

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

Thursday, July 17, 2014 7 p.m.

ARC, 1701 W. Ash

MINUTES

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

Commission Absent (excused): Bill Pauls

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

Blevins called the meeting to order at 7:10 pm following a reception and presentation for the 2014 Photo Contest winners.

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

Minutes: The June minutes were approved on a motion by Hutton, seconded by Kloeppel.

Monthly Report: The June monthly report was approved on a motion by Kloeppel, seconded by Donaldson.

Staff Presentation

Coffman introduced Cassie Dins, recreation specialist for special events and facility management. Dins, who started with the department in September 2013, described her education, background and interests to the Commission. These include a Parks and Recreation degree from Mizzou, experience at various parks systems, and being an ice speed skater.

Dins is responsible for planning many of the department's special events, including Tons of Trucks, the Flashlight Easter Egg Hunt, The Amphitheater Concert Series, Family Fun Fests, Movies in the Park. She assists with others such as Earth Day, Fire in the Sky, Heritage Festival and Spooktacular. Dins shared details of some of the other duties such as securing grants, promoting her programs and managing rental facilities: Riechmann Pavilion, Rock Quarry House, Moss Building and Maplewood Barn.

Park Fishing Hours

Griggs said a constituent had asked about opening parks with fishing lakes earlier in the morning so that anglers could take advantage of better fishing opportunities. Normally, parks such as Philips, Twin Lakes, Stephens Lake and Bethel open at 6 am. Josh Overbeck, intern for Parks and Recreation, researched the issue and made a presentation to the Commission.

Overbeck shared his research, such as what hours are at the state parks and other municipalities. The majority regulate fishing hours in addition to park hours.

Parks and Recreation staff recommends that these parks with fishing lakes open for fishing only from 4:30 to 6 am: American Legion, Antimi Lake at Cosmo, Cosmo-Bethel Lake, Nifong Lake, Twin Lakes, Stephens Lake and Philips. Users would be verified with a fishing pole and line in the water. The change would require changes to signage and the web site.

Donaldson asked about trout lines?

Griggs said they would not be allowed.

Donaldson then asked about any security concerns?

Huffington said that they had discussed it with the Park Rangers. The security firm that patrols overnight will patrol those parks as well. Rangers will also likely change shifts from time to time, so they can patrol as well to ensure the fishing hours are being observed.

Devine asked what the rangers normally do when patrons are in the parks before they open?

Huffington said they are asked to leave.

Blevins asked if the fishing hours would be in place throughout the year?

Huffington said they would at this point. It would be monitored throughout the winter and may become seasonal.

Kloeppel commented he would be in favor of the fishing hours at Philips and Bethel but would not be at the other parks.

Devine commented there would be more likelihood to have other park users at Stephens, besides those just there to fish.

Huffington said the parks chosen for fishing hours, were simply because the Department of Conservation stocks the lakes.

Griggs said staff did discuss making only Philips the lake to open early for fishing, but the Department of Conservation would prefer more consistency with the lakes it stocks.

Hutton suggested maybe enacting the fishing hours for a year, then reviewing the process to see how it is working.

Devine asked about just making the parks open early in general?

Griggs said staff would prefer fishing only. Anglers are usually more quiet, so there would not be loud conversations or dogs out in the parks that early to disturb the peace.

Hutton made a motion, seconded by Donaldson, that the named parks: American Legion, Antimi Lake at Cosmo, Cosmo-Bethel Lake, Nifong Lake, Twin Lakes, Stephens Lake and Philips open at 4:30 am for fishing only.

Discussion continued...

Davis asked if anyone other than one individual had asked about the fishing hours?

Griggs said it came up during planning meetings for Philips Park.

Hutton asked Kloeppel what his concerns were?

He responded that he is concerned about non-fishermen coming into the parks during those hours and that it would be hard to control. He would be in favor of two parks, Philips and Bethel, so that there would just be two to monitor.

The motion on the floor passed, 4-2.

ARC Weekend Hours

Coffman reminded the Commission that staff had conducted a survey of ARC users to see what their preferences were about hours of operation. The hours had not been changed since the facility opened. 482 responses were gathered and showed a greater use in the mornings. Visitor trends show the same data, Coffman said. The number of patrons at the facility decrease over the course of the day on weekends. Other advantages to possibly opening earlier on weekends are that it would allow staff the time to offer another session of swimming lessons on Saturday mornings. It would also allow more time for private facility rentals in the evenings.

Staff is proposing to change weekend hours on Aug 16 to be: 7 am to 7 pm on Saturdays and 9 am to 6 pm on Sundays.

Donaldson made a motion, seconded by Kloeppel to adopt those weekend hours at the ARC. Motion passed 6-0.

Council Items

Griggs shared these updates:

Council recently approved agreements with Boone County Family Resources for funding for the CARE and Adaptive Community Recreation programs. These are standard agreements that have been renewed annually. An ordinance will be presented for consideration at an August Council meeting to the bowhunting program. Proposed changes for the program this year include eliminating Smith Park since development will be starting there, reducing the length of the season at Strawn Park to Dec 15-Jan 15, and adding Atkins Park from Nov 1-Jan 15.

Donaldson said she would want to make sure that hunters were aware of these dates.

Griggs said that would be communicated to them during the classes.

Capital Project Report

Huffington shared these updates:

Cosmo: work continues at Steinberg Playground, scoreboards installed at Football fields #3 and #4, Otho Smith Memorial progressing at Antimi.

Gans Creek Rec Area: construction of athletic fields taking place along with seeding of retention basin. SPLAT event obstacles constructed.

Philips Park: wet well being constructed.

Twin Lakes: new shade structure in place near Little Mates.

Waters Moss: work is being completed at Moss Building and Hillcrest being landscaped.

Albert-Oakland: drinking fountain installed.

Hominy Creek Trail: estate fencing being installed along Green Valley, Lansing and St Charles.

Atkins Park: raingarden was replanted.

Stephens Lake Park: new planting beds near amphitheater.

Forestry: tree maintenance and storm damage cleanup. Huffington said in addition to tree damage, the ARC suffered some broken windows and roof damage from recent storms.

Douglass Park: fencing was repainted.

Fairview Park: new parking bumpers, ADA parking and drinking fountain installed at Scott's Branch Trail connector.

MKT Trail: piers installed for historic bridge #12 sign.

Wyatt Park: new sign and memorial bench installed.

Recreation Services Report

Coffman shared these updates:

Parks & Recreation Month: month-long recognition kicked off with a parklet at the Gentry Building on July 1.

SPLAT: Junior obstacle course mud run at Gans was attended by over 450 kids.

Fire in the Sky: Nearly 50,000 attended the event.

Fishing Derby: held at Philips Park at end of May.

Family Fun Fests: continue to be well-attended throughout the summer.

Aquatics: Pool season going well.

Golf: Taylor Cox won the Francis Hagan, golf doing well.

Sports: softball and kickball seasons in full swing.

ROC: June event went well.

Movies in the Park: series continues with good attendance.

Preschool: new activities are going over well.

Father Daughter Dance: annual event had Superheroes theme.

Community Recreation: Mayor McDavid recently was interviewed by journalism club, Speak Up, Be Heard.

Kids Nature Club: group meets monthly, recent visit to Bass Pro went well.

Moonlight Hoops: several teams are playing this summer.

50+: recently toured Broadway Hotel.

Upcoming Events: Show Me State Games, SLP Concert Series, Movies in the Park, Punt Pass and Kick, Coolin Down with the Blues, and Family Fun Fest.

Staff Comments

Griggs introduced Stidham, assistant to the director, who was in attendance for the Photo Contest reception and meeting. He told them that Melinda Pope, formerly in purchasing for the City, had taken Stidham's place at the Parks Management Center.

Commission Comments

Donaldson mentioned the dedication at Wyatt Park.

Griggs commented that the department was not involved with that, it was planned by the community and the family. It was more of a personal event.

Kloeppel commented that it was interesting that the Boone County Parks and Recreation Commission is not supporting the county's efforts to pass an eighth-cent county park sales tax on the August ballot.

Public Comments

None.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm.