

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

**Thursday, Jan. 18, 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 Steenberg

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 Morrison, seconded by Henry. Motion passed 5-0.

Devine welcomed new Sixth Ward Commissioner Jason Patrie, who was just appointed to the position by City Council. Patrie shared some background; he is a data analyst but is a long-time volunteer for COMOTA and has a keen interest in bicycling, outdoors and trails.

Recreation Services Manager Erika Coffman introduced the spring intern Patience Arnall, who is observing the meeting.

MONTHLY REPORTS

Recreation Services Manager Erika Coffman shared these highlights for the first three months of the fiscal year: total participations, total sessions, total court and field usage, total ARC visits and golf have all increased substantially since FY'23. Park Services Manager Zach Nikin shared these highlights from December: Maintenance spent 180 hours at the ARC, Natural Resources spent 190 hours on landscape cutbacks and mulching, Forestry spent 122 hours on tree planting and watering, Golf and Athletic Turf spent 120 hours on tree trimming and leaf removal. Nikin mentioned that the ARC maintenance centered on a pool problem that staff took care of on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day.

Morrison asked about tree removal at Albert-Oakland Park?

Nikin said it was ash borer that had to be removed.

Farnen asked about the ARC facility, and if it is at capacity?

Coffman said that it fluctuates, some spaces are full. It would be nice to have more group exercise spaces, but she doesn't feel we've outgrown the space.

Patrie asked if there was an attendance bump in January?

She said there typically is early in the month, but those decline a bit. Some older patrons are gone for the winter, so it tends to even out.

Huffington commented that the City Manager has asked about the future of a recreation center in northeast Columbia.

Henry made a motion, seconded by Farnen to approve the November monthly report. Motion passed 5-0.

Morrison made a motion, seconded by Henry to approve the December monthly report. Motion passed 5-0.

SPECIAL PRESENTATION

Northeast Regional Park feasibility study

Huffington introduced Darin Barr of Ballard*King & Associates which conducted the feasibility study of Northeast Regional Park.

Barr reviewed the study components and demographics, as well as potential adult and youth participations in various sports and activities.

Barr shared the focus groups who shared feedback for the study: Convention and Visitors Bureau, Parks and Recreation staff, Show Me State Games, pickleball players, turf users, Boone County Fair Board, roller derby, equine/horse, Columbia Public Schools and Columbia College. He shared the feedback and needs that were conveyed by each of those user groups. The Activity Hall has potential for one large space or four smaller bays with potential court activities. Minimal aesthetic improvements are needed. The transition space to the arena includes restrooms which need to be expanded and conversion of offices to meeting rooms. Concessions, mezzanine and existing conference rooms would remain.

Multipurpose area could be converted to turf with dividable curtains, south section could be storage area and north section could include batting cages, pitching tunnels and golf cages. The Sapp Building is envisioned as a large room that could be divided into four space, with HVAC, storage and an independent entrance.

Barr shared a sample operational / business plan with five-year projection.

In addition to the feasibility study, SFS Architecture created conceptual plans, which Barr shared with the Commission.

Henry asked about equine use?

Barr said the recommendation is to in more of a sports direction, as a result of their findings in the study.

Huffington shared next steps, which will be to this presentation with City Council at a work session, completing the master plan for the park, discuss funding options with Council, move forward with construction of facilities for the Boone County Fair (Department of Agriculture funding), moving forward with some sports facility infrastructure with funding in place from the 2021 Park Sales Tax, and to formally name the park.

Henry asked what staff's opinion is on the study?

Huffington said they were in support, it will be a matter moving forward of determining funding and also potential partners. He said the City Manager is interested in funding the project and getting the project completed.

Farnen asked about the timeline for the master plan?

Huffington said that it will likely happen quickly, spurred by the Department of Agriculture grant. He anticipates a master plan in the next 3-6 months.

Farnen asked about input from nearby Cottonwoods RV parking?

Barr said there had not been any, but he'd anticipate some increased traffic with the biggest impact from how the fair is mapped out.

Huffington added that they have been supportive of the City and the activities there, as it increases their business.

Devine asked about the variety of uses for the space and how operations would work? Barr said it would be a matter of balancing the multi uses, including indoor and outdoor space and keeping it from overuse, ensuring parking is not overwhelmed. Morrison asked why an ice rink is not included? Barr said when considering uses, they did not go down that path. There is a rink in Jefferson City and ice rinks are expensive to build, maintain and operate, he said. A rink in Columbia would have to be sustainable.

PUBLIC HEARING

Blind Boone Home exterior improvements

Nikin shared some background on the City's involvement with the home, through an agreement with the Blind Boone Foundation. The City maintains the exterior, HVAC, plumbing, electrical and fire suppression systems. The Foundation manages the interior and the landscaping.

Nikin showed photos of some wear on the exterior. Plans call for the replacement of siding; repainting trim, shutters and railing; needed repairs of the second floor porch and railing; and repairing the roof. The project is budgeted at about \$80,000 from the general fund.

Farnen asked about historical significance?

Nikin said staff is working the Blind Boone Home committee to ensure the integrity of the repairs as related to the history of the home.

Devine opened the public hearing. With no public present, he closed the public hearing.

Farnen made a motion, seconded by Morrison to recommend approval of the proposed Blind Boone Home exterior improvements to City Council. Motion passed 5-0.

NEW BUSINESS

FY'25 Commission budget

The City Clerk is asking if the Commission has any changes to make for their FY'25 budget. Their current budget is \$3,880 with the last change two years ago, an increase in travel and training.

Morrison made a motion, seconded by Henry, that the Commission does not have any request for changes. Motion passed, 5-0.

CoMoGives update

Huffington shared the results of the 2023 CoMoGives campaign, which just concluded. The campaign raised more than \$2.056 million with 170 organizations participating. The Columbia Parks and Recreation Fund raised about \$10,845, an increase from 2022 total of \$10,100. Huffington shared some of the year-to-year history since the Fund started participating in CoMoGives, in 2017. Staff is meeting to discuss options for the 2024 campaign.

REPORTS

Council Items

Huffington shared these recent City Council actions:

- Approved PayTrac agreement, a new credit card processing software for the department
- Approved an agreement with Missouri Arts Council for Heritage Festival funding

Bicycle and Pedestrian Commission Report

At their last meeting, staff provided a Perche Creek trail update. Commissioners also asked for parties to encourage others to apply for two vacancies that exist on the Commission.

Capital Project Report

Nikin shared these updates and photos:

Cosmo Park RC track, ARC water play structure that will be replaced this summer, Albert-Oakland Park, PMC renovations, Flat Branch Park bridge restoration, Alspaugh Park, Cosmo soccer field fence removal, North Village Park house demolition, Harmony Bends feedback from UDisc, Valley View Park, Louisville Park, LA Nickell Clubhouse painting and carpath bank stabilization, Fairview Park garden plots and Philips Park tennis/pickleball courts.

Recreation Services Report

Coffman shared these updates and event photos:

ARC activities and increase in numbers, Adapted Recreation, Aquatics, CARE, Community Recreation, Life Enrichment, Golf and Sports.

STAFF COMMENTS

Huffington informed the Commission that Park Ranger Rosanna Johnson will retire April 1. He will discuss the future of the ranger program with Police Chief Jill Schlude.

COMMISSION COMMENTS TO STAFF

Farnen asked if there was any other news from the last meeting regarding types of events at North Village Park?

Huffington said he was meeting with the committee soon.

Morrison asked if disc golf could be included in the next Leisure Times activity guide?

Tammy Miller said she would look to see how it could be incorporated.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

NEXT MEETING DATE

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

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 9:05 p.m. on a motion by Farnen, seconded by Morrison.