

**PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION**  
**Thursday, March 21, 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, Brendon Steenbergen  
**Commission Absent (unexcused):**

**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**

Agenda was approved 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 shared updates about total participations, total sessions, court and field usage, total ARC visits and total golf rounds. Park Services Manager Zach Nikin shared updates about the new GPS painter, Forestry and Maintenance. Monthly report was approved on a motion by Henry, seconded by Morrison. Motion passed 5-0.

**STAFF PRESENTATION**

Coffman introduced Jordan Jacobs, recreation specialist in the Sports division, who started in his role about a year ago. Jacobs shared his education and background. He detailed his daily duties and main aspects of his job which include youth programming, adult programming, athletic facility management and concession management. Morrison asked about adult softball enrollment? Jacobs said there are about 50-55 teams signed up. This has decreased since the pandemic. Patrie asked about youth soccer? Jacobs said those numbers have increased. The Commission thanked Jacobs for his presentation.

**PUBLIC HEARING**

Huffington described the Community Welcome Center project at Clary-Shy Community Park. The project is budgeted at \$5.2 million, funded by donations through the Missouri Development Finance Board, the county's ARPA allocation and the Park Sales Tax. Huffington shared the public input process which includes BeHeardCoMo online feedback and a drop-in meeting Feb. 27. He showed the Commission photos of the plans and room layout for

the event space, production kitchen, offices, resource library and community conference room, as well as plans for 52 additional parking spaces.

Devine asked about hours for the public event space?

Huffington said those have not been worked out yet, but there will be opportunity for the event space to be available for rental, administered by Parks and Recreation. There is a maintenance plan as to which areas of the space that Parks and Recreation will be responsible for, and what the Columbia Center for Urban Agriculture (CCUA) will be responsible for.

Farnen asked about staffing?

Huffington said an additional custodian will be needed once this facility is complete.

Patrie commented that the fundraising seemed to go more quickly than anticipated. He asked if staff had confidence in the construction budget?

Huffington said, yes, they do.

Patrie asked about a contingency if the project should go above budget?

Huffington said that it would depend on the amount. There would be a potential to seek more private donations or potentially other funding sources.

Devine opened the public hearing. With no comments, Devine closed the public hearing.

Henry made a motion, seconded by Farnen, that the Commission recommends the proposed Community Welcome Center for approval by City Council. Motion passed 5-0.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

Huffington shared information about the temporary closure of the ARC Water Zone this summer. The closure is needed to replace the play structure and aggregate surface surrounding it. The pool will be closed from Memorial Day through Labor Day. In its place, Huffington said all three outdoor pools, Albert-Oakland Family Aquatic Center, Douglass Family Aquatic Center and Lake of the Woods Pool will be open. All three, in addition to Hickman Pool, will host water fitness classes and lap swimming. ARC members will be able to access all outdoor pools at no charge.

To take advantage of the closure, Huffington said other work will be done, including: new flooring in party rooms, hallway and offices; new pool pac heater; replace VGB drain grates; replace sand in filter system; service and clean filters; service pool pumps and motors; replace natatorium cubbies and routine maintenance.

Farnen asked about guards?

Coffman said staff has been recruiting and feel confident they will be fully staffed by the summer.

## **REPORTS**

### *Council Items*

Huffington shared these recent City Council actions:

Tons of Trucks agreement with Columbia Mall, North Village Park naming and approval and acquisition of lot near Douglass Park, which will enable the park's expansion.

### *Bicycle and Pedestrian Commission Report*

At their March 20 meeting, the Commission discussed the MoDOT project to improve the I-70/c3 interchange. They voted to send a request to City Council to add missing sidewalk sections.

The Commission discussed taking potential action to ensure connecting the trail system to the north side of Columbia in that area.

*Capital Project Report*

Nikin shared these updates and photos:

Parks Management Center renovations, Fairview Park beginner golf course, Columbia Sports Fieldhouse phase II, Harmony Bends hole #18, Cosmo Park RC track, Antimi, Rainbow restroom and concession updates, Perche Creek Trail bridge, Cosmo fields 5 and 6, Fairview tennis courts, Northeast Regional Park fiber, Albert-Oakland improvements and ew GPS painter.

*Recreation Services Report*

Coffman shared these updates and event photos:

ARC visits and specials; Aquatics recruitment efforts, classes and trainings; CARE applications updates; Community Recreation programming; Life Enrichment classes and programs; Golf revenue and events and Sports activities.

**STAFF COMMENTS**

Huffington reminded the Commission of Mike Griggs' retirement reception April 12 at the ARC. He also said that the Park Tour would be held at the June meeting. That meeting will start at 5 p.m. June 20 at Parks Management Center with dinner, short meeting and tour.

**COMMISSION COMMENTS TO STAFF**

Farnen may not be at the April meeting, he will let staff know. He asked about a virtual option? Huffington said he would check with other commissions and boards to check on procedures. Farnen added that the 3.75 mile marker on the Bear Creek Trail is missing.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

None.

**NEXT MEETING DATE**

April 18, 2024, 7 p.m. at the ARC

**ADJOURNMENT**

Meeting adjourned at 8:37 p.m. on a motion by Morrison, seconded by Henry.