

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
Thursday, Sept. 21, 2023 7 p.m.
ARC Meeting Room, 1701 W Ash

DRAFT MINUTES

Commission Present: Dan Devine, Ted Farnen, Sue Davis, Meredith Donaldson
Commission Absent (excused): Chad Henry, Brendon Steenbergen, Paul Morrison
Commission Absent (unexcused):

Staff Present: Gabe Huffington, Erika Coffman, Zach Nikin, Tammy Miller

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 7 p.m.

AGENDA

Agenda was approved on a motion by Farnen, seconded by Donaldson. Motion passed 4-0.

MINUTES

Minutes were approved on a motion by Davis, seconded by Farnen. Motion passed 4-0.

MONTHLY REPORTS

The Recreation Services August monthly report will be completed and on the agenda for approval at the next meeting.

Nikin shared Park Services highlights: tree removal at Lake of the Woods took 130 hours, forestry spent 433 hours removing trees and pruning, horticulture spent 230 hours on landscape bed maintenance and maintenance spent 1,344 hours on shelter and restroom cleaning. Much of the tree removal is for the diseased ash trees, Nikin said.

Coffman shared these Recreation Services highlights: total golf season pass use has increased at both courses, total senior program sessions has increased and total ARC participations have increased from last year.

The parks monthly report was approved on a motion by Davis, seconded by Donaldson. Motion passed 4-0.

STAFF PRESENTATION

Bess Frissell, new trails specialist, was promoted to that position in October 2022. She started with the department as a seasonal in June 2016 and was hired in Forestry full time in 2018. Frissell is a Hickman graduate, she shared some information about her education, background and interests.

She also shared some recent photos of her work, including trail repairs and Kaleidospoke event set up. Her duties include clearing out trail tunnels, mowing, fixing ruts, clearing trailheads, snow removal and graffiti removal. Frissell also works with the Adopt-a-Trail volunteer group.

Davis asked if she had any staff?

Frissell said she does not, outside of seasonal help. However, she added that the Forestry crew works together when needed.

Farnen asked about mitigation of silt in the tunnels, if there is a long-term solution?

Frissell said that FEMA funds are being used to fix problems that would mitigate the silt build up and run off. A new pump was installed at County House Trail, which worked well the last time it rained, she said.

PUBLIC HEARING

Douglass Park improvements

Devine opened the public hearing and asked for the staff presentation.

Huffington shared photos and maps of the proposed project, which will be funded by the Park Sales Tax, donations from Mizzou Sports Properties and the Veterans United Foundation, and a grant from the Department of Economic Development.

Improvements would include interior and exterior renovations at the bathhouse, new pool liner, climbing wall replacement, sprayground improvements, LED lighting, pool shelter replacement and expansion of the Skate Park.

Basketball court improvements include new surface and striping, goal replacement, new scoreboards, new shelter and LED lighting upgrades. As part of the Mizzou donations, the courts will be painted black and gold with Mizzou Tiger logo in the middle of each court. One of the courts will be named for long-time coach Willie Cox. There is a wish to resume the Moonlight Hoops program and Mizzou is also interested in hosting clinics there, Huffington said.

As part of the public hearing, a KOMU reporter asked about tables under the shelter?

Huffington said there would be 3 or 4, which is sufficient for a shelter of the planned size.

With no other public comment, Devine closed the public hearing.

Davis made a motion, seconded by Donaldson, that the Commission recommend approval of the proposed Douglass Park improvements to City Council. Motion passed 4-0.

REPORTS

Council Items

Huffington informed the Commission of recent and future Council approvals:

- Simon Oswald agreement for MU Health Care Pavilion phase II - Construction Administration Services
- Hall Trust - Football Improvements - Release, Indemnity and Refunding Agreement
- Boone County Nature School Use Agreement - Columbia Public Schools

Bicycle and Pedestrian Commission Report

Staff report

Action Item #1: October meeting date change to Tuesday, Oct 17.

Action Item #2: The Bicycle and Pedestrian Commission voted to authorize Chair Elke Boyd to draft a letter to Mayor Buffalo and City Council regarding MoDOT's I-70 Improvement Project. The letter will ask for support and a formal request to prioritize and accommodate bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure in all quadrants of the project area, including facilities that are separated from vehicular traffic and safe crossings on Hwy 63.

Huffington said the Commission is requesting a letter from the Parks and Recreation Commission to support the addition of nonmotorized infrastructure in the design work of the I-70 improvements, namely at the Highway 63 corridor. Farnen made a motion, seconded by Donaldson to send a letter in support of bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure as part of the project. Motion passed 4-0.

Capital Project Report

Nikin shared these project updates:

Cosmo Park-Steinberg parking, ARC hot water heater, lights controls at Bethel and Rainbow, Philips pickleball courts and trail crossing, Fieldhouse parking, Stephens Lake Park pedestrian bridge, Lake

of the Woods parking lot lights and bridge at hole #14, MU Health Care Pavilion expansion, Harmony Bends and Gans Creek Recreation Area parking.

Devine said his sister, who uses a wheelchair, commented about accessibility at Cosmo. He asked about access?

Nikin commented that ADA access and improvements are included in all projects.

Huffington added that one project never completed is walkways down the old runway at Cosmo, he believes that is one area that is lacking.

Devine said in particular, his sister commented about the soccer fields.

Huffington said staff would follow up.

Recreation Services Report

Coffman shared these highlights and photos from events:

Kaleidospoke, Adapted recreation and sports, Aquatics schedules, Community Recreation programs, Life Enrichment, Golf, Sports and the Gans Creek Classic.

STAFF COMMENTS

Huffington said that there likely will be no need to have a meeting in December, but staff would confirm that.

He informed the Commission that staff has worked on a transition plan for the Recreation Manager position, since Coffman will be retiring in March 2025. Coffman will relocate to the Gentry Building and a new position will be created, Recreation Superintendent overseeing the ARC and Aquatics divisions. This is part of the new FY'24 budget.

COMMISSION COMMENTS TO STAFF

Donaldson commented that she has visited parks in other communities through her travels recently, and she has noticed more shade structures. She noted that heat is having a bigger impact on facilities and programs. She asked if the department has any plans in place for increasing temperatures as related to playgrounds?

Huffington said some shade structures have been added at Antimi and Twin Lakes. They do add a considerable cost at playgrounds, he said, but staff does consider those and other alternatives such as tree plantings. He said staff will keep those things in mind during planning and for events.

Farnen complimented Cavelle Cole-Neal for the Heritage Festival and recent interview. He asked about remote attendance at Commission meetings, if there was anything new?

Huffington said he would make a report at the next Commission meeting.

Davis commented she is still seeing many people not obeying the one way traffic at the Stephens Lake Park beach parking lot, off of Old Hwy. 63.

Huffington said staff will look at ways to add arrows or more signage.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

NEXT MEETING DATE

Oct. 19, 7 p.m. at the ARC

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m. on a motion by Farnen, seconded by Donaldson.