

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
Thursday, Sept. 19, 2024, 6:30 p.m.
ARC Meeting Room, 1701 W Ash

DRAFT MINUTES

Commission Present: Dan Devine, Ted Farnen, Chad Henry, Brendon Steenbergen, Paul Morrison, Jason Patrie

Commission Absent (excused):

Commission Absent (unexcused):

Staff Present: Gabe Huffington, Zach Nikin, Cavelle Cole-Neal, Tammy Miller

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Dan Devine called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

AGENDA

Agenda was approved on a motion by Farnen, seconded by Morrison. Motion passed 5-0.

MINUTES

Minutes approved on a motion by Morrison, seconded by Henry. Motion passed 5-0.

(Steenbergen arrived).

MONTHLY REPORT

Park Services Manager Zach Nikin shared these highlights: ARC pool preparation for reopening (154 hours), graded and seeded at Philips Park (60 hours), forestry crew spent more than 300 hours on trails including repairs, cleaning, pruning and graffiti removal.

Recreation Superintendent Cavelle Cole-Neal shared these highlights: golf participations at both courses have increased, shelter reservations have increased and the Kaleidospoke event sold out with 300 participants.

Henry made a motion, seconded by Morrison to approve the monthly report. Motion passed 6-0.

Director Gabe Huffington paused the meeting to inform the Commission of the passing of Sue Davis. City staff had received an email notification from a family friend, which was distributed to the Commission. Tammy Miller circulated a sympathy card.

PUBLIC HEARING

Albert-Oakland Park improvements

Devine asked for the staff report.

Nikin described the project which would include the replacement of upper pickleball and tennis courts with 10 new pickleball courts. The playground near shelters 2 and 3 would be replaced and improvements made at those shelters. The Park Sales Tax would fund the improvements as well as potential donations from the Columbia Pickleball Club. A public input meeting was held Aug. 13.

Nikin showed photos of the courts that are in need of repair as well as the playground and shelters.

Farnen asked about the conversion of the tennis court?

Nikin said staff have talked a few tennis players and the focus will be on maintaining other courts in the system.

Huffington added that improvements are planned at Fairview, Cosmo and Bethel. The Hickman courts are also available for public use. Keeping outdoor pickleball courts together opens up the possibilities for tournaments.

Nikin said the demolition would take place over the winter with work completed by next summer. Devine opened the public hearing for comment; with no public present, he closed the hearing.

Henry made a motion, seconded by Morrison, to recommend the proposed Albert-Oakland Park improvements to City Council. Motion passed 6-0.

NEW BUSINESS

Rezoning near Albert-Oakland Park

Nikin said the proposed rezoning is near Albert-Oakland Park off of Oakland Gravel Road. It is a five-acre tract that would be rezoned from R-1 to R-2. With a major roadway between the development and the park, there should not be an impact, Nikin said.

Farnen made a motion, seconded by Henry that the Commission sees no adverse impact to Albert-Oakland Park from the rezoning. Motion passed 6-0.

ARC Admissions policy

Cole-Neal informed the Commission that a new ARC admissions policy will go into effect. In the interest of customer service, safety and engagement, all patrons at the ARC will be required to have key fob or ARC card and swipe in upon entry. This new policy won't affect members who always swipe in. Day pass users will need to obtain a card or fob. Non-paying visitors will be asked to check in at the front desk and group rentals will be provided wristbands. Staff is holding education events to help inform patrons of the policy, which will go into effect Oct. 16.

For Commission meetings held at the ARC, Tammy Miller will provide a list of Commissioners to the front desk.

Morrison asked about the cards and if they have to be physically presented?

Cole-Neal said youth could take a photo of their card and present that if it is easier.

Staff presented examples of when it is helpful to know names of everyone in the building, such as in case of emergency.

Farnen asked about large public events, such as a retirement. Would wristbands need to be distributed?

Cole-Neal said there aren't many events like that, but in that case, the organizer would be asked to provide a list. It would be difficult to wristband that many people.

Patrie commented it seemed like an easy thing to do to get RSVPs.

Henry said he thought the policy is a good idea and staff will figure out any wrinkles as they come along.

Cole-Neal acknowledged that it won't always be easy but it will be helpful for staff.

Whitegate groundbreaking

A groundbreaking is scheduled for Whitegate Park Oct. 1, with activities for the neighborhood starting at 4 p.m. and the groundbreaking ceremony set for 5 p.m. Miller will send an invitation to the Commission.

REPORTS

Council Items

Huffington shared these recent City Council actions:

Fairview Park – Council approved an agreement with USTA for repairs at Fairview tennis courts.

COLT Railroad – Huffington shared a report that was made to City Council regarding the project that would result in the development of a trail and greenway. Funding is at the end of the Park Sales Tax

cycle, in FY2030 and 2031. There are four major trail projects over the next four years, and those could be reordered, Huffington said.

Bicycle and Pedestrian Commission Report

At the Sept. 18 meeting, park staff provided an update to the Bicycle and Pedestrian Commission on the construction of the Perche Creek Trail.

Devine asked if there was any discussion on sidewalk connectivity as part of the I-70/Hwy 63 connector?

Huffington said the staff liaison did not report that, so he didn't think so.

Capital Project Report

Nikin shared these updates and photos of recent projects: Columbia Sports Fieldhouse expansion, ARC Water Zone reopening and updates, Cosmo Bike Park, Gans Creek Recreation Area race headquarters, Albert-Oakland Park, Philips pickleball, Perche Creek Trail and Jones House demolition.

Recreation Services Report

Cole-Neal shared these updates and photos: CARE summer program was successful with 136 completing the program, special events are wrapping up for the season, ARC visits are down slightly, outreach events are planned to educate the public on the new admission policy, Adapted Recreation is wrapping up some summer sports, aquatic programs, Community Recreation, Golf and Sports.

STAFF COMMENTS

Huffington informed the Commission of an interested parties meeting Sept. 26 for improvements at Stephens Lake Park. The work would include replacement of the Gordon playground structure, improvements to entrances, parking lot improvements and addition of a service area for parks crews.

COMMISSION COMMENTS TO STAFF

None.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

NEXT MEETING DATE

Sept. 19, 6:30 p.m. at the ARC

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 7:58 p.m. on a motion by Morrison, seconded by Farnen.