

**PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION**  
**Thursday, April 20, 2023 7 p.m.**  
**ARC Meeting Room, 1701 W Ash**

**DRAFT MINUTES**

**Commission Present:** Dan Devine, Ted Farnen, Sue Davis, Chad Henry, Meredith Donaldson, Brendon Steenberg, Paul Morrison

**Commission Absent (excused):** None

**Commission Absent (unexcused):** None

**Staff Present:** Gabe Huffington, Zach Nikin, Erika Coffman, 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 Davis. Motion passed 6-0.

**MINUTES**

Minutes were approved on a motion by Davis, seconded by Morrison. Motion passed 6-0.

(Donaldson arrived).

**MONTHLY REPORTS**

Park Services Manager Zach Nikin shared these highlights: Maintenance spent 872 hours in restroom cleaning and opening preparations, Horticulture spent 190 hours mulching and spraying landscape beds and Forestry spent 221 hours in downtown and memorial heritage tree plantings. Recreation Services Manager Erika Coffman shared these highlights: total Webtrac and RecTrac registrations have increased by \$86,000 from last year, participations have increased, usage of the Columbia Sports Fieldhouse has increased from 699 to 846 and Silver Sneakers and Renew Active memberships have increased.

The monthly report was approved on a motion by Henry, seconded by Donaldson. Motion passed 7-0.

**PRESENTATION TO THE COMMISSION**

*Alexis Kerman: Disc golf study*

Parks and Recreation Director Gabe Huffington introduced Alexis Kerman, a graduate student from Mizzou who is working on her thesis which is focused on disc golf in Columbia. She shared her preliminary findings. Kerman is also a professional disc golfer.

She described the sport's popularity and talked about the courses in Columbia. Kerman told the commission how she collected data and the survey she used.

Her findings showed that most of her respondents live in Columbia and are male. Average age is 37. Kerman acknowledged that the age may actually be younger, but survey respondents had to be 18.

About half of the respondents began playing in 2010-19, pre-pandemic. 41 percent play casually.

In regard to Columbia's courses, top site attribute at Albert-Oakland top, Albert-Oakland bottom and Indian Hills is baskets and lowest is water fountain. Top one at Harmony Bends are tee pads and baskets, and lowest is water fountain. Harmony was far and away the favorite course, however, rounds were fewer and may be attributable to the time it takes to play the course. Kerman's survey included questions about stand-alone baskets at parks. Golfers are not aware of their locations but believe they bring awareness to the sport.

The survey also showed that golfers are willing to donate money annually for course maintenance and to support the construction of a new disc golf course. For a new course, if there was a fee, the survey showed that golfers would pay \$7 per round.

Devine asked staff how the construction of a new disc golf course would factor in to plans? Huffington said that it would further boost efforts for national tournaments.

Henry asked if there was room to Strawn to expand Harmony Bends?

Huffington said yes, but there would be more of likelihood of adding nine holes to make it 27 in total.

The Commission thanked Kerman for her report.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### *Discuss June Park tour*

The June meeting will feature dinner and tour, starting at 5 p.m. on June 15. Nikin shared a list of potential stops which will be finalized at the May meeting.

1. Cosmo Park - *Burford Shelter, Lamb Shelter, Tot Lot, and Fitness Trail*
2. Northeast Regional Park - *Northeast Event Center*
3. John W. Alspaugh Park Development - *Property viewing*
4. Indian Hills Park - *Playground and basketball court*
5. Lake of the Woods Golf Course - *Electric Cart Shed*
6. Philips Park - *Tennis/Pickleball*
7. Whitegate Park Development - *Property viewing*
8. Orr Street Park Development - *Property viewing*
9. Clary-Shy Community Park - *MU Health Care Pavilion Phase II*

### *Rescheduling of August meeting*

Huffington reminded the Commission that he will be out of town in the middle of August and the regular meeting that month will be rescheduled to Aug. 10.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### *Deadline for Commission applications: May 5*

Steenbergen and Davis' terms are both up at the end of May. Both said they intend to reapply.

