

DRAFT

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

Thursday, August 18, 2016, 7 p.m.
ARC, 1701 W. Ash

MINUTES

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

Commission Absent (excused): Meredith Donaldson

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

Call to order: Blevins called the meeting to order at 7 pm.

Agenda: The agenda was approved on a motion by Hutton, seconded by Davis.

Minutes: The July minutes were approved on a motion by Donaldson, seconded by Devine.

Monthly Report: Coffman shared some highlights, including increased pool attendance, increased total golf participation and increased rentals. Huffington's park services highlights include completion of ARC Water Zone annual maintenance, Show Me Games preparations, trail maintenance after recent rains and a recent increase in warnings issued at Cosmo Park. Davis asked about the large number of trespass warnings at Stephens Lake Park? Huffington said it was due to the large number of Pokemon Go players in the park after hours. Devine asked about patrols on the trail after the recent assault? Griggs said that the rangers and police have increased patrols. The July monthly report was approved on a motion by Davis, seconded by Donaldson.

Budget Presentation

Griggs made a Powerpoint presentation to the Commission regarding the proposed Parks and Recreation FY'17 budget. He started with sharing information about the "big picture," the City's overall proposed budget. The City is facing challenges with low sales tax growth due to increase of internet sales and expected operating budget increases due to rising costs of healthcare and overtime. However, city leaders are dedicated to avoiding layoffs, living within our means, providing a modest raise and working toward strategic plan goals.

Some potential amendments to the budget at this time include delaying improvements to the intersection at Fairview and Chapel Hill, moving up construction at Discovery Parkway, moving up funding for bus shelters, implementing a street and sidewalk closure fee, increasing CAT tv funding, giving money to the Boys and Girls Club for their gym expansion, police and fire equipment, and offering 10 weeks of paid parental leave. These will be discussed along with the budget.

As for the Parks and Recreation budget, the total budget is \$16.8 million, Griggs said. The Park Sales Tax is now the largest funding source for the department at 33% and is followed by

the General Fund (30%), Fees and Charges, Grants and Miscellaneous revenue. Overall, the P&R Department's budget reflects a 3.7% decrease or \$643,493.

All General Fund departments had to cut 3% of their budget which resulted in reductions of \$156,000 in fuel costs, hiring delays for full-time staff, and reductions in the department's temp staff, materials and supplies and marketing. This is in addition to the elimination of all capital equipment replacement planned for FY-17, and the transfer of the Marketing Specialist position to Community Relations. The C.A.R.E. program will remain funded at FY'16 levels. Together, this means a budget decrease of 5.6% for the General Fund portion of the department.

For the Recreation Services Fund, which is an enterprise fund, there will be about a 4 percent decrease for FY'17. Highlights include continued funding of the department's financial assistance program from Park Sales Tax funds, an intragovernmental decrease by \$44,000, Water-Moss loan to be paid off by end of FY'17, and ARC equipment replacement from recreation services user fees.

Griggs shared information about the forecasted cash reserve for Recreation Services, which shows it decreasing to zero after FY'19. The proposed increase in fees will help meet cost recovery goals but will not offset the growth in personnel costs, intragovernmental charges and utility costs.

Proposed fee increases are nominal, including 25 cents at the ARC and pools; \$1 for golf, adapted recreation and youth sports; \$5 for shelter reservations and transportation; \$3 for swimming lessons; \$7 for park special use permits; and \$10 for concession booths. Decreases are team rates for adult basketball, softball and volleyball, and lifeguard certification.

Griggs then shared the list of Park Sales Tax projects for FY'17 highlighted by the replacement of two MKT bridges and the first phase of the new sports fieldhouse.

Hutton asked about Clary-Shy park improvements?

Griggs said yes, Clary-Shy is included and will be discussed in detail under Council items.

Davis asked about the general feeling about this budget?

Griggs said that there has been more uncertainty with cuts and possible future reductions. He is unsure if there will be other changes made by Council at their Saturday work session and future meetings.

Devine commented that he would like the opportunity to respond to Council if any other cuts are proposed. He asked if Commission could make a potential response at their Sept. 15 meeting or if an emergency meeting could be called if necessary?

Griggs said that was an option, but there is not enough time between the Sept. 15 meeting and the second Council meeting on Sept. 19 to officially provide feedback as a Council agenda item.

Devine's concern is that there could be other changes after the Commission makes their recommendation at tonight's meeting.

Farnen agreed with Devine, saying the Commission needs to stress the importance of the General Fund to the Parks and Recreation Department, that the Park Sales Tax alone cannot support the department.

Blevins said he could write a cover letter that offers some key points to the Council, to accompany their budget recommendation, stressing the Commission's support and the need to avoid any other cuts to the Parks and Recreation budget.

Farnen made a motion, seconded by Henry, that the Commission recommends approval of the Parks and Recreation FY'17 budget as presented, including proposed fee increases and decreases. The Commission recognizes that Parks and Recreation has the ability to control their budget with the exception of some intragovernmental charges. Therefore, in future budgets, the Commission requests that intragovernmental charges be offset with the City's General Fund. The Commission also shares the concern stated in the budget document that growth in years beyond FY 2019 will either need to come from the General Fund or another funding source or the department may have to reduce services to the public.

Motion passed 6-0.

Farnen made another motion, seconded by Hutton, that the Commission authorizes Chairman Blevins to draft a cover letter to the Council, further outlining the Commission's concerns with the department's FY-17 budget, as discussed. Motion passed 6-0.