



**Mission Parks, Recreation + Tree Commission Meeting Minutes  
December 13, 2021**

**DRAFT UNTIL APPROVED**

The PRT Commission met at the Powell Community Center in Conference Center Room C on Monday December 13, 2021 at 6pm.

In attendance: Anne O’Leary, Jacque Gameson, Karin Capron, Mary Ryherd, Kim Weir, Mark Raduziner and Hillary Parker-Thomas, Council Liaison.

Penn Almoney + Kathy Lockard represented staff.

Absent – Nick Schlossmacher, Council Liaison, Emily Rollheiser, Amy Warren

Guest: - Ben Chociejj

Anne called the meeting to order at 6:02pm.

**REVIEW**

**Approve Minutes**

**Mark Raduziner** moved to approve the minutes with the change from Hillary.

**Jacque Gameson** seconded.

**Motion passed – 6-0.**

**Mohawk Park, Sales Tax Timeline:**

Penn shared the Mohawk Park Timeline including updates from the Parks and Recreation Sales Tax anticipated timeline – hope to be able to break ground in May.

There is not an opportunity to have a mail ballot until summer of 2022 for the special sales tax, which has pushed back the entire timeline of marketing deliverables.

This will give staff the opportunity to work more on marketing.

Anne asked when we would have a finalized timeline for the sales tax renewal vote. Penn stated hopefully in January.

### **Sustainability Commission Invite**

No report from the December meeting.

Kim Weir will go to the meeting on January 3 at 6:30 pm.

Mary Ryherd will go to the February meeting.

### **Holiday Family Adoption**

Kathy reported on the Holiday Family Adoptions. Presents are coming in from the Angel Trees as well as cash donations. Pickup for the Holiday packages and food will be on Tuesday, December 21, 2021.

### **Growth Award, Tree City USA**

Penn and Jacque partnered to get all the information together. Waiting on the Mayor to sign the proclamation.

Increased the carbon footprint reduction with the 83 trees that were planted, so it has been a great year.

Growth Award gives you about forty items that can add to the Tree City USA status. There are points associated with each of those 40 items. In order to receive Growth Award status, a city must complete items that total 10 points or more. Penn and Jacque provided some of that information so Mission should get a Growth Award for 2022.

The Growth Award is a new level on the Tree City Platform and there are only five cities in Kansas who have achieved the award. It would speak volumes of Mission and it's priorities if the award is received.

Anne thanked Jacque, Karin and Penn on their hard work.

The three categories the City submitted requirements for were:

- Measuring Trees and Forests, Planning the Work and Building the Team.

Two or three elements under the Building the Team (budget) category. Five total sections that staff were able to submit write-ups on, which helped Mission qualify with enough points to reach the Growth Award standard.

Two of those elements were one-time use and will not be available for points

next year. A couple examples of recurring categories are Tree inventory and Tree canopy:

- If you hosted any trainings – 5 points
- If you hired a new arborist – 10 points.

## **DISCUSSION**

### **Positive Improvements**

Tree Pruning has been completed by ArborMasters in Andersen Park, along Shawnee Mission Parkway and in Mohawk Park.

Took out a tree in Andersen Park and removed a tree in Birch Park and along Shawnee Mission Parkway (Countryside side).

Holiday Lights and Festive Sights was hosted at the Farmers Market site.

About 250 participants attended and it was a great atmosphere.

Look forward to making it even more well attended next year.

Mark felt like he was in a vacation spot – not Mission. It was great! It was a wonderful feeling. Luminary walk was a genius idea.

Open House for the Powell Community Center was Saturday, December 11.

Unfortunately, a transformer in the area blew, which affected the PCC transformer and created some lighting problems.

Penn explained that some of the light fixtures are down and we are in the process of fixing that.

The company fixing the lights in the pool dropped a light, so staff had to drain and refill the pool. The pool was not available for the Open House.

We had great fitness classes, multiple tours of the facility and sold fifteen memberships (new and renewed).

Hillary asked if we have thought about giving away a free day pass with a membership. Penn will look into that.

Beverly Park lights have all been working for the last three weeks in a row. Success!!

Anne thanked Penn and the staff for getting through a busy month.

### **Comprehensive Plan**

Anne shared the Comprehensive Plan Open House that was held by the city to showcase plans for the City and it was informative.

Anne noted a potential for another new park in Mission? Penn stated that it is a data gathering – pulling together big ideas and putting them into chunks to prioritize.

Lots of feedback from Council.

Hillary stated that a comprehensive plan is required in Kansas as to how to use their land. The last plan was in 2007 and generates feedback on how many parks we need, what we encourage people to build, zoning, etc. Staff and Council will be reviewing the information from the surveys.

Most common feedback had to do with the Gateway project.

