PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

Wednesday, August 21, 2013 7 p.m. ARC, 1701 W. Ash

MINUTES

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

Pauls, Meredith Donaldson, Linda Hutton

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

Lowery

Blevins called the meeting to order at 7 pm.

Agenda: Agenda was approved on a motion by Kloeppel, seconded by Davis.

Minutes: The July minutes were approved on a motion by Devine, seconded by Pauls.

Monthly Report: Kloeppel asked staff about an item in the rangers report, regarding a park special use permit meeting involving Douglass Park?

Griggs said the purpose of the meeting was to discuss a basketball tournament and pool party that was planned at the park. The pool party would have involved a swimsuit competition which concerned staff. However, as it turned out, the competition did not occur.

July monthly report approved on a motion by Pauls, seconded by Donaldson.

Rezoning - Cottage Grove PUD Rezoning

Huffington described the site of the rezoning, which is within a half-mile of the ARC and Again Street Park. It's currently zoned R-2 and the request is to rezone it to planned urban development (PUD). Staff sees no adverse effect from the rezoning.

Devine made a motion, seconded by Kloeppel, that staff does not foresee any adverse effects to area parks and facilities from the proposed rezoning. Motion passed 7-0.

Gans Creek Recreation Area Phase I Development

Huffington shared the master plan of Phase I of development of the Gans Creek Recreation Area. It includes seven multi-purpose athletic fields that can be configured differently, involving football, lacrosse and soccer. Other features of the master plan include parking improvements, playground, shelter, restrooms, walking trail, dog park and supporting utilities. Huffington described the best management practices that would be implemented with storm water controls.

Griggs added that Philips Park is zoned PUD (planned urban development), which means it will go through a longer approval process for its master plan. Gans is zoned R1, which is a simpler process. Staff hopes to be able to grade and seed the Gans site this fall. Griggs pointed out that the master plan for the site was altered slightly after engineering work was done.

Devine asked if the same number of fields were planned?

Griggs said yes, and they are more clearly defined.

Donaldson asked if the soccer fields would be able to hold high-level competitions? Griggs said yes, with potential of seven fields at Gans and six at Cosmo that would allow for larger tournaments.

Huffington added that most tournaments prefer between 10 and 12 fields, so the additional fields will help lure them to Columbia. The revised master plan will allow a good mix of fields for various uses. Huffington said.

Blevins asked about the next step of the master plan?

Griggs said it would go to City Council for their approval. He asked Toney Lowery, senior park planner, to describe the process with Philips Park.

Lowery said that with the master plan for the PUD zoning, staff has to go through the rezoning process. Once a master plan for a site with PUD zoning has been approved, it cannot be altered in any way without starting the rezoning process all over again. Lowery said that if the site is rezoned, small tweaks to the master plan could be made. Griggs added that as long as the concept of a master plan does not change, City Council is normally fine with small modifications if they are needed.

Donaldson made a motion, seconded by Davis, that Commission recommend approval of the Gans Creek Recreation Area Phase I master plan as presented. Pauls asked if a walking trail is planned in the first phase? Lowery said yes, a two-mile loop north of the creek. Ultimately there will be four miles of trails in Gans, combined with the almost two-mile trail at Philips. Eventually there may be a connection to Rock Bridge State Park.

Motion passed, 7-0.

Parks and Recreation FY'14 Budget Presentation

Griggs started the budget presentation by talking about pertinent items, health care and the City's new classification study. It had been thought that the department's seasonal staff costs would be affected by federal healthcare legislation, however, that delay means that it will likely be next year when some changes may be seen. The City also recently reclassified positions to better reflect the market. Some funds will be used on some positions to bring all employees to the new minimum. No raises are proposed for city staff this year, but one extra floating holiday is being proposed by the City Manager. Griggs shared the proposed P&R budget for FY'14 which is \$13.2 million without capital projects, and \$16 million with capital projects factored in. The budget is slightly less than last year, mainly due to less capital equipment needing to be purchased.

Griggs showed a pie chart with a budget breakdown: 33 percent from park sales tax, 32 percent from general fund, 28 percent from fees and charges, and 6 percent from fund balance.

Some highlights from the general park operations budget: one position will be added (park and facilities specialist to be paid from Park Sales Tax funds), Department meeting City Manager's two-year requirement of a 2 percent reduction in general fund dollars, and increase in CARE temporary help which will allow additional job coach and 8-10 trainees.

Hutton asked about the reduction in general fund and if doing something like reducing printing the Leisure Times would help in that overall reduction?

Miller said that number of Leisure Times printed has been steadily reduced over recent years. About 50,000 are printed now and the number of online readers has increased. Coffman added that staff has discussed ads in Leisure Times to pay for its costs.

