class: annual class held this fall with high participation.

Preschool: Halloween events planned.

Toddler Tumble Tots: Recent class at Hillcrest with 18 participants.

Upcoming Events: Neighborhood Park Fun Day, Bring Your Own Big Wheel, Almeta Crayton Memorial Toys for Columbia Youth toy drive starts Oct. 29, Dinghy Derby and Homeless Youth Awareness Month Dodgeball Tournament.

STAFF COMMENTS

Huffington said that the new park ranger Herzog Whatley has started and will be with Columbia Police in training for a few weeks.

Griggs reminded the Commission of the Day of Giving event on Nov. 27 with the poster unveiling at Walt's Bike Shop. The poster will be given as a premium item with CoMo Gives, and the unveiling event will serve as a kickoff to the month.

Griggs said that a caboose has been purchased and will eventually be placed at Jay Dix Station to commemorate the history of the MKT Trail. Staff is working to find funding to help restore it and then will seek public input on how it should be used.

COMMISSION COMMENTS TO STAFF

Davis said that during Roots 'n Blues, some staff with the event was telling people that the park was closed. She also commented on the number of Bird scooters in the park during the event. She was not sure what could be done, but she thought staff should be aware.

Griggs said staff would talk to Thumper Productions staff about it. He commented that there were signs posted about not allowing Birds in the park, but there were likely some that ignored them.

Davis asked if the City had reached agreement with Bird about the scooters?

Griggs said the agreement is being reviewed by Bird. One item in the agreement that pertains to Parks and Recreation is prohibiting them on trails. Some scooters will stop working when they approach prohibited areas, so that may be a possibility.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

NEXT MEETING DATE

Nov. 15, 2018, 7 p.m. at the ARC

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Submitted by: Tammy Miller