Hillary stated that it is exciting that we are at a point that we can do this again.

Anne stated that it is exciting to keep going forward and she would like to circle back next year on what we can do on getting more into our parks- especially trails, which has been a priority forever. Anne stated that in the past the PRT Commission talked about connecting Broadmoor Park to Streamway Park and how can we continue to build on these items.

Penn stated that it easier to share recommendations with everyone on what is important and feasible.

PRT has the opportunity to dig into it more to create a priority list to get to Council before their retreat in late January, early February.

Penn would like for us to have a retreat in January to get three - four goals to have in the forefront.

Try to get those together to send to Council by February. Also prioritize items before budget.

Anne asked to have a date on when the budget items would be needed.

**Mark Raduziner** moved to plan in the January PRT meeting to discuss major goals to send to Council.

**Mary Ryherd** seconded.

**Motion carried – 6-0.**

There will be a work session before the January PRT meeting at 6:00 pm.

Ben stated that a representative could attend the Council meetings to give a short report on PRT.

Penn stated that PRT will be able to have a five minute update at the Council meetings once or twice a year to present updates on our goals. Any time that there is something important to share with Council, the Chair or Vice

Chair can send a request to Laura to present at Council Meeting. Penn will assist with putting the information together. There is not a concrete time for this to start.

Anne thanked Penn for sharing and being the face of PRT at the Council Meetings.

### **City Council Update – Tennis Courts and Feasibility Study**

Penn shared that Council had approved improvements to the tennis courts in Andersen Park, starting the end of February, early March.

The improvements will include replacing the asphalt surface, new fencing, light poles and LED fixtures will go up. Swing gate to replace the revolving gate and add a shaded bench on the side of the courts.

Hillary shared that this had been on the improvement list since 2017 and so it is great that we are being able to move forward with improvements.

Feasibility Study - Hillary shared that the Parks + Recreation Department needs to work on a cost recovery of 80 percent self-sufficiency here at the Community Center. They were working between 75-80 percent before Covid. They have been working at 30 percent since Covid and the City has been picking up the cost from the general fund. We are competing with new centers, Merriam Community Center and Planet Fitness, as examples which are newer.

The Feasibility Study will look at what can be done in the Community Center to be proactive so we can keep this building open.

Council Liaison appointments to committees and commissions will change for the new year. Someone will replace Hillary as the PRT Commission liaison, but she will keep coming until she is replaced.

Hillary also recommended that minutes from the PRT meeting be in the Council packets immediately after the meeting, which will start in January.

### **Chair/vice Chair Nominations**

Penn shared the two nominations – Anne O’Leary as Chair and Jacque Gameson as Vice Chair.

**Karin Capron** moved to nominate Anne O'Leary as Chair and Jacque Gameson as Vice Chair.

**Mark Raduziner** seconded.

Mark stated that we have two good people in the position now and that it is important for Anne and Jacque to continue. It has been a rough year.

Penn shared that it has been a safe atmosphere where people can share their feelings and have meaningful discussions.

**Motion carried - 6-0.**

### **Championship Tree Nomination**

One nomination was presented from Mary Funk. She presented the Redbud Tree in her front yard. She shared photos.

Jacque stated that we need to promote this activity in the spring. Keep some of the forms in your car and put one on a door when you see a worthy tree.

The forms will also be available online.

Mark asked that we keep a notation of an address when we see a tree and keep this on our agenda in March.

Suggested having a goal of having information at the Mission Market.

We have the one nomination. Penn will reach out to Mary Funk that she has won and will arrange a time to go take a picture with her in the spring and present her with the award and the gift card.

This is special that Mary was chosen since she had presented in the past.

Thank you to Jacque for completing the tree plaques at the City Market. She also shared that the tree in Waterworks and Mohawk have also been completed.

Fifteen trees were completed, a couple which are in groves, so we are identifying more trees.

Mary Ryherd set up a google document to share and will work with finding/including more pictures for plaque IDs-.

### **NEXT MEETING**

Next Meeting is Monday, January 17 at 6pm.

Karin Capron is resigning from the Commission.

This was the last meeting for Karin and Kathy Lockard, who is retiring from the City of Mission.

Jacque thanked Karin for her hours of dedication on the Tree Commission and then the Parks, Recreation + Tree Commission and the years of service to the Arbor Day Tree Planting and the Tree Poster Contest.

Jacque presented flowers and great words to Kathy Lockard and Karin Capron as well as a tree plaque necklace.

Anne O'Leary also shared wonderful words and cupcakes were shared, compliments of Mary Ryherd.

**Mark Raduziner** moved to adjourn.

**Mary Ryherd** seconded.

**Motion carried 6-0.**

Meeting ended at 7:07pm.

Faithfully submitted by Kathy Lockard, Administrative Supervisor, Parks + Recreation