

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

Thursday, September 18, 7 p.m.

ARC, 1701 W. Ash

MINUTES

Commission Present: Marin Blevins, Sue Davis, Bill Pauls, Dan Devine, Linda Hutton

Commission Absent (excused): Terry Kloeppel, Meredith Donaldson

Staff Present: Mike Griggs, Gabe Huffington, Tammy Miller

Blevins called the meeting to order at 7 pm.

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

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

Monthly Report: The August monthly report was approved on a motion by Pauls, seconded by Davis.

Staff Presentation

Huffington introduced Zack Weitkemper, construction supervisor. Weitkemper was promoted to his position over a year ago, and has been with the City for 8 years. He shared his background and education, which includes a Business Administration degree from Columbia College. He is a third-generation construction contractor, having owned a private company for 7 years.

Weitkemper mentioned the names of the construction staff: Eric Ruesing, Dwight Schooley, Robert Smith, Joe Hawkins, Tim Roberts, Mike Reed and Roger Broadus. He described the expertise of each individual, which allows the department to keep many construction projects in-house, saving the City from having to pay contractors for work. Notable projects they've completed recently include Scott's Branch Trail, Stephens Lake Park Amphitheater, Wussler Shelter at Cosmo Park, Waters-Moss building renovations, L.A. Nickell Clubhouse and Jay Dix Station.

Griggs complimented Weitkemper for his work, adding that he and his staff had worked on many of the obstacles at the summer's SPLAT event. Griggs said it was evident that Weitkemper had a combined passion for construction and parks and recreation.

Rezoning: Huntridge Dr and Carter Ln

This rezoning is within a half-mile of Highpointe Park, off of Providence Road. The developer is requesting to rezone the 1.82-acre site to residential and planned office to construct a River Region Credit Union office. Since the request is for new construction, Huffington said all stormwater controls will need to be followed. Staff does not foresee any adverse impact.

Devine made a motion, seconded by Hutton, that the Commission does not anticipate any adverse impact to Highpointe Park from the proposed rezoning. Motion passed 5-0.

Rezoning: Somerset Village (St. Charles Rd)

Huffington described the proposed rezoning, which is adjacent to Lake of the Woods Golf Course and near the proposed Battle Park. It's a 127-acre site proposed to be mainly residential.

He told the Commission that staff had two issues with the proposed rezoning. First, there was concern about stormwater controls for water entering the golf course, leading to potential overflow on the course's irrigation lake. Staff would like more description of how the developer would control stormwater.

The second issue is a proposed secondary access drive from the golf course to the Somerset Village. There is no room for such a road, plus the park is not suited for increased traffic. Lake of the Woods is a paid facility and could not be opened for traffic. In addition, a portion of Lake of the Woods was paid for through federal funds through the Land and Water Conservation Funds. Any changes to the property would have to be federally approved, which is a rigorous process and not likely to occur, Griggs said.

The Commission agreed with staff's assessment and said there were too many questions and concerns to recommend the rezoning for approval.

Devine made a motion, seconded by Pauls, that the Commission sees multiple adverse impacts to Lake of the Woods Golf Course from the rezoning, including the proposed access road and stormwater runoff from the development. Motion passed, 5-0.

Cosmo-Bethel Park Improvements

Huffington told the Commission that about \$150,000 in Park Sales Tax funds are allocated for improvements at Cosmo-Bethel Park. This funding would be used to light the four tennis courts that do not have lights; the other eight courts are already lit. A portion of the gravel trail around the lake that washes out frequently would also be paved in concrete. This would be just a six-foot wide resurfacing and would also improve ADA access to the lake.

Hutton made a motion, seconded by Davis, that the Commission recommend approval to Council of the proposed improvements at Cosmo-Bethel Park. Motion passed, 5-0.

Downtown Optimist Park Improvements

Huffington said planned improvements would include a new small shelter, renovated playground, restriped and repainted half basketball court, sidewalk improvements that would connect all features, and new landscaping.

Devine made a motion, seconded by Pauls, that the Commission recommend approval to Council of the proposed improvements at Downtown Optimist Park. Motion passed, 5-0.

Friends Event: Oct 3

Griggs reminded the Commission of the upcoming event at Nifong Park on October 3, from 6 to 8 pm. It will feature food, activities, music and hayrides.

Council Items

Griggs shared some background information with the Commission on accounting procedures as related to the general fund portion of the budget.

Capital Project Report

Huffington shared these updates:

Albert-Oakland Park: sign at park is completed. It had gone out to bid for the stone veneer, but bids were not close to the estimate. Staff completed the work.

Fairview: parking lot construction is starting.

Jay Dix Station: walkway connections are being installed. Grading being done from the sports field. Bicycle skills course under construction.

Waters-Moss: entrance sign being installed with stucco instead of stone veneer. New parking lot nearing completion.

Nifong Park: new paint on exterior at Maplewood Home.

Grindstone Trail: preliminary trackwork being done.

Woodridge Park: brush cleared to improve sightlines to playground.

Atkins Park: new raingarden installed.

Gans Creek Rec Area: laser leveling of sports fields done.

Douglass Park: streetside parking under construction.

Blind Boone Home: internal demolition underway.

Steinberg Playground: work is progressing with installation of new pieces.

Recreation Services Report

Griggs shared these updates on behalf of Recreation Services Manager Erika Coffman, who is attending an MPRA function:

GetAbout Columbia: Women's Fix-a Flat class held at Lucky's Market with 15 participants.

Other recent events include Settlement History Tour Ride and Bikes and Trees. An electric bike seminar had 40 in attendance and a Community Garden Walking Tour had more than 30.

Waters-Moss: dedication and open house held Aug 28.

Preschool: Frozen Frenzy had 40 in attendance.

Family Fun Fest: Around the World in August had about 3,000.

Stephens Lake Amphitheater Concert Series: Man in the Ring closed the season with 300 in attendance.

50+: the Bell Choir performed at Woodhaven's 50th anniversary event.

Osher Book Talk: a crowd of 60 attended recent event at Waters-Moss.

Adapted: recent tie dye workshop had 10 participants.

Upcoming Events: Heritage Festival, Take a Kid Mountain Biking Day, Public Art Bicycle Tour, Rocheport Fall Colors Trail Ride, Bear Creek Run Half Marathon and Spooktacular.

Staff Comments

Hutton asked about ticket sales for Roots and Blues?

Griggs said they seemed to be doing well. No numbers are known yet.

Commission Comments

Pauls mentioned the transients who seem to be living near the Bear Creek Trail at the Hwy 763 bridge. He recently removed several items that had been there a while, but did not see anyone at that time.

Huffington said that staff and the Park Rangers have made multiple trips there and cleaned up the site. He will make sure they continue.

Griggs added that staff will often post a notice at such sites, that items will be removed in 7-10 days, then after that timeframe, will return to the site to clean it up.

Pauls then asked about the pickleball courts at Albert-Oakland?

Griggs said the work is not complete yet. An out-of-town contractor who submitted the low bid was let go.

Huffington said that lines are being painted and it is close to completion.

Public Comments

None.

Meeting adjourned at 8 pm.