### *Update on economic development grants*

Huffington shared updates on the development of the Orr Street Park, which will be funded by Park Sales tax and a \$1.25 million community revitalization grant. Public input will be sought in June or July.

Another park slated for public input in June or July is Douglass Park, which is funded by Park Sales Tax funds, a private donation and a community revitalization grant.

## **REPORTS**

### *Council Items*

Huffington informed the Commission of recent and future Council approvals:

- Cosmo football fields 5 & 6 improvements
- Whitegate Park development
- Budget amendment for staffing adjustment
- Boone County Family Resources agreement

Huffington told the Commission that the second phase of the Columbia Sports Fieldhouse was tabled at a recent meeting so that staff could provide more information as to a home for the CoMo Derby Dames. Huffington said staff will be providing more information about the maple floor at the Fieldhouse and the actual space. There is a building at Northeast Regional Park that may suit the needs of the group.

Devine asked about the type of floor they need?

Huffington said some members of the group indicated that polished concrete works best so that they can slide easily during bouts.

Farnen asked if the space at Northeast could work for other groups?

Huffington said yes, it could be adaptable for wrestling, gymnastics and other uses.

Henry asked about the Cosmo rink, if it is still being used?

Huffington said the group is grateful for that space, but they have a legitimate need for indoor space. Staff will work to provide more answers to the Council and the issue may be back on the agenda for the May 15 meeting.

### *Bicycle and Pedestrian Commission Report*

At the April 19 meeting, five trail projects were added to the 2023 Unfunded Needs Project List to be submitted to MoDOT for the Columbia Area Transportation Study Organization (CATSO) Metropolitan Planning Area. The additional projects were listed under the Multi-Modal subheading. Inclusion is beneficial for future grant applications.

1. Bear Creek Trail: Lange to Northeast Regional Park
2. Hinkson Creek Trail: Clark Lane to Vandiver
3. Perche Creek Trail Phase 2
4. MKT Trail Bridge Replacement 2, 9 and 10
5. Hinkson Creek Trail: Stadium to East Campus

Additionally, the Commission voted to add "bicycle and pedestrian connectivity at all four legs/directions of the I-70/U.S. 63 Interchange."

### *Capital Project Report*

Nikin shared updates on these projects:

Burford Shelter, Lamb Shelter, MU Health Care Pavilion phase II, RC track at Cosmo, Harmony Bends Disc Golf Course, Lake of the Woods cart shed, Philips Park tennis courts, L.A. Nickell Golf Course, Indian Hills Park, Fairview reservable garden plots, ARC sidewalks, Orr Street Park development, Hindman Garden, ARC parking lot, Flat Branch III bridge, Perche Creek Trail bridge, Cosmo Bike Park and MKT bridge study.

*Recreation Services Report*

Coffman shared updates on these programs:

Splat is getting closer to selling out, Mayor's Council on Physical Fitness recently made community awards, Adapted Recreation and Sports, Aquatics rentals and school parties, CARE program, Community Recreation events, Life Enrichment classes, Golf tournaments, and Sports leagues and tournaments.

**STAFF COMMENTS**

Huffington told the Commission that staff will be making an esports presentation at the May meeting. He also reminded them of the Stephens Lake Park Arboretum Plant Sale on May 7.

**COMMISSION COMMENTS TO STAFF**

Davis said that the parking lot stripes at the Old Hwy. 63 lot at Stephens are badly faded. She added that she had received some secondhand information about a potential purchase of drugs that had occurred at Stephens.

Huffington encouraged her to tell the person who had witnessed that to call 911 in that circumstance.

Steenbergen suggested that if staff wanted to offer additional garden plots, they could decrease the size of some of them into strips. That would also benefit beginning gardeners who may not want a large plot.

Devine complimented the new bike boulevard striping on Lathrop.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

None.

**NEXT MEETING DATE**

May 18, 7 p.m. at the ARC

**ADJOURNMENT**

Meeting adjourned at 9 p.m. on a motion from Morrison, seconded by Farnen.