



Department Source: Parks and Recreation

To: City Council

From: City Manager & Staff

Council Meeting Date: September 8, 2020

Re: P&R Commission Recommendations on the FY-2021 Budget

Executive Summary

At their August 20, 2020 meeting, the Parks and Recreation Commission unanimously voted to recommend to the City Council that the P&R Department’s FY-2021 budget be approved as presented by the City Manager. The Commission understands the City’s financial situation is uncertain and as Council proceeds with decisions relating to compensation/benefits, final revenue projections, and other budget calculations, believe that the issues described in the attached memo from Dan Devine, P&R Commission Chair, be considered so that decisions are fair and equitable for all employees.

Discussion

Please see the attached memo from P&R Commission Chair Dan Devine.

Fiscal Impact

Short-Term Impact: Enter the cost of proposed legislation to the city for the next **two** years.

Long-Term Impact: Enter the cost of proposed legislation to the city for years **beyond two**.

Strategic & Comprehensive Plan Impact

[Strategic Plan Impacts:](#)

Primary Impact: Primary, Secondary Impact: Secondary, Tertiary Impact: Tertiary

[Comprehensive Plan Impacts:](#)

Primary Impact: Primary, Secondary Impact: Secondary, Tertiary Impact: Tertiary

Legislative History

Date	Action
NA	NA

Suggested Council Action

Consideration of the issues as described by the P&R Commission regarding the City of Columbia’s FY-2021 Parks and Recreation Department budget.

Memo

To: City Council

From: Dan Devine, Chair, Columbia Parks and Recreation Commission

Date: August 21, 2020

Re: P&R Commission FY2021 Budget Recommendation

The Parks and Recreation Commission considered the proposed FY2021 budget for the Parks and Recreation Department at our August 20 meeting. Director Mike Griggs shared a detailed presentation and the Commission discussed the proposed budget.

The Commission asked that I send you key points from the discussion:

- Park and recreation professionals are on the frontlines of the COVID-19 pandemic providing face to face interaction with numerous members of the public. Additionally, P&R staff perform similar duties as those in solid waste, streets, utilities and public safety (trash pickup, equip operation, electrical/sewer, drowning prevention and CPR, etc). The Commission recommends that Parks and Recreation staff who perform the same or similar tasks as other City employees be given the same financial consideration related to benefits and compensation as those that are represented by labor unions.
- During the COVID-19 pandemic, citizens voted with their feet and were visiting parks and trails in never before seen numbers. Research has shown that parks, trails and greenspaces provide crucial health and wellness benefits. The Commission is concerned about the level of budget cuts implemented to the General Fund portion of the Parks and Recreation budget when the sales tax revenues to date have proved to be flat instead of in rapid decline as originally predicted as a consequence of COVID-19.
- Recreation programs that encourage physical activity and those that provide social interaction and mental challenges are critical in reducing stress and anxiety. The Commission is concerned about the 14.7% increase in intergovernmental charges to the Rec Services Fund and recommends a review of how intergovernmental charges are allocated so that annual increases are fair and equitable across the various City funds and departments. Uncontrolled costs like this will have to be passed on to the public, or services eliminated.
- Because of the increased responsibilities related to the addition of the GCRA X-Country Course, Fairgrounds, and MKT Trail to Hindman Junction, the Commission recommends that priority be given to restoring the P&R positions that were eliminated due to budget cuts once City funding stabilizes.

At the end of the discussion, the Commission made the following motion: Commissioner Chad Henry made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Sue Davis, that the Commission recommends approval of the Parks and Recreation FY2021 budget as presented. Motion passed 5-0.