Kloeppel asked about the CARE program ever possibly be moving to another department?

Griggs said it has been discussed in the past to move it to Health/Social Services but it began under Parks and Recreation. Should it ever move, the money allocated to it would be moved as well.

Coffman said it has been beneficial to have CARE and Community Recreation both at the Armory.

With the Recreation Services fund portion of the budget, Griggs said the general fund subsidy would remain the same as it was in FY'13. The ARC budget includes some equipment replacement that will be paid by users through the Rec Center Improvement Fee account. Some minor fee adjustments are included: half-day and full-day shelter rentals at Cosmo, picnic tables available for rental, parklet rental and outdoor basketball courts rental.

Donaldson asked how the parklet would be used?

Griggs said the cost to rent would be \$200 and staff is working out details on how to best to use it.

Blevins commented that he recently played golf at Lake of the Woods at a very affordable price, and thought we might want to consider increasing greens fees. Coffman said that fees are based on rounds of golf and were just increased a couple of years ago. She said that may be something we consider next year.

Griggs then discussed the Park Sales Tax portion of the budget. He said it is estimated to bring in about \$5.4 million in the coming fiscal year. That number is split between the permanent Park Sales Tax and the renewable one.

Devine asked if the projections were ever low and there was money available? Griggs said yes, there was some left that allowed us to work with the school district in increasing their planned new elementary school gym size. But, staff still tries to keep some in reserve.

Some capital projects to be funded by the Park Sales Tax this year includes: Strawn Road Park development, Norma Sutherland-Smith Park phase I, Steinberg Playground renovation, Phase I of Gans/Philips, ADA compliance projects, Waters-Moss phase I, Fairview Park improvements, Douglass Park improvements, and trail restrooms at Garth and Grindstone.

Griggs said Council will have public hearings on the overall City budget with approval likely coming at the September 16 Council meeting.

Devine said he felt it was important to maintain the City's general fund subsidy. He is concerned with recent events that there is a public perception that funds need to be taken from Parks and Recreation and distributed to the Police Department. He wants to make sure that P&R's general revenue funds do not decrease, which would affect CARE funding, maintenance etc.

Hutton agreed and asked what the feeling with the Council was.

Griggs said that council is well-aware of it and have been very supportive.

Councilwomen Hoppe and Nauser both recently in the media expressed support and took the opportunity to educate the public on the Park Sales Tax. Griggs said that any drastic cuts to P&R general fund would likely mean layoffs.

Pauls made a motion, seconded by Hutton, that the Commission recommend approval of the Parks and Recreation FY'14 budget as presented. Motion approved 7-0.

Council Items

Griggs shared these items:

Old 63 Roadside Park- Council officially named the park a few years ago, however, there has been a citizen request to consider renaming the park for Spc. Sterling Wyatt, a Columbia resident who was killed in military service overseas. Griggs said staff is receptive but concerned about the number of requests that come in to name parks for people. The only instance he can remember is renaming Rockhill Park for Clyde Wilson, a former Columbia mayor. However, Griggs said it may be possible to name the park

something related to veterans and create a memorial of some type. Staff will bring a list of suggestions to the September meeting for the Commission's consideration.

Donaldson commented she was afraid that the park may be too small to adequately honor veterans.

Hutton said she liked the idea.

Grindstone Trail – route approved by Council at recent meeting.

Bow Hunting Areas – Griggs showed a map of the bow hunting areas and a compromise to allow bow hunting south of the creek at Grindstone Nature Area. The sites will be evaluated after the hunting season.

Capital Project Report

Huffington shared these updates:

Albert-Oakland Park: new restroom has been installed and access to ballfields has been improved.

Bear Creek Trail: boardwalk is open again, construction crews did a great job.

Hominy Creek Trail: concrete drainways have been installed.

Lake of the Woods Golf Course: #8 tee has been rebuilt.

Waters Moss: walls have been demolished in building to expand rooms.

Nifong Park Shelter: repainted.

Cosmo Park: Football/lacrosse shelter and concession building nearing completion.

Scott's Branch Trail: completed through Dublin Park.

Jay Dix: new train-themed playground installed. Site being prepared for mountain bike course.

Fairview Park: new porous pave lot installed.

L.A. Nickell Golf Course: clubhouse improvements on the exterior being made.

Cosmo: new paint at Nickell Shelter, window covers at Antimi concessions.

International Garden Expo: Natural Resources Supervisor Brett O'Brien recently went to South Korea to see American garden he had assisted in design.

Recreation Services Report

Coffman shared these updates:

Aquatics: Most pools have shut down except for Albert-Oakland, which is open on weekends through Labor Day. Season was up and down with revenues.

Golf: Elks State Golf Tournament involved 450 families and both courses on Aug 3-4.

Black and Gold Club had 144 golfers. Coffman credited staff for their effort.

Life enrichment: Summer camps involving Lego Engineering and Computer Game Creation were popular.

STARS camp: great summer, took annual State Fair trip.

Camp Adventure: Last session ended Aug 9, last three sessions reached maximum.

Preschool: themed activities continue.

GetAbout Columbia: Neighbors on the Go event held, On the Fly Bike Repair class had seven participants, all new to cycling. Two-wheeled Tuesday rides starting.

Sports: CYFL starting soon, summer leagues winding down.

Blue Thunder: nine athletes earned All-American status at recent national AAU meet.

Moonlight Hoops: had great summer, with CARE staff coaching two teams.

Punt, Pass and Kick: event recently held. **CARE:** after school tutoring about to begin.

50+: Explorers recently went to Cardinals game.

ARC Fitness: two outdoor Zumba events over the summer. **Black and White Ball Parade**: recently held at Douglass.

Upcoming events: Coolin' Down with the Blues on Aug 24, Pooch Plunge on Sept 3, SLP Amphitheater Concert on Sept 5, Movies in the Park on Sept 13, Family Fun Fest on Sept 18 and Heritage Festival on Sept 21-22.

Staff Comments

Griggs informed the Commission that Thumper Entertainment has agreed to pay the full amount owed to the department for Roots n Blues n BBQ which is \$2.30 per ticket sold. Donaldson said it would be nice to see the amount of staff time involved in the event to help determine if costs are actually covered.

Hutton asked about parking for the event?

Griggs said that they will be using city parking garages and shuttles from the garages and area hotels. Boone Hospital is not allowing parking there since alcohol will be sold at the event.

Griggs told the Commission about the incident at Douglass Park that had occurred earlier in the evening. Shots were fired but no injuries were reported. He reminded the Commission of the security cameras in the park and showed them the scene at the park, which can be done remotely. The police has the same access.

Commission Comments

Pauls commented on hearing a motorcycle on the Bear Creek Trail in the middle of the night recently. A neighbor called the non-emergency police number and the police did not know where to respond. They weren't able to locate the motorcyclist before he got away. Pauls asked if the gate access is always locked?

Griggs said that police are able to get through the gate and should have been able to use the data terminal in their car for location.

Pauls then congratulated staff on the Bear Creek Trail. He said it looks great and he's enjoying the surface as it is now.

Hutton asked if the Commission could receive more information about the rezonings in their packets, specifically a cover sheet showing which parks are affected as well as some brief information.

Hutton also asked about how the thermostat is set in the ARC meeting rooms and if it can be set differently from the rest of the building.

Coffman said that the computer system that monitors the heating and cooling system has some limitations, but something can be done.

Davis asked about why there are no doors on the restroom stalls at Twin Lakes? Griggs said historically, doors did not used to be installed at the request of police. New building codes require doors, so all new restrooms are built with doors on the stalls. Staff is going back to the older ones as they are able to install doors. Twin Lakes still needs to be done.

Public Comments

Kurt Albert, 1512 Windsor, commented on the conditions at Albert-Oakland Park. He said he regretted having to be there tonight, but he is upset about the signage at the park. He said in 2008, the Albert-Oakland name was restored to the park and a sign was to be erected on Blue Ridge Road. He also said some signs for C.M. Albert Park are missing. He distributed information to the Commissioners, including photos of missing signs. A sign on the west trail has been removed, Albert said, and one on Parker is missing. Albert told the Commission that Councilman Skala requested information on the signs, Council Tracker 38-55. Albert said he would like the stone sign on Blue Ridge to be installed as well as the other signs in the park, on Parker and the trail to be replaced.

Albert told the Commission that 57 percent of the park was donated or sold very cheaply to the City by his family, showing a commitment to parks and recreation many years ago. He showed more signage photos to the Commission, ones that he took and also some from the Parks and Recreation web site. He also shared some emails from former City Manager Ray Beck and from Griggs when he was park services manager, that showed the history about the park name and how it was resolved in 2008. Albert shared documents with the Commission detailing some of the history of the park. He also shared a letter written by his wife. Albert said he should not have to be here. He doesn't understand how things keep being done to his family and he wants the issues to stop.

Blevins asked the Commission if there were questions? He thanked Albert for coming and said they would take his comments under advisement.

Pauls said he would like to address it. He said he had asked about the sign on Blue Ridge at a previous Commission meeting. He asked staff to put the item on the September meeting agenda.

Meeting adjourned at 8:45 pm