

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
Thursday, Feb. 15, 2024 7 p.m.
ARC Meeting Room, 1701 W Ash

DRAFT MINUTES

Commission Present: Dan Devine, Ted Farnen, Chad Henry, Paul Morrison, Jason Patrie
Commission Absent (excused): Sue Davis
Commission Absent (unexcused): Brendon Steenbergen

Staff Present: Gabe Huffington, Erika Coffman, Zach Nikin, Tammy Miller

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Dan Devine called the meeting to order at 7 p.m.

AGENDA

Director Gabe Huffington asked the Commission to remove the staff presentation, due to illness. Agenda was approved as amended on a motion by Farnen, seconded by Henry. Motion passed 5-0.

MINUTES

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

MONTHLY REPORT

Recreation Services Manager Erika Coffman shared these highlights: total participations increased from last fiscal year (October-January) to this one, total sessions have increased, court and field usage have increased, golf has increased and total ARC visits have increased. Park Services Manager Zach Nikin shared these highlights: maintenance spent 204 hours on facility and park painting, and 102 hours on pre-treating and snow removal; horticulture spent 80 hours on greenhouse work; forestry spent 52 hours on bridge deck repairs; and sports turf spent 80 hours on mower reel maintenance. Morrison made a motion, seconded by Henry to approve the January monthly report. Motion passed 5-0.

PUBLIC HEARING

FY'24 Annual Park Improvement Project: Philips Park trail dam bank restoration

Nikin described the project to the Commission which would entail armoring the shoreline of the dam along the Philips Lake trail. The project is budgeted at \$65,000. Nikin shared images of the shoreline which show erosion. Recent inspections by the Department of Natural Resources showed compliance but recommendations were that repairs would be needed in 2025. This work is a preemptive measure, Nikin said.

Henry asked about the water level?

Nikin said it is shallow where the work will be done. It is expected to be completed by summer.

Patrie asked why this project falls under the Parks budget?

Huffington said that all infrastructure in parks falls under Parks and Recreation to maintain and renovate, unless specifically stated otherwise.

Devine opened the public hearing for comment. There were no comments, so Devine closed the public hearing.

Henry made a motion, seconded by Morrison, that the Commission recommends approval of the proposed Philips Lake trail dam bank restoration project to City Council. Motion passed 5-0.

NEW BUSINESS

Rezoning: property near Bear Creek Park

Nikin described the location, which is a tract at 2000 Allen Lane. The proposal is to rezone from single family and mixed use neighborhood to mixed use commercial and multiple family. Staff does not see any impact from the rezoning.

Morrison made a motion, seconded by Farnen, that the Commission sees no adverse impact to Bear Creek Park and recommends approval of the proposed rezoning. Motion passed 5-0.

REPORTS

Council Items

Huffington shared these recent City Council actions:

- Fairview Park disc golf improvements
- MAC grant agreement for Heritage Festival
- Tons of Trucks agreement with the Columbia Mall

Bicycle and Pedestrian Commission Report

No report, the February meeting will be on Feb. 21.

Capital Project Report

Nikin shared these updates and photos:

Jay Dix mountain bike skills course, Philips Park tennis/pickleball court shelter and grading, Gans Creek cross country turf, PMC renovation and electric gates, Albert-Oakland shelter demo, Rainbow brush clearing and maintenance and RC track.

Recreation Services Report

Coffman shared these updates and event photos:

Leisure Times is coming out March 6, ARC upcoming classes and visits, Adapted Sports and recreation programs and competitions, Aquatics, CARE, Community Recreation Black History Month events, Life Enrichment, Golf, Sports and Stonegrinder 7K on Feb. 17.

STAFF COMMENTS

Huffington told the Commission that former Director Mike Griggs and Park Ranger Supervisor Rosanna Johnson are retiring in the next few weeks. A reception for Griggs will be April 12 from 2-4 p.m. at the ARC and one for Johnson will be March 20 from 2-4 p.m. at Hillcrest.

Huffington asked the Commission if a July tour would work better than June? Several projects will be further along in July. Two of the Commissioners would not be able to attend in July.

Huffington said they'd bring it back up at the March meeting.

A public input meeting for the Community Welcome Center at Clary-Shy Park will be Feb. 27 from 4-6 p.m. Huffington shared some plans and images with the Commission. It will be on the March Commission agenda for a public hearing.

COMMISSION COMMENTS TO STAFF

Morrison said he was asked to lobby for the return of beer buckets at Rainbow, so he was passing that along.

He added some comments about the Ice Bowl, a disc golf tournament at Albert-Oakland, and said that Harmony Bends has fallen from the top spot as the best course in the world, per Disc Golf Review.

Devine asked if a City park would ever be considered as a charging station for electric vehicles?

Huffington said that there has not been a lot of discussion yet as a staff, but he would be meeting with the City's sustainability director soon to gather more information. The possibility came up during discussions about the Orr Street Park property.

Patrie asked about registration for Camp CoMo Kidz?

Coffman said there are some changes, camps registration will be held one week after the summer Leisure Times comes out. Camp CoMo Kidz registration will be in person at the ARC but with additional staff to assist.

Patrie asked if there will be similar capacities?

Coffman said it would, enrollments are back to usual numbers pre-COVID.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

NEXT MEETING DATE

Feb. 15, 2024, 7 p.m. at the ARC

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 8:05 p.m. on a motion by Patrie, seconded by Farnen.