

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

Thursday, March 20, 2014 7 p.m.

ARC, 1701 W. Ash

MINUTES

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

Commission Absent: Linda Hutton (excused)

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

Blevins called the meeting to order at 7 pm.

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

Minutes: The February minutes were approved on a motion by Kloeppel, seconded by Pauls.

Monthly Report: Blevins asked about ranger staffing with the busy season approaching?

Griggs said a possible Ranger supervisor position may be created in FY'15. That would depend on if it's financially feasible, since needs extend beyond salary and benefits to equipment, supplies and truck needed for the new position.

Pauls asked about the signs for Albert-Oakland Park, what the status is?

Huffington said that two signs have arrived and will be installed once weather and time allows. Once the work at Waters-Moss is complete, the construction crew will have time to install the signs, likely in May-June time period.

The February monthly report was approved on a motion by Pauls, seconded by Donaldson.

Staff Presentation

Coffman introduced Stacey Kulik who started in August 2013 as Recreation Specialist in charge of park and trail special events.

Kulik described her background and past experience which includes producing large endurance sports events for Ultramax such as the 2011 USAT National Championship and World Qualifier, and the 2012 MLB All –Star 5K. Kulik said her goal is to create events that are fun, affordable and non-intimidating so that people of all ages and abilities can take advantage of the park and trail system. Her first event at P&R was the ROC 7K Trail Run, held on January 25 at Rhett's Run at Cosmo.

Runners ranged in age from 12 to 67 and 80 runners finished, Kulik said. The next big event will be Splat, a mud run for kids ages 4-15. It will be held at Gans on July 12. The Bear Creek Run half-marathon is set for October 18 on the Bear Creek Trail. She shared a map of the course.

Kulik shared some of her plans for the future as well, which includes bringing back the bike ramble, possible food truck events, expanding current trail events and adding a full marathon using only trails when connectivity allows.

Pauls complimented Kulik on her plans, especially the idea of adding a marathon.

Blevins asked if she was considering sanctioning any of her events?

She answered that she had considered it, but at a cost of several hundred dollars, she was reluctant with first-time events. However, she said she sanction the full marathon with USA Track and Field for sure. She'd like to let the events grow before she gets too far into sanctioning.

Commission Budget

Griggs said there had been a request from the City Clerk for feedback on the Commission budget for FY'15. It was recommended that budgets stay the same, unless there is a reason to request an increase.

Kloeppel made a motion, seconded by Pauls, that the Commission request the same amount, \$2500, for FY'15. Motion passed 6-0.

Rock Quarry Road Scenic Roadway Advisory Group

Griggs described the proposed advisory group, which would work with the Planning and Zoning Commission to develop a plan for the Rock Quarry Road Scenic Roadway corridor. Users of the corridor would include bicyclists and pedestrians and a possible trailway, which is why a representative to the group from the Parks and Recreation Commission is requested. Not many specific details are known at this time. Donaldson offered to serve as the representative, since Rock Quarry Road lies mainly in her ward.

Kloeppel made a motion, seconded by Pauls to designate Meredith Donaldson to serve as P&R Commission representative to the Rock Quarry Road Scenic Roadway Advisory Group. Motion passed 6-0.

Council Items

Griggs shared these updates:

Strawn Park: He said the Council followed the Commission's recommendation in approving the plan and name of Strawn. Huffington showed the Commission on the map where the connector trail to the adjacent subdivision would be. It is being moved slightly. Shelter and lot will be completed this summer.

Griggs said that since Hutton was gone tonight and Smith Park is in her ward, that staff decided to wait until April to bring the Smith plan to them for their consideration.

Capital Project Report

Huffington shared these updates:

Waters-Moss: Work continues on the Moss Building including new entry addition, interior framing, installation of windows, sheet rock, roofing, plumbing rough-ins, moving water mains and HVAC installation.

Gans: grading done for athletic fields.

Cascades: new ag lime infield installed at ballfield there to help accommodate practices.

Antimi: bullpens being constructed.

Rock Quarry Park: rugby field set up.

American Legion: fields set up.

Bethel: soccer fields set up to replace those at Scott lost temporarily while road is closed.

Albert-Oakland: new dugout covers installed that reduces costs, drinking fountain installed, and prep work has started for pickleball courts.

Stephens Lake Park: Children's Grove work continues. Beds are being cleaned up at Hindman Garden.

Cosmo: work continues on Otho Smith Memorial.

L.A. Nickell: vandalism occurred with truck being driven on course, repairs made.

Recreation Services Report

Coffman shared these updates:

Community Recreation: Lil Lady Bulldogs: recently performed at halftime of Mizzou women's basketball game and new guitar class going well.

CARE: summer employers being recruited along with job coaches.

Preschool: new programs held, Minion Party and Pet Party.

4th Friday Kids Night: had maximum enrollment in February.

50+: Explorers recently visited Arrow Rock.

ARC: Gym is busy with home school P.E. and pickleball. When gym is redone, pickleball court lines will be permanently affixed.

Annual Train Show: About 600 attended annual show at Paquin.

Retirement receptions: set for Richard Cole on April 4 from 10-11:30 a.m. at Nickell and Carol Riney on April 11 from 2-4 p.m. at the ARC. Andrew Baier was promoted to Golf Supervisor to replace Richard and Joey Wilmes was hired to replace Andrew as Golf Recreation Specialist.

Upcoming Events: Tons of Trucks at Columbia Mall, Kite Flying Day, Flashlight Easter Egg Hunt, Egg Hunt EGGstravaganza and Hershey Track and Field.

Staff Comments

Griggs told the Commission that Becky Stidham was promoted to the position of Assistant to the Director of Parks and Recreation. He also updated the Commission after the discussion at the last meeting that the Council allocated \$6,000 for Neighborhood Watch funding. Pauls commented that he had talked about that with Councilman Trapp and was involved with those efforts.

Griggs made sure the Commission received invitations to the Boards and Commissions reception at City Hall on March 31.

Miller told the Commission about three upcoming dedications: April 22 at Bonnie View Nature Sanctuary from 5-7 pm (ceremony at 6 pm), May 3 at Children's Grove at Stephens Lake Park from 1-3 pm (ceremony at 1:30) and May 15 at 3M Flat Branch-Hinkson Creek Wetlands from 3:30-5:30 (ceremony at 4 pm). Postcard invitations will be mailed to the Commission.

Commission Comments

The Commissioners who attended the MPRA Conference provided feedback. Donaldson commented on sessions regarding high-risk teens, emerald ash borer information and using trees in raingardens. She thought the conference was good and she said learned as much from spending time with Parks and Recreation staff as she did with the sessions. Blevins agreed, saying he thought it was a great conference.

Pauls commented on a session he attended regarding the Katy Trail bridge at Boonville. He also mentioned the awards given at the banquet to Mike Hood (retirement), Gabe Huffington (associate fellow) and the CYFL.

Pauls then asked about graffiti along trails, particularly underpasses. He asked if it would help or hurt to paint murals in those areas, and if that would be a deterrent to graffiti artists?

Griggs said staff had those same thoughts. The electrical boxes downtown have been painted by artists and have not been touched with graffiti. It seems like murals may be a good solution.

Huffington pointed out that graffiti artists aren't as likely to tag murals because you can't find the tags on artwork that already exists.

Griggs said staff may work with the Office of Cultural Affairs to explore the idea.

Coffman mentioned that the CARE Gallery may also be an option.

Kloeppel thanked the Commission for their support the past few months while he has had to miss a couple of meetings.

Public Comments

None.

Meeting adjourned at 8:10 pm.