

# **PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION**

Thursday, August 21, 2014, 7 p.m.

ARC, 1701 W. Ash

## **MINUTES**

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

**Commission Absent (excused):** None

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

Blevins called the meeting to order at 7 pm.

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

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

**Monthly Report:** The July monthly report was approved on a motion by Donaldson, seconded by Pauls.

### **Budget Presentation**

Griggs presented the Parks and Recreation FY-2015 budget to the Commission for their comments and feedback. He went through the timeline of the process then, went through the basics of the budget with the four areas: general fund, recreation services fund, Park Sales Tax and capital improvement plan.

Griggs outlined the operating and non-operating expenses and operating budget. The proposed FY-15 budget for Parks and Recreation is \$16.2 million, which includes operating and capital projects.

Griggs described with charts how the total expenditures are divided as well as a history of expenditures. He showed with the total number of Parks and Recreation employees, despite an increase of 8.75 FTE, the ratio of staff per thousand Columbians has decreased over the past 10 years.

Highlights of the general fund include an increase in personnel costs, attributable to the Affordable Health Care Act (increase in benefits) and addition of a new Park Ranger Supervisor position. Funds are also allotted to do a citizen survey in preparation of the 2015 ballot issue. CARE funding remains at the same level.

Griggs then discussed the Recreation Services Fund, and stressed that maintenance of enterprise facilities is also part of this budget, not just recreation programming. Highlights of the recreation services fund include the same subsidy from the general fund and a slight increase in subsidy from the Park Sales Tax. The ARC budget includes some funds for new equipment. Revenue increases reflect those anticipated from a new concession trailer for Gans and special events, rental fees from Waters-Moss facilities, trail programs and some fee increases.

Those proposed fee increases are based on cost recovery goals, market conditions, cost of services and facilities, and user benefit. The increases include some slight increases in adult sports registration fees, a dollar increase in green fees, an increase in weekend rates at Riechmann Pavilion and a range at Rock Quarry House that may allow a future increase. New

fees include a 9-hole rate at the golf courses, new fee for a young adult pass, indoor rental facilities and new ticketed special event fee that will address multi-day festivals or events.

There will also be a change in fee allocation. Griggs said the proposal is to reduce the Golf Course Improvement Fee and Rec Center Improvement Fee by half. Those funds would be added to the Activity Fee to help meet cost recovery goals. This is not an increase as users will pay the same amount.

With the Park Sales Tax fund, Griggs said that revenue has exceeded projections, primarily because there are not as many capital projects scheduled at the end of the 5-year ballot issue period. However, due to transfers of Park Sales Tax funds to the general fund and the Recreation Services Fund, the total permanent Park Sales Tax is operating at a deficit of \$31,224. As shown in one chart, the general fund subsidy to the Recreation Services Division was cut by \$200,000 in both FY-12 and FY-13 budgets, with those funds being replaced by Park Sales Tax funds. The Park Sales Tax has been the primary funding source for the department's growth since 2009. There have not been any increases to the general fund subsidy except for a FY-15 change in allocation of how intragovernment funds are calculated. The permanent Park Sales Tax has completely been absorbed by the department's operating budget with the new addition of the new position of Ranger Supervisor. There are needs for additional staff as the park system and programs grow, but after FY-15, an alternate source of funding will have to be determined.

Griggs reminded the Commission that they reviewed the FY-15 CIP in April, but touched on the projects that are scheduled for FY-15, including Barberry Park development, Bethel tennis lights and trail, Optimist Park improvements, new roof at Maplewood Home, restroom improvements on MKT Trail, Parkade Park playground, Smithton Park improvements, Albert-Oakland Family Aquatic Center improvements, and Woodridge Park improvements. This concluded the budget presentation.

Devine commented that he's concerned about the Park Sales Tax. He also said he would want to convey to Council the importance of the general revenue funding to maintain parks & recreation services. The Commission's original primary concern was that the Park Sales Tax would be used to replace general funds and not be available as the Department grew.

Hutton said the Commission should make a statement to that effect. She would like to see the subsidy restored to previous levels.

Donaldson agreed, saying the department should have what it used to receive before the cuts were made.

Donaldson made a motion, seconded by Kloeppel, that the Commission recommend approval of the FY-15 Parks and Recreation budget, with the request that the general fund subsidy be restored to the FY-11 level.

Motion passed, 7-0.

### **FY'15 Fee Ordinance Changes Review**

As part of the budget discussion, the Commission made a separate motion regarding the fee ordinance. Kloeppel moved, seconded by Davis, that the Commission recommend to Council approval of the FY-15 fee changes as presented by the City Manager. Motion passed, 7-0.

### **Council Items**

Griggs shared these updates:

At the August 4 meeting, Mayor McDavid commented that he had been in touch with the new director of the Boone County Historical Society (BCHS), who was concerned about funding for Maplewood Home. Griggs told the Commission that there has been an annual agreement between BCHS and Parks and Recreation that outlined areas of responsibilities for the upkeep of the historical buildings in Nifong Park, including the Maplewood Home. The agreement states that P&R Department is responsible for exterior maintenance of the home and BCHS is responsible for the interior maintenance. The City pays all utilities, but any maintenance or improvements to the interior is the responsibility of the BCHS. In addition to taking care of the exterior, the department has allocated about \$5,000 annually for the Historical Society to use on either maintenance or other operating expenses for the home. Griggs said BCHS has supplied a list of needed repairs that may total up to \$40,000-\$50,000 for interior improvements. Staff has discussed that if the interior of the Maplewood Home needs significant improvements, it may be a logical project for the 2015 Park Sales Tax ballot issue.

