

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

Thursday, February 19, 2015 7 p.m.

ARC, 1701 W. Ash

MINUTES

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

Commission Absent (excused): Terry Kloeppel, Linda Hutton

Staff Present: Mike Griggs, Erika Coffman, 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 Donaldson.

Minutes: The January minutes were approved on a motion by Donaldson, seconded by Pauls.

Monthly Report: Davis asked about an item in the report regarding tight rope walking?

Huffington said it's a new trend where participants will tie a rope or wire between two trees. It's against park rules to deface trees, plus it's a safety issue, so it's not allowed. Participants normally use heavy pulleys to tie the rope, so it cuts into the bark.

Davis then asked about drones?

Huffington said they are another new trend, but not allowed in parks.

Donaldson said it seemed that adult financial assistance has decreased.

Coffman said it's cyclical, that the funds are used differently from year to year. The amounts are based on use.

Pauls asked about the amount of staff hours at Nifong Park?

Huffington said they are working on stormwater control from construction on Ponderosa which is affecting the park. Stormwater from neighboring areas is reaching the lake at Nifong, so staff is trying to solve the issues.

The January monthly report was approved on a motion by Pauls, seconded by Davis.

Staff Presentation – Brett O'Brien

Natural Resources Supervisor Brett O'Brien made a presentation to the Commission regarding the project completed in cooperation Columbia's sister city Suncheon, South Korea. The City of Columbia was asked to contribute to Suncheon's International Garden Expo. Parks and Recreation staff agreed to design an American garden for the display. O'Brien described the process to the Commission and how staff chose plants and designs for the garden. Staff used elements inspired by American horticulturists and gardens. O'Brien visited Korea along with Mayor McDavid and others to see the Gardens. He shared photos with the Commission of the trip. O'Brien also mentioned relationships Columbia has with other sister cities, including Hakusan, Japan. A memorial tree was planted in a cherry grove at Cosmo Park in honor of the Hakusan mayor.

Rezoning – Bedford Walk

Huffington said the rezoning would be at the corner of Nifong and Bethel, near Cosmo-Bethel Park. It's currently R-1 residential and the request is to rezone to Planned Unit Development (PUD). It will be a senior housing development similar to other facilities in the area. Huffington said it would not affect the park.

Donaldson made a motion, seconded by Davis, that the Commission does not foresee any adverse impact to the park from the rezoning. Motion passed, 5-0.

Water Slide Renovations

Huffington told the Commission that repairs are needed on the slides at both Albert-Oakland Family Aquatic Center and Douglass Family Aquatic Center. The slide exterior at Albert-Oakland needs to be painted and both exterior and interior of the slide at Douglass needs renovations. Mid-year

appropriation of \$32,000 has been made from Park Sales Tax funds to ensure the work is done by middle of May.

Council Items

Griggs shared these updates:

All items discussed at the last Commission meeting were approved by Council, including plans for Barberry Park, renovations to the MKT Trailside Building and permission for the Historic Preservation Commission to sell salvage from the building at Rock Quarry Park. A public hearing is set for the March 16 meeting on the Shepard to Rollins connector trail.

Capital Project Report

Huffington shared these updates:

Grindstone Creek Trail: construction has started.

Strawn Park: shelter and parking installed.

Jay Dix Station: mountain bike skills course is being constructed. New parking lot with curb is complete.

Waters Moss: tree cabling being done to save a large tree. Lighting improvements made at Waters House for new park ranger office. New stairs and restroom also under construction at Waters House.

Cosmo Park: tables installed at Steinberg Playground and retaining wall completed. Swings and spring animals at tot lot repaired.

Douglass Park: new walkways installed.

Downtown Optimist Park: shelter pad in place.

Recreation Services Report

Coffman shared these updates:

ROC 7K Trail Run: 159 runners completed the race.

Special Olympics: Basketball team is practicing and playing.

C.A.R.E.: Interviews for summer program ongoing.

Community Recreation: registration is open for Moonlight Hoops and Douglass baseball.

Sports: registration is open for adult softball and kickball.

50+ Explorers: recent trips taken to Mizzou north campus and Millersburg.

Preschool: Recent activities include Pajama Pizza Party and Construction Party.

Upcoming Events: Black History Month Gospel Explosion and Soul Food Dinner, Boy/Girl Scout Day, new Leisure Times and Annual Train Show.

Staff Comments

Griggs informed the Commission that the citizen survey to gain input for the ballot issue would be going out soon. Results will be presented to the City Council at a work session on May 4.

Commission Comments

Donaldson said there are two trail directional signs down in the back of Shepard Park.

Davis asked about the Park Ranger Supervisor position?

Huffington said interviews would be held the following week.

Blevins asked about the recent sledding accident?

Huffington said it did not occur on park property.

Pauls told staff that the base material for the boardwalk at Bear Creek Trail is exposed. It seems that the rock covering it has washed out. He also asked if the light on the back of the restroom at Garth Nature Area could be dimmed.

Public Comments

None.

Meeting adjourned at 7:55 pm.