PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

Thursday, January 17, 2013, 7 p.m. ARC, 1701 W. Ash

MINUTES

Commission Present: Marin Blevins, Sue Davis, Terry Kloeppel, Dan Devine, Meredith

Donaldson, Linda Hutton

Commission Absent: Bill Pauls

Staff Present: Mike Hood, Mike Griggs, Gabe Huffington, Erika Coffman, Tammy Miller

Blevins called the meeting to order at 7 pm.

Agenda: No additions were made to the agenda. It was approved on a motion by Hutton, seconded by Donaldson.

Minutes: The November meeting minutes were approved on a motion by Donaldson, seconded by Hutton.

Monthly Report: Donaldson asked about the Home School P.E. classes at the ARC? Coffman answered that the class is divided into two age groups. They focus on activities that develop hand-eye coordination, parachute games and other games. There are between 12 and 18 kids in the younger age group and between 6 and 8 in the older group.

The November and December monthly reports were approved on a motion by Davis, seconded by Hutton.

Staff Presentation

Huffington introduced the new senior park planner, Matt Boehner, who replaced Mike Snyder after his promotion to Park Superintendent. Boehner described his education and background, which is in landscape architecture. He showed the Commissioners some three-dimensional drawings of projects he is working on, including improvements to the dog park and aquatics area at Twin Lakes. A new entrance will be built at Little Mates Cove and at the dog park. Boehner also showed the Commission planned landscaping improvements at Stephens Lake Park with the Christy Welliver Memorial, as well as trail improvements at Lions Stephens. Boehner also showed plans and updated Commissioners on the renovations at the L.A. Nickell clubhouse. Significant changes are being made to improve the efficiency of the space and update aesthetics. Renovations are also being planned at Steinberg Playground in the next couple of years.

The Commission and Hood complimented Boehner on his work.

MPRA Conference

The Commission discussed the upcoming MPRA Conference which will be Feb 26-March 1 at Tan-Tar-A. Pauls had already expressed interest in attending the conference, as did Blevins, Davis, Donaldson and Hutton. All will work with Miller to coordinate registration and travel.

Council Items

Hood shared these updates:

The Council is expected to enter into the annual agreement with the school district to improve playgrounds at Lee, New Haven and Shepard Elementary schools.

The Council will have a work session on January 22 regarding the proposed Grindstone Trail. The session will be at 6 pm; it will be open to the public though comment is generally not allowed.

Council may approve the acquisition of 30 acres near Battle High School for the development of a park. Hood said no funds are available currently to develop the park, but staff envisions the park to be similar to Cosmo-Bethel Park in relation to nearby schools.

Another acquisition at the Waters Moss property was approved by Council. Hood showed a map of the Jones tract which is surrounded by Waters Moss. It will add 5 acres the whole development. An interested parties meeting will be held from 5 to 7 pm on January 31 at Waters Moss to discuss the property. Staff is considering moving activities currently at Stephens Lake Activity Center to Waters Moss to save significant expense on the lease.

Park Project Update

Huffington shared these updates:

Armory Sports Center – Painting done on the interior.

Twin Lakes – Sandblasting done at Little Mates Cove and a new boardwalk is being built.

Antimi Sports Complex – the infields at red and blue fields are being converted to ag lime suface.

L.A. Nickell – a mat is being installed at the driving range.

Bonnie View Nature Area – lighting installed at the parking lot and 70 trees have been planted.

Scott's Branch Trail – new boardwalk is nearing completion with construction of an exit stairway. Bridge is under construction.

Atkins Park – seeding project going on where sewer line was installed.

Cosmo Park – clean-up project at quarry.

Flat Branch Park – sprayground is being renovated.

Douglass Park – security cameras are being installed.

L.A. Nickell – clubhouse renovations proceeding.

Garth Nature Area – improvements made to the entrance of the dog park.

Bethel Park – new lines added to tennis courts for 10&u competition.

Recreation Services Update

Coffman shared these updates:

First Night – crowds were down a bit but performances went well.

50+ - group took a trip to Opryland in November and had several holiday activities in December.

Life Enrichment – TaeKwon Do had their annual end-of-year demonstration and holiday party. New Nutcracker themed dance classes went well.

Special Olympics – ten basketball teams will advance to districts. Bowling team recently competed at St. Joseph.

Preschool – photos shown of recent activities.

Golf – each course was open for 17 days in December.

CARE – applications for summer being taken, employers being recruited, and True/False collaboration going on.

ARC – recent anniversary events went well.

Upcoming events – MLK Candlelight Walk, Black History Month events will include film and discussion, talent show, panel discussion and Gospel Explosion.

Commission Comments

Hutton said she had heard something about Roots and Blues moving to Stephens Lake Park?

Hood said it has not been approved by Council but staff had discussed it with representatives from Thumper. An operations agreement is being drafted. Staff is concerned with similar issues to last summer's Lucinda Williams concert: traffic flow in and out of the park and getting people to the event. This year's Roots and Blues event will not have a barbecue contest, just a few vendors.

Donaldson asked how many they are expecting?

Hood said the most recent estimate is 10,000 per day for the three days. The summer concert last year brought 1,200 to the park. Many issues are being discussed.

Devine said he had heard an interview that morning on local radio and it sounded like the event at Stephens is a done deal. There was no suggestion made that it may not happen.

Hutton commented that she hopes if it moves forward that the department will be compensated appropriately.

Hood said the new special event fee ordinance allows parameters to assess a special fee and additional compensation based on attendance. But he said that has not been agreed to yet.

Donaldson asked if Thumper would request a fee variance?

Hood said he thought they would ask for it but he did not know if the Council would grant it.

Staff Comments

Griggs shared a published update of results of the federal GetAbout pilot program. Coffman told the Commission that Janet Godon had been hired in December to be the outreach coordinator for GetAbout.

Public Comments

Greg Kincade identified himself with the Pedaler's Jamboree. He said the group is working to emphasize trail etiquette with the event and he invited the Commission to contact him if they ever had problems of any type with the event. Coffman took his information and said she would share it with Godon.

Skyler Babcock asked a question from the audience about indoor golf lessons, which Coffman answered.

Mark Ehlert of the Columbia Disc Golf Club introduced himself and said he may be back in front of the Commission at some point to discuss wishes of the club.

Meeting adjourned at 8:15.