

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

Thursday, October 19, 2017, 7 pm

ARC, 1701 W. Ash

MINUTES

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

Commission Absent (excused): Dan Devine

Staff Present: Mike Griggs, Erika Coffman, Tammy Miller

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

Agenda: The agenda was approved on a motion by Davis, seconded by Donaldson. Motion passed 5-0.

Minutes: The minutes were approved on a motion by Donaldson, seconded by Henry. Motion passed 5-0.

Commissioner Hutton arrived.

Monthly Report: Park services highlights include aerification and fall greens maintenance at the golf courses; completion of fall seeding at Twin Lakes, Indian Hills Park and Douglass Park; and training for the park rangers for body camera use. Recreation services highlights include an increase web registrations from last year's \$82,959 to this year's \$123,862. Youth sport participations have increased in CYBA, Diamond Council and Sporting Columbia. Other increases are in total golf rounds, revenue in personal training and total volunteer hours. Donaldson asked about adult financial scholarships?

Coffman said that the youth and family scholarships have been more popular and generally promoted more frequently.

The September monthly report was approved on a motion by Farnen, seconded by Davis. Motion passed 6-0.

Staff Presentation

Griggs introduced Dave Dittmer, the department's forester. Dittmer has been with the department for 11 years after working as a seasonal employee. He shared information about his background and education.

Dittmer told the Commission about the Forestry crew and their duties, which include tree care, trail construction and maintenance, management of nature areas and invasive species removal. Dittmer described how trees are propagated and cared for, including the trees along the streets in downtown Columbia. He also shared information about forestry programs, such as Treekeepers, Adopt-a-Trail and Arbor Day programs.

Donaldson asked about prescribed burns?

Dittmer said those are done every few years in cooperation with the Missouri Department of Conservation.

Blevins asked about the state of conifers in the area?

Dittmer said the 2012 drought had a serious effect on conifers, that non-native species could not withstand those conditions.

Donaldson asked if emerald ash borers have been a problem?

Dittmer answered that staff have done some treatments but no removal yet. He would guess that the problem is not prevalent yet.

Davis asked about invasive species?

Dittmer said that the most problematic species are honeysuckle and a hybrid of Bradford pear, the callery pear.

CoMo Gives Presentation

Griggs shared information about the department's establishment of the Columbia Parks and Recreation Fund and participation in the CoMo Gives campaign that takes place in December. Griggs reminded the Commission that the reason for the Fund is to set up another revenue source due to lagging sales tax revenue and decreased funding from the City's general fund. The Parks and Recreation Fund has been set up under the Community Foundation of Central Missouri which runs the CoMo Gives campaign.

Griggs shared the investment performance summary of the Foundation, which comprises 78 different funds. The CoMo Gives campaign is a 31-day period which is promoted through a publication and CoMoGives.com. The organizations represented help drive citizens to the web site to make donations. A leader board is maintained throughout the month on the web site, keeping track of donations. There are also challenge grants available for organizations that achieve different levels, such as highest total dollar amount, highest total dollar amount by a first year organization and highest number of unique donors. Those challenge grants range from \$1000 to \$2,000.

The kick-off event will be on November 14 at Hampton Inn, where organizations will receive their allotment of paper brochures. The giving window opens on December 1.

Henry said he'd like to share information about the campaign with partners such as the CYFL.

Miller said she would draft a message to share with the Commission to distribute to any organizations they are affiliated with.

Clary-Shy Community Park Phase I Improvements

Griggs shared drawings of the park master plan and first phase improvements. The first phase total is \$1.47 million, which includes \$400,00 from Park Sales Tax, donations and fundraising from Friends of the Farm, MU Health Care Pavilion sponsorship, and grants. Phase I includes all concrete for the pavilion and structure for 40 covered stalls and restroom facility; 40-car parking lot; Columbia Center for Urban Agriculture (CCUA) garden, orchard, maintenance center and outdoor classroom; ADA walkways and utilities and stormwater improvements.

Blevins asked specifically about the Market stalls?

Griggs said that the middle section would be built first, then the ends would be built in future phases. The entire concrete pad will be placed at this time.

Farnen asked about West Middle School and if they had concerns?

