

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

Thursday, September 21, 2017, 6 pm

ARC, 1701 W. Ash

MINUTES

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

Commission Absent (excused): Linda Hutton

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

Call to order: Blevins called the meeting to order at 6 pm.

Agenda: The agenda was approved on a motion by Davis, seconded by Devine. Motion passed 6-0.

Minutes: The minutes were approved on a motion by Devine, seconded by Davis. Motion passed 6-0.

Monthly Report: Highlights from the parks services division include: park rangers assisted with training for the deer management program, forestry staff spent 62 hours prepping the Grindstone Nature Area off-leash area with new mulch and maintenance staff installed vandal-proof locking devices at McKee Street Park and Gans Creek Recreation Area. A contractor also installed siren alarms on pump stations at each golf course and Cosmo Park. Huffington said these measures were taken to help prevent copper thefts.

Highlights from the recreation services division include: an increase in rounds of golf from last August (5,997 in 2016 to 7,404 in 2017), rounds of golf have also increased for the entire fiscal year. Total class attendance has increased from year to year: 8,051 to 8,332.

The August monthly report was approved on a motion by Donaldson, seconded by Davis. Motion passed 6-0.

City Legal Department Sunshine Law Presentation

Assistant City Counselor Jose Caldera made a presentation to the Commission regarding public meetings under the Missouri Sunshine Law. Caldera has been presenting the information to various boards and commissions over the last few months. Caldera defined what a public meeting is under the Missouri Sunshine Law. Meetings must be open to the public; the City of Columbia requires in-person meetings and a quorum must be present to conduct business. Public meetings do not include an informal gathering for ministerial or social purposes, unless the intent is to avoid the purpose of the Sunshine Law.

Caldera also defined a public record under the Sunshine Law. These records include business-related emails between Commissioners.

Caldera reviewed public meeting notices, minutes and closed meetings. He defined a closed meeting and what is needed to transition from an open to closed meeting.

Griggs said the Commission rarely has closed meetings, it's only happened once related to a property acquisition.

Henry asked for clarification on public notices of subcommittees or citizen committees that a Commission may serve on?

Caldera said Commission subcommittees must follow the same requirements but a citizens committee would not.

Donaldson asked about the Commissioner's public correspondence?

Caldera said the protocol is to copy the staff liaison on any business email. If the Commission copies staff liaison Tammy Miller, then they are covered. He said that some Commissioners may want to consider an email address for Commission purposes only, if that would make them feel more comfortable.

Farnen asked about the Planning and Zoning Commission recently talking about limiting expressing their opinion on commission matters in public.

Caldera said that is a Commission-driven effort; the Commission has proposed that themselves. The matter is in the very early stages of discussion.

Donaldson asked if a Commissioner would be held personally liable for any violations?

Cladera said that is not likely to happen, but he would be the one to represent the City in any type of Sunshine Law litigation.

Council Items

Griggs shared these updates:

The Council approved the annual City-School playground agreement. Schools to benefit will be West and New Haven elementary schools.

Devine asked about the process to determine these schools to get the new playground equipment?

Griggs said the school district identifies them. Under the agreement, the schools must keep their playgrounds open for public use when school is not in session.

Other Council agenda items include emergency phone replacement at the MKT Stadium and Forum trailheads, the Stephens Lake Park swimming beach and Flat Branch Park. Antimi Sports Complex improvements were also approved.

Bicycle and Pedestrian Commission Report

Huffington said the Board met but did not discuss any actions related to the trails system.

Capital Project Report

Huffington shared these updates:

Gans concession building: nearing completion.

Atkins: batting cages are complete as well as storage building for Columbia College.

Lake of the Woods: driving range work continues. This may generate an additional \$35,000-\$40,000 per year, said Coffman.

Stephens Lake Park: additional lighting installed at Gordon shelter parking lot, all the way to Happy Hollow shelter.

Douglass Park: sidewalk connector complete.

Norma Sutherland Smith Park: playground equipment in place.

Indian Hills Park: playgrounds, walkways and lighting in place.

Nifong Park: signage improvements.

MKT Trail: new geology exhibit in place, work done by citizens.

Staff Work Day: Parks and Recreation senior staff spent an afternoon at Twin Lakes doing park clean up and honeysuckle removal.

Recreation Services Report

Coffman shared these updates:

Solar eclipse at Cosmo: department hosted kids activities.

Kaleidospoke: about 300 attended the glow bike ride on the MKT.

Heritage Festival: Saturday was a great day, but Sunday's events were cancelled due to rain. Coffman said it was a difficult call, but it was based on the rain that morning and the forecast for more rain throughout the day.

Pooch Plunge: good attendance at annual event at Albert-Oakland Family Aquatic Center.

Amphitheater Concert Series: Dance Around the World showcase closed the season.

Neighborhood Park Fun Days: continues, recent one held at Worley Street Park.

Golf: recent private tournaments at Lake of the Woods made use of new shelter.

Friends of Parks and Recreation: invitations have been emailed for the event from 6:30-8 pm on October 6 at Nifong Park.

Upcoming Events: Neighborhood Park Fun Day at Lange Park, International Day, Take a Kid Mountain Biking Day, Neighborhood Park Fun Day at Downtown Optimist Park, Bear Creek Half Marathon and Rocheport Fall Colors Trail Ride.

Staff Comments

Griggs updated the Commission on the Parks and Recreation Fund and the upcoming CoMo Gives campaign. He said staff will present more detailed information at the October Commission meeting. As part of the agreement with the Community Foundation of Central Missouri, the Fund board will need to plan a fund-raising event. Staff will bring some ideas to the October meeting.

Griggs added that City Council approved the budget, with no changes.

Commission Comments

Devine asked about the public meeting for the MKT bridge closure and detour route?

Huffington said that there were a lot of people in attendance. Staff and engineers were there to answer questions about the detour. Response was mostly positive.

The goal for the bridge replacement project is to start on November 27 and complete at the end of March.

Devine asked about the seam on the pool deck at Albert-Oakland?

Huffington said staff had looked at it and plan to mill the concrete down rather than cutting it and replacing it. The work will take place now that the facility is closed for the off-season.

Public Comments

None.

Next Meeting Date

October 19, 2017, 7 pm at the ARC.

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 7:10 pm.