

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
Thursday, Oct. 17, 2024, 6:30 p.m.
ARC Meeting Room, 1701 W Ash

DRAFT MINUTES

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

Commission Absent (excused):

Commission Absent (unexcused): Paul Morrison

Staff Present: Gabe Huffington, Erika Coffman, Zach Nikin, 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 Steenbergen. Motion passed 5-0.

MINUTES

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

MONTHLY REPORT

Recreation Services Erika Coffman and Park Services Zach Nikin shared highlights from the month. Steenbergen made a motion, seconded by Henry to approve the monthly report. Motion passed 5-0.

STAFF PRESENTATION

Coffman introduced intern Rayna McKeithen and then Recreation Specialist Lindsey Monckton for the presentation. Monckton shared her background, education and interests. She graduated from Mizzou with a degree in Parks, Recreation Sport and Tourism in 2023. She interned for the department before being hired full time at the ARC in December 2023. Monckton oversees Camp CoMo Kids, Home School PE, Little Gymmers and other ARC programming. Steenbergen asked about specific days and times of Little Gymmers, which Monckton answered.

Patrie asked if Schools' Out Days off camps would return.

Monckton said staff has had those discussions.

The Commission thanked Monckton for her presentation.

NEW BUSINESS

MPRA Conference: Feb. 18-21

Huffington informed the Commission that the next state MPRA Conference will be Feb. 18-21 in Branson. There is about \$3,000 in the Commission's training budget if anyone would be interested. Commissioners should let Tammy Miller know if they are.

Reschedule February meeting

Huffington pointed out that the MPRA Conference will conflict with the Commission's regularly scheduled meeting Feb. 20. He proposed a new date of Feb. 13, a week earlier.

Farnen made a motion, seconded by Henry to reschedule the Commission meeting to Feb. 13, 2025 from Feb. 20, 2025. Motion passed 5-0.

REPORTS

Council Items

Huffington shared these recent City Council actions:

- Flock cameras approved; they will be administered by the Columbia Police Department but located in some parks.
- Missouri Arts Council grant - Heritage Festival

Bicycle and Pedestrian Commission Report

At the Oct. 16 meeting:

- Staff provided an update on construction progress for the Perche Creek Trail including concrete pour status (approximately 40% complete) and grading/rock work for the fabricated bridge.
- Commissioner Ortiz provided a rudimentary presentation introducing the concepts of rails-with-trails, rails-to-trails, and railbanking in anticipation of future COLT Trail discussion.
- Chair Boyd shared a draft of a proposed letter to send to Mayor Buffaloe/Council concerning the impending Improve I-70 project. Motion passed to send the letter as drafted.

Capital Project Report

Nikin shared these updates and photos of recent projects:

Columbia Sports Fieldhouse, Cosmo Bike Park, ARC, Perche Creek Trail, African American Heritage Trail, Whitegate Park groundbreaking, Gans Creek Recreation Area race headquarters, and Albert-Oakland east.

Recreation Services Report

Coffman shared these updates and photos:

Gans Creek Classic, life enrichment and special events, ARC, adapted recreation, aquatics, community recreation, golf and sports.

STAFF COMMENTS

At this point, Huffington said there would be no business to discuss so there would be no need for a December meeting. Staff will confirm at the November meeting.

Huffington and Nikin told the Commission that Nikin has resigned his position. Nikin is returning to engineering and has taken a position with a local firm. His last day with the department will be Dec. 2. Huffington said the position will be advertised soon.

COMMISSION COMMENTS TO STAFF

Farnen asked if there was an adverse reaction to canceling the second day of the Heritage Festival due to the weather?

Coffman said the event has had some bad weather affecting it in recent years and it is difficult to make those calls.

Huffington and Miller said vendors this year were understanding and supportive as the forecast on Sunday included heavy rainfall.

Farnen commented that the 3.75 mile marker on the Bear Creek Trail is still missing.

Steenbergen asked about timing to fill the at-large vacancy?

Huffington said the appointment would be made at the Nov. 18 City Council meeting; the position will be advertised until Nov. 8 at 5 p.m.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

NEXT MEETING DATE

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

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m. on a motion by Farnen, seconded by Steenbergen.