Griggs said the school has been involved in meetings and are aware of the plans. They will have to adjust their bus parking.

Hutton asked if there was still space for a possible future expansion of the ARC?

Griggs said that the facility could eventually be extended to the north to add another gym. The space north of the ARC has been protected to allow for expansion.

Henry made a motion, seconded by Donaldson that the Commission recommends to Council adoption of the Clary-Shy Community Park master plan and proposed FY'17 park improvements. Motion passed 6-0.

Photo Contest Results

Miller shared results of the Facebook Photo Contest that was held in conjunction with Parks and Recreation Month in July. Almost 100 entries were submitted with the theme of "Get Your Play On." Ralph Horne won the contest, where judging was a mixture of staff judging and Facebook likes.

Council Items

Griggs shared these updates:

ARC security camera improvements were recommended. Agreements for usage with CCUA and the Columbia Farmers Market will be presented for approval.

Bicycle and Pedestrian Commission Report

Park staff provided the Commission with new trail guides. Jason Patrie, Commission Chair, asked about the ability to add rough texture to the bridge west of Rock Quarry Road on the Hinkson Creek Trail. He reported issues for cyclists falling due to slippery surfaces caused by moisture. Staff will investigate and make corrections, including adding signage to warn about bridge surface.

Capital Project Report

Griggs shared these updates:

Gans concession building: nearing completion.

Atkins storage building: garage door installed on building and electric installation completed.

Hominy Creek Trail: concrete connector off of St. Charles Road installed.

Norma Sutherland Smith Park: playground and walkways nearing completion.

American Legion: new staircase and arrow holders in place.

Indian Hills Park: new walkways completed.

Waters House at Waters-Moss: new gutters in place.

William Bell Memorial: benches have been added.

Sports field lighting: lighting is at PMC, ready to be installed.

Antimi: fields being demolished, ready for new lighting and improvements.

MKT bridges: bids closing for replacement work.

LOW Driving Range: work being completed.

Recreation Services Report

Coffman shared these updates:

Playground Challenge: winner was drawn for the grand prize, 129 kids completed the program this year.

Bear Creek Half Marathon: event was held on Oct. 14 with maximum runners.

Neighborhood Park Fun Days: last event will be Oct. 26 with Halloween theme.

Mizzou BB Clinic: men's and women's teams held clinic for younger kids.

Family Fun Fest: last event was held, Creative Kids, with the Office of Cultural Affairs.

Backpack Camping: class just completed, instructor was Park Superintendent Mike Snyder.

ARC: youth weightlifting program has renovated platforms.

Upcoming Events: Rocheport Fall Colors Trail Ride, Holiday Toy Drive, Neighborhood Park Fun Day, Not So Frightening Friday, Bring Your Own Big Wheel, and Homeless Youth Awareness Month Dodgeball Tournament with Rainbow House.

Staff Comments

As part of establishing the Parks and Recreation Fund, the board established for the fund must hold a fundraiser. The board met earlier in the week to discuss ideas, Griggs said. Some things mentioned included having a booth at the department's annual Rummage Sale. As part of that, the board discussed having a plant sale, in conjunction with the department's horticulture staff. Griggs said he had talked to staff and they were interested in being involved if the board decided to proceed. The Rummage Sale may be June 2.

Another possibility discussed is selling concessions at a Mizzou basketball game. The MPRA Northeast region does this to raise funds. Huffington said he could check into that further if the board decided to go that route.

Griggs informed the Commission he would be at an out-of-town training and would miss the November Commission meeting.

Commission Comments

Hutton commented that she had heard compliments about the Fairview tennis courts from a neighbor recently.

She added that she is concerned about the amount of litter she has seen around the community. She would like to see more promotion and education about picking up litter, and would appreciate any thoughts or feedback about working with the schools or other departments to help make that happen.

Farnen asked about the City's plans for the bicentennial and what plans are in place?

Griggs said that Parks and Recreation's involvement would be mainly with the expansion of Flat Branch Park, which is being referred to as Founders Park. Most activities would be focused there.

Public Comments

None.

Next Meeting Date

November 16, 2017, 7 pm at the ARC.

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 8:45 pm.