



Mission Parks, Recreation + Tree Commission Meeting Minutes

OCTOBER 18, 2021

The PRT Commission met via zoom on Monday, October 18, 2021 at 6:00 pm.

In attendance: Anne O'Leary, Mary Ryherd, Ben Chociej, Jacque Gameson, Karin Capron, Mellissa Currie, Mark Raduziner, Emily Rollheiser and Kim Weir.

Penn Almoney + Kathy Lockard represented staff.

Absent: Amy Warren, Hillary Parker Thomas and Nick Schlossmacher-Council Liaisons.

David Schwenk resigned from the Commission.

Special guest – John Arnett, City of Mission Sustainability

Anne called the meeting to order at 6:03 pm.

REVIEW

APPROVE MINUTES:

Jacque Gameson recommended a couple of changes.

Mark Raduziner moved to approve with changes.

Ben Chociej seconded the motion.

Motion carried - 9-0.

OUTDOOR PARK IMPROVEMENTS TIMELINE:

Penn shared the timeline on the outdoor park improvements.

Anne asked questions regarding Mohawk Park – what is being built and when?

Phase 1B includes the Restrooms, pavilion and a concrete pad with staired seating facing west, walkways that tie-in and connect to the existing north and south trail/walkways.

Penn is presenting to Council a proposal of completing Phase 1B (restroom and pavilion). The concrete sport court, playgrounds and the entire trail and parking lot are not part of the original Phase 1B.

In September, Council approved the 2022-2026 Capital Improvement Plan, which included fully funding the addition of restrooms and pavilion in Mohawk Park in 2022. Since Council's approval to fully fund the restroom and pavilion addition, the Land and Water Conservation Fund notified staff that the City was awarded the entire \$394,560 that was requested.

Future phases to completing the entire Mohawk Park concept will need a funding source like a Parks + Recreation Special Sales Tax. If the Special Sales Tax is renewed (slated for Spring/Summer 2022) then discussions will resume on additional park projects and the completion of Mohawk Park's upgrades.

Anne wants to make sure that the next phase does not get lost in all the other park re-designs.

Hope is to break ground in May 2022 and depending on the supply chain considerations have the project complete within 6 months.

Karin wanted to share that Mohawk is a very well-liked and well-used park and anything we can do to improve it - let's do it.

Kim Weir was asking for the location of the pavilion and bathrooms. Penn said it's just east of the current parking lot or in the center of the total park.

Anne asked if anything was needed for Phase 1B of Mohawk Park construction/planning.

Penn responded that Phase 1B is out of the hands of the PRT at this time. Recommendations on phasing were proposed by the PRT and stakeholder committee and shared with Council. The PRT could make recommendations on the remaining portions of the Mohawk Park project which include (trail width, playground size and inclusions, lighting, seating, tree and perennial species, etc.

Mark stated that it would be good to get the entire project complete, but we need to work within our parameters.

Mark agrees that we need to show that we are moving forward with changes to the parks for the Special Sales Tax renewal efforts.

Current tax sunsets in 2023, hoping to renew it in Spring of 2022, but it may get moved to the Summer.

Mark agrees to have some finite plans to share with the residents to show that we are moving forward.

Anne feels like the document shown needs to have all the information to share so people will know that there are more pieces that we need revenue for.

Kim Weir asked if going forward with Phase 1 before the other phases would show wear and tear and look worn.

Penn explained the process for pouring the concrete and installing the pavilion and restrooms will work out well and create some economies of scale and a more solid foundation for the two buildings. The hope is that there is not a long delay for next phasing. UV deterioration on buildings and concrete is slower than on rubber soft fall zones and playground equipment. So moving forward on these portions won't have much if any wear and tear. Phasing may also give us the appetite to move forward with the other aspects of the project.

Anne would like to know more of the scope of the project.

The tentative phasing plan is – bathrooms + pavilion Phase 1. Walking paths, playground and fencing, Phase 2. Parking – Phase 3.

Anne requested Penn share the plan on paper so the PRT can make a motion to send to council.

Waterworks park is to stay on the timeline. It had been requested to have this upgrade during the re-construction of Rushton Elementary School. Lots of planning within the next month and a half.

Mark requested more details on the plans on each of the parks. The timeline is good, but needs more details. Nothing is too simple to share with PRT to share with the public.

Anne commented on the Streamway Park conceptual layout with a dog park and she feels that PRT members are in the dark.

Penn said that two options were proposed to Council for a dog park – one at Streamway and one at Broadmoor. After the surge of feedback regarding locating a dog park at Broadmoor staff discussed an alternative so there was a choice. The Streamway conceptual option was just recently completed from Confluence.

Anne feels like this concept has happened without the approval of the PRT.

None of the other members feel like they have any memory of discussing a dog park at Streamway.

At the request of one of the new members, Anne explained some of the previous meetings regarding dog parks.

Several members had concerns over a dog park in Streamway.
Penn explained how it came to be for an idea of a dog park in Streamway.

Penn asked if he should share updates as they happen instead of at the monthly meetings because of the pace of progress. Mark stated that may be very beneficial. Mark was concerned that he had heard information from others instead of hearing it through the PRT meeting.

Penn will share issues as they happen between meetings.

Anne questioned why they are involved if they are not given input into these decisions. Anne is very frustrated with the process.

