

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
Thursday, July 16, 2020, 7 p.m.
ARC Meeting Room, 1701 W Ash

MINUTES

Commission Present: Dan Devine, Ted Farnen, Sue Davis, Meredith Donaldson, Brendon Steenbergen

Commission Absent (excused): Chad Henry, Paul Morrison

Commission Absent (unexcused): none

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

CALL TO ORDER

Meeting called to order at 7 pm.

AGENDA

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

MINUTES

Minutes from June were approved on a motion by Farnen, seconded by Davis. Motion passed 5-0.

MONTHLY REPORT

Park Services Manager Gabe Huffington shared these updates: park maintenance worked 958 hours in June on aquatic facilities, parks and spraygrounds; and forestry staff spent 100 hours at Strawn Park preparing for capital project construction and the Mid-America Open disc golf tournament. Recreation Services Manager Erika Coffman shared these updates: Camp CoMo Kidz started and reached full registration in just a few hours, Lake of the Woods Golf Course has seen increases in revenue between June 2019 and June 2020.

Davis asked about the suspect who was flashing trail users on the MKT Trail? Huffington said that the rangers have spent more time there but he has not been caught.

Davis made a motion, seconded by Donaldson that the monthly report be approved. Motion passed, 5-0.

STAFF PRESENTATION

Coffman introduced the new Golf recreation specialist, Drew Geritz, who started with the department in the spring. Geritz was hired to fill the vacancy when Dan Frost was promoted to supervisor.

Geritz shared information about his background and education. He is a Level I Apprentice in the PGA PGM program and working toward achieving Level 3. He worked as the assistant golf professional at Eldon Golf Club from Aug 2014 to Nov 2017, then as head golf professional at Redfield Golf Course through April 2020.

He shared information about his duties as specialist, including Family Fun Night and Glow Golf. He also will handle lessons, which he has done in past jobs. He shared revenue information and upcoming projects at Lake of the Woods, including the new golf cart shed.

Davis asked PGA apprentice program?

Geritz said it was essentially a degree from the PGA. It can be earned online and by documenting lessons taught and management seminars.

Devine asked about the mask ordinance at the Clubhouses?

Geritz said that staff asks golfers to wear masks when they arrive. The walk-up window at L.A. Nickell is still in use which is helpful. Golfers are also social distancing when using carts. Staff has been diligent in enforcing guidelines, Geritz said.

Donaldson asked about the carts that had been damaged in the recent vandalism?

Geritz answered that most are back in use.

Steenbergen commented that he had observed more people golfing right now.

Geritz agreed, saying it is an activity that can be done outside while social distancing, which makes it ideal. Once the courses reopened, tee times filled up quickly. Morning tee times remain full.

PUBLIC HEARING

Lake of the Woods golf cart shed

Huffington discussed the replacement of the Lake of the Woods golf cart shed. It would be paid from Golf Course Improvement Fee (GCIF) funds in the amount of \$80,000. The facility is aging and it is not secure enough to hold the number of carts. The new shed will be built with park staff and contract labor, and would have a capacity for 60 carts. Construction would take place over the winter.

There was no public to speak on the topic, so the public hearing was open and closed.

Donaldson asked about ability to expand if needed?

Huffington said it could be expanded by 10 but that is all that would ever be needed.

Farnen asked if the damaged carts had been covered by insurance?

Huffington said they were reported but the City is self-insured.

Devine asked if any comments came from the interested parties meeting?

Huffington said some with private carts attended, but they will be able to continue storing their carts there.

Farnen made a motion, seconded by Davis, that the Commission recommend approval to City Council of the Lake of the Woods golf cart shed. Motion passed 5-0.

Perche Creek Trail Phase I

The project would consist of construction of a concrete trail from the MKT Trail to West Gillespie Bridge Road. Huffington said one bridge over the Perche Creek at the MKT would need to be constructed. The route is on City property and abandoned county road. Total funding from the Park Sales Tax is \$1.2 million and staff has received preliminary notification of a \$250,000 Recreation Trails Program (RTP) grant. Construction would be completed by November 2021.

Huffington showed a map of the site. There is an area used by remote control plane enthusiasts; Huffington said staff is working with them to mesh uses. Staff is also working with the Sewer Utility to build the trail in conjunction with their mitigation bank project.

Steenbergen asked about a 90-degree direction in the trail route, if land had to do with that?

Huffington said yes, a turn had to be made to avoid private property.

Devine asked about any legal responsibility in relation to the RC users?

Griggs said the City just entered into a 5-year agreement. The plans are to work together with the project and create signage and sightlines that will work.

Farnen commented that he attended the interested parties meeting and heard only positive comments.

There was no public to speak on the topic, so the public hearing was open and closed. Donaldson made a motion, seconded by Steenbergen, that the Commission recommend approval of the Perche Creek Trail construction, phase I. Motion passed, 5-0.

REPORTS

Council Items

Griggs told the Commission that the Council will consider an amended agreement with Columbia Center for Urban Agriculture on their temporary office trailer at Clary-Shy Park.

Griggs showed a map of the donation at the Vineyards subdivision by developer Mike Tompkins. It is a 1-acre parcel near the existing lake that would allow a parking lot and perimeter trail to be built.

Bicycle and Pedestrian Commission Report

Huffington said that staff showed a Powerpoint to the Commission at their last meeting including photos and plans for: Rollins connector, Perche Creek Trail Phase I, change in facility management for the MKT from Scott Boulevard to the Katy Trail and East Walnut Street improvements for the Hinkson Creek Trail. The Commission took action in support of drafting a letter to the City Council regarding support of installing bollard or other means of creating a protected bike lane on the East Walnut Street bridge as part of the proposed improvements.

Capital Project Report

Huffington shared these updates:

L.A Nickell: driving range is complete.

Clary-Shy: construction continues on one-room schoolhouse with new trim and utilities.

Albert-Oakland: fitness equipment replaced.

Kiwanis: work continues on the new shelters and other improvements.

Strawn: expanded parking lot under construction, new restroom coming soon.

Gans: new shelter at cross country course under construction.

Bear Creek Park: turf being established after new sign installed.

Sports Fieldhouse: irrigation installed.

Recreation Services Report

Coffman shared these updates:

Fire in the Sky: fireworks show held at Bethel Park, many compliments received.

Camp Slime: first session was sold out and only one spot is open for second session.

Armory Summer Camp: three different sessions occurring this summer.

Camp CoMo Kidz: every session is at full capacity at 70 participants.

Aquatics: auditors conducted a surprise audit and staff received the highest rating of "5 star" by performing a drowning save scenario. Swimming lessons occurring at Albert-Oakland.

ARC: Silver Sneakers is the highest attended exercise class right now. Personal training is also taking place with masks and social distancing in place.

Golf and Sports: the Tuesday night golf league is ongoing as well as Family Golf Night and Glow Golf. Weekend sports tournaments are planned at Atkins and Rainbow.

Adapted Sports: Golf is starting tonight (July 16) tennis on July 20, and bocce on July 22.

Upcoming special events: July special events have been canceled due to gathering size limitations, as well as Splat on Aug. 15. Kaleidospoke has been postponed to Sept. 12.

STAFF COMMENTS

Griggs commented that former Commissioner Marin Blevins may be able to come to the September meeting.

Donaldson asked about other ways to recognize his service to the Commission and the community.

Griggs cautioned that a bench or tree would have to come from donations. The Commission will consider options and discuss at the August meeting.

Since the Commission can't take their usual summer tour, Huffington and Park Superintendent Mike Snyder created a map of park projects so that Commissioners can tour parks on their own.

Griggs commented that by October, maybe the Commission can take an actual tour if conditions allow.

Griggs informed the Commission that Recreation Superintendent Karen Chandler is retiring Aug. 14 due to health concerns. With the pandemic, no reception will be held. Staff is planning a drive-by parade past her house to honor her.

COMMISSION COMMENTS TO STAFF

Steenbergen commented that he was not able to attend the June Commission meeting but that he is happy to be on the Commission in the 4th Ward seat. He said he has a lot of respect for Marin Blevins and that he has big shoes to fill. He is looking forward to serving.

Farnen said he recently saw former Mizzou basketball player Laurence Bowers and spoke to him about the camp he hosted at the Sports Fieldhouse. He said he raved about the facility and staff and would like to return.

Farnen asked about the cancelation of Show Me State Games and possible Senior Games?

Griggs said they use some of our facilities free of charge but the newer facilities would have been rented. The biggest loss is in concessions.

Coffman said the Senior games may have pickleball in October.

Farnen asked for clarification on the CARES money?

Griggs said the County would disburse it. He is hoping some will trickle down for reimbursement of sanitation supplies.

Farnen added that he has heard a lot of compliments on the new Rollins connector. He said it looks great.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

NEXT MEETING DATE

Aug 20, 2020

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 8:25 pm, on a motion by Donaldson, seconded by Farnen. Motion passed 5-0.