

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

Thursday, August 17, 2017, 7 p.m.

ARC, 1701 W. Ash

MINUTES

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

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 Farnen, seconded by Davis. Motion passed 7-0.

Minutes: The minutes were approved on a motion by Devine, seconded by Donaldson. Motion passed 7-0.

Monthly Report: Park Services Manager Gabe Huffington shared highlights from Park Services: Water Zone maintenance conducted last week of July, sports turf crews worked more than 150 hours for Show Me Games, and nine warnings given for boating without life jacket, a reflection of recent changes in City's ordinances. Recreation Services Manager Erika Coffman shared highlights from Recreation Services: sessions and participations have increased since last July, web registrations have increased significantly. Total golf rounds, days open and ARC participation have also increased.

The July monthly report was approved on a motion by Davis, seconded by Hutton. Motion passed 7-0.

FY'18 Parks and Recreation Budget Presentation

Director Mike Griggs presented the proposed FY'18 department budget to the Commission. He showed Commissioners where all budgets are kept on the web site, as well as a budget process timeline.

He reminded the Commission of the department's funds, which are general park operations, recreation services fund, park sales tax and capital improvement plan. The largest source of funding is now park sales tax revenues, which has changed.

Griggs mentioned the programs and services that are covered by all the funds. Overall, the City's key topics for the new budget is to avoid layoffs, compensate employees \$1,000 over 25 pay periods, progress toward strategic plan goals and include contracts for union employees. The Parks and Recreation Department's total operating budget is \$13.1 million and budget overall is \$17.9 million.

Griggs shared a year-by-year comparison of funding sources, total expenses by category and permanent positions. He also shared information about service area, showing where discretionary funds are allocated and how they impact the community. He shared how the general fund support for Parks and Recreation has changed over the years, factoring in inflation.

Griggs showed a breakdown of the Rec Services Fund, showing that the forecast for FY'18 is projected to be above the cash reserve target, if proposed fee increases are approved. With fees and charges, Griggs said they are evaluated every 3-4 years with changes based on market research, recovery goals, program changes and internal staff review. The department

is required to offset any projected deficit in unassigned cash reserve in the recreation services fund. Griggs said it is a fine line to offset expenses but not to raise fees more than the market would bear. For FY'18, the department proposes to raise golf fees across the board, including daily fees and passes.

Griggs shared cost recovery goals for all recreation divisions, including those in the past three years.

Griggs showed the Park Sales tax history and forecast for FY'18, as well as a list of capital projects that will be funded.

Donaldson asked what was next to achieve the trail loop?

Griggs said it would be Perche, plus some smaller connectors in northern Columbia. He added that for the loop to be completed, other funding sources besides Park Sales Tax would have to be considered.

Devine asked about increasing the length of time for the renewable Park Sales Tax in future elections?

Griggs said Council may consider asking for a 10-year renewal in 2021. The citizen survey will help determine the level of support. In 2015, the survey showed that the six-year renewal would have strong support.

Devine said he was concerned that there is a point to worry about the Park Sales Tax balance?

Griggs answered that as long as there is a balance, funding will be fine. If that changes, then there will have to be cuts.

Devine asked about additional funding sources for the City?

Griggs said the City will likely place a use tax on the ballot in November, which is necessary if Amazon ever starts charging sales tax. A property tax for public safety is also under discussion.

Davis made a motion, seconded by Hutton, that the Commission recommend approval to the City Council of the FY2018 Parks and Recreation budget as presented by the City Manager. Motion approved 7-0.

Solar Eclipse events update

Off Track Events is planning the events at Cosmo Park for the eclipse on August 21, as well as the Totality Run and Ride. The department is planning several events over the same weekend, such as Night Flight Glow Golf, Kaleidospoke and Movies in the Park. City offices will close from 12:30-1:30, including the Parks and Recreation office at Gentry. The ARC and Armory will remain open and Hillcrest will have limited staff, as most will be at Cosmo.

Council Items

Griggs shared these updates:

Council approved Valleyview improvements at their August 7 meeting. Appropriation of the Missouri Foundation for Health Grant, Nifong Park lease with Boone County Historical Society and Twin Lakes improvements will be on the next Council agenda.

Bicycle and Pedestrian Commission Report

The August meeting was canceled.

Capital Project Report

Huffington shared these updates:

Albert-Oakland: pickleball courts are complete with new lighting.

American Legion Park: new playground recently mulched.

Gans: concession building under construction.

Atkins: batting cages under construction, black field bullpens complete, new storage building under construction, new covers in place on red and green field dugouts.

Griggs commented that we are saving in costs by using in-house staff for the storage building. Farnen asked if we tracked costs to show those savings?

Huffington said that we did.

Lake of the Woods: driving range sprigging done, sodding almost complete.

Douglass: skate spot complete, has drawn crowds to the park.

Henry asked about lights?

Huffington said there is a lot of light from other areas of the park and the street, but it maybe something to consider at some point.

McKee St. Park: new pedestrian bridge completed.

Garrison Shelter: new ceiling installed.

Norma Sutherland Smith Park: work continues on playground site.

William Bell Memorial: under construction at Stephens Lake Park. Memorial is near spot where Bell assisted forestry staff in planting oak collection.

Indian Hills Park: improvements being made to trail and playground. New kiosk and shelter in place.

Recreation Services Report

Coffman shared these updates:

Movie Night: Good crowd attended recent movie at McKee St Park.

East BBQ: staff worked with police in putting on event by providing water games.

CoMo Park Pacers: new walking group meets weekly at Auburn Hills Park and Indian Hills Park.

Coolin' Down with the Blues: held at Douglass Park.

Douglass Baseball: teams recently attended Cardinals game.

Blue Thunder: 39 participated in nationals, four won championships and 13 were named All-American.

Special Olympics: summer sports ongoing.

Stephens Lake Park Amphitheater Concert Series: local teen bands recently performed, 300 in attendance.

Family Fun Fest: July event had 2,000, August event was rained out.

Aquatics: Family Splash Bash held at Lake of the Woods.

Dance Camp: held at Hillcrest.

CARE Mural dedication: held recently at MKT tunnel at Stewart.

ARC: personal training sessions have been averaging 180 hours per month, group classes serve more than 5,000 monthly.

Upcoming Events: Night Flight Glow Golf, Movies in the Park, Kaleidospoke, Solar Eclipse events, Neighborhood Park Fun Day, Pooch Plunge, SLP Amphitheater Concert Series, and Heritage Festival.

Staff Comments

Griggs commented on a letter he had received recently from a local bank, alerting him that a Columbia resident, Jefferson Davis Hall, had recently died and left a trust behind for the department. He and his wife had watched games at Cosmo Park, sitting near their son's grave at Memorial Cemetery. The trust is in the amount of \$300,000 and designated for Fields #5 and #6 at Cosmo. Griggs said he knew of Hall and remembered he and his wife sitting near

the fields, and having conversations with them. He said the department would find a use for the funds to be used for the two fields.

Devine made a motion, seconded by Hutton to name Fields #5 and #6 at some point in the future, in honor of the Halls' son. Motion passed 7-0.

Coffman informed the Commission that interviews would be held soon to fill vacant Recreation Specialist positions in Aquatics and Community Recreation.

Commission Comments

Davis complimented staff on the fences at Stephens Lake Park.

Farnen asked about outreach efforts at colleges?

Huffington said that Planner Janet Godon usually did events to educate students on the trail system.

Public Comments

None.

Next Meeting Date

September 21, 2017, 7 pm at the ARC.

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 8:40 pm.