Anne feels like PRT is getting pulled down further in the weeds with the dog park.

Anne also feels frustration that we do not have a good system in place for upgrading the parks.

Anne requested that we add this item and the following to the November meeting since we did not have a good internet connection:

- Paved Trails Standards Training
- 83 Trees, Mission Market site
- Tree Plan
- Tree ID plaques update
- Park Code Analysis – committee feedback

Anne congratulated people on getting their trees planted. Jacque and her group with the tree plaques and Ben and his group.

SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION INVITE:

John Arnett shared Sustainability information.

Good initiative that Sustainability Committee is able to have their meeting in person with face to face contact with each other.

They had a retreat in late September with good success. The Committee updated their Mission and Vision Statements.

Looked at principals that will put them closer to their goals. Retreat was very productive. It had not been done in three-four years.

Sustainability looked at goals – One, five and ten year goals.

Kansas City Metro Action Plan – they have been involved and giving feedback to Council.

Recently recognized the Locale Apartment on Johnson Drive for their building practices.

Looking at Tidal Wave Car Wash for their building practices.

John congratulated the Parks, Recreation and Tree Commission on making the seventy plantings goal for trees.

He also congratulated the Parks + Recreation Department on the success of the Mission Family Picnic and for allowing Sustainability to have a table at the event.

He also shared that there are two members from Sustainability on the City's comprehensive plan.

Anne thanked John for the report and asked Emily Rollheiser if she had anything to share since she represented the PRT at the Sustainability Meeting.

Emily stated that she was really impressed with their meeting format and that they started out with introductions and she would like to see that in our meetings.

Jacque – complimented John and Sustainability on their contributions to the shredding event held in September.

Jacque also complimented Sustainability on their involvement in the Comprehensive plan.

Anne asked for volunteers from PRT to represent us at the Sustainability Meeting on November 1st at 6:30pm which will be in person at the Powell Center. Emily Rollheiser will attend the meeting.

DISCUSSION

FAMILY PICNIC REVIEW/IMPROVEMENTS

Anne congratulated Jenny and staff on the picnic.

Penn asked about the time of year and Anne stated that the time of year was great, but either time will be great.

Anne suggested more non-caffeinated soda as they ran out of this item at the tent.

It was a great event.

CITY COUNCIL UPDATE

Hillary Thomas is not in attendance for a Council update.

CHAIR/VICE CHAIR NOMINATION

Anne asked about chair and vice chair nominations, how this should be handled.

Penn is happy to take nominations and people can email them to Penn and then we can bring up the names at the next meeting.

It was requested that Penn send out the roles of Chair and Vice Chair. Penn stated that the information is in the City Code which can be found on the City of Mission website.

PARK MAINTENANCE NEEDS, WiFi?

Penn created a Parks Maintenance standard when he came on as Parks + Recreation Director two years ago. Penn will now share the document with PRT to show the differences between the parks from when he came to current, to see how it is measurable. Some items of concern are: whether we mow once a week or twice a week, aeration processes, etc. Penn is working with Taylor and will share the information in November. He feels like it would be beneficial to have a standard on the parks from the PRT and it can be talked about in November. Putting a dollar amount to these standards would be helpful.

Anne requested members to look at the PowerPoint on park Maintenance that was shared with them.

Penn shared the timeline is to push the marketing for a sales tax park renewal. If anyone thinks of anything else, please share with Penn.

Anne feels like we need to be tighter as a Commission so we can make good presentations to the Council.

Penn understands that the PRT would like to go all-in on Mohawk Park completion.

Anne stated that our goal was to do Mohawk Park, but not double up on all this other stuff.

Mark stated that he realizes that a dog park was high on the input from residents, but we as a PRT would like to discuss the plans on our current parks that we have been discussing.

Mark is interested in tangible items for humans right now, instead of dogs.

Ben stated that more clear information needs to be between Council and the PRT Commission. He feels like there needs to be structure.

He feels like we need to have an open channel to let Council share what they would like in the parks and then let PRT Commission go about making it happen.

Jacque mentioned at the Waterworks stakeholders meeting, it was suggested for us to align some of the renovations on Waterworks Park to be made during the renovation of Rushton Elementary School.

Anne feels like it needs to be more than just building a bathroom in a park, we need to make changes to an entire park.

Penn appreciated the passion and hard work of the PRT and Penn will share some of the changes quicker and get their feedback quicker.

Anne appreciates what Penn has on his plate as well.

Mark asked about any update on the new benches.

Penn reported that the last of the benches have been shipped. Mark's bench is at Public Works and Brent stated he would like to get them in place by the end of October. Mary's bench was just shipped out.

We removed a bench in Waterworks park and we will replace it with a bench that we received that was a little damaged in transit, and the company did not want it back, so that saved us money.

Mark would like to know when the bench is going in so he can be there. Penn will let him know.

Jacque stated that we need to get Mark's thumbprint in the sidewalk at his bench site.

Anne announced that David Schwenk had resigned from the Park Board and requested members to thank him for his years of service.

Kathy Lockard announced that she will be retiring January 1, 2022. She has enjoyed her years of service with the PRT Commission.

Jacque Gameson moved to adjourn the meeting.

Mark Raduziner seconded.

Motion carried 9-0.

Meeting adjourned at 