Devine said that perhaps a question on the upcoming citizen survey regarding public support for such a project might be a good idea. He questions how far the department should go with assisting with interior maintenance, especially with the use of park sales tax funds. Griggs stated that the buildings are all City owned and one of the long term projects in the master plan is to add additional parking. A 2015 Park Sales Tax ballot issue could include a project such as \$150,000-\$200,000 for Nifong Park Improvements.

Hutton commented that it seems the current allocation of \$5,000 is appropriate under the current budget. The Commission agreed.

### **Capital Project Report**

Huffington shared these updates:

**MKT Trail:** logs cleared from under bridges on the trail.

**Fairview Park:** storm-damaged large oak tree removed. Huffington said crews worked for about two weeks on storm-damaged areas.

Pauls commented that several logs were blocking a portion of the Bear Creek Trail.

Huffington said he would follow up on it.

**Steinberg Playground:** work is progressing, prehistoric equipment installed. Another portion of the playground will open on Friday.

Hutton asked what the surface was at the rocket?

Huffington said it was rubber mulch.

**Gans Creek Recreation Area:** grading done for parking lots. Irrigation also installed.

Devine asked what the site would look like a year from now?

Huffington said the parking lot and entrance would be completed and seven fields would be in play.

**Philips Park:** irrigation pump inspected.

**Waters-Moss Memorial Wildlife Area:** new park sign being installed, parking lot and shelter pad in place. Kitchen completed at the Moss Building.

**Stephens Lake Park:** water connection installed that will be used for Roots, Blues and BBQ.

**Nifong Park:** crews repaired a storm-damaged roof at one of the out buildings.

**Hinkson Creek Trail:** lighting installed at Broadway tunnel.

**Cosmo Park:** new drinking fountain installed outside restrooms.

**Douglass Park:** street parking along 5<sup>th</sup> Street under construction.

**Jay Dix Station:** new shelter with train depot theme is complete.

### **Recreation Services Report**

Coffman shared these updates:

**C.A.R.E.:** end of summer reception held with awards given that were named for Almeta Crayton and Wynna Faye Elbert.

**GetAbout Columbia:** staff providing outreach at North Village Farmers Market with bike accessories and free bike licensing. Fall classes are about to start.

**ARC:** efforts continue to expand the Mid-Mo Weightlifting Club, which is up to 30 members.

**Aquatics:** recent Water Zone shutdown was July 26-Aug 2.

**Community Recreation:** Punt, Pass and Kick was held Aug 9. Moonlight Hoops recently ended.

**Golf:** Missouri State Elks tournament held, annual pass holder appreciation week, Family Night and Columbia Championship.

**Special Olympics:** busy with softball and golf. Bowling season starts soon.

**Preschool:** special craft activities remain popular.

**50+:** Bell Choir practicing for Woodhaven's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration.

**Camp Slime:** new week-long day camp at Hillcrest had 16 participants.

**Camp Hillcrest:** another new camp, 13 participants.

**Computer Game Camp:** held at Hillcrest this summer.

**Summer Dance Camp:** annual camp at Hillcrest instead of ARC.

**Movies in the Park:** largest crowd of summer in August with 400 for *Despicable Me 2*.

**SLP Amphitheater Concert Series:** BXR Unsigned Artists Showcase with 5 acts on Aug 7. About 450 attendees.

**Waters Moss Open House:** scheduled for Aug 28, 4-6 pm.

Upcoming events include Pooch Plunge, SLP Amphitheater Concert Series, Movies in the Park, Family Fun Fest, Park(ing) Day and Heritage Festival.

### **Staff Comments**

Griggs told the Commission that Coffman would not be at the September Commission meeting; she will be at the MPRA Leadership Development Institute. In October, both Griggs and Huffington will be at the NRPA Conference. Coffman will be acting director and Park Superintendent Mike Snyder will be at that meeting as well.

Griggs also informed the Commission that Village Square Park will no longer be in existence as of September 30. The neighboring church, which owns the property, will be expanding.

### **Commission Comments**

Davis said that she had heard concerns from a citizen about the "creeper" plants along the MKT, possibly taking over the trail.

Huffington said the plants are more like vines that go up trees. He will talk to staff and get some information to share.

Donaldson said she would not be at the September meeting. Pauls will not be at the October meeting.

Blevins asked about attendance at bow-hunting meetings?

Huffington said there were 135 at first class and about 40 permits for the second meeting.

Pauls complimented staff for always being so quick to remove graffiti. He commented that there have been transients along the Bear Creek Trail, under the 163 bridge. They have been intimidating to trail users. He asked if anything could be done?

Griggs said it would be up to us. The Park rangers will check into it.

Pauls thanked staff for cleaning the area along the fence at Big Bear.

### **Public Comments**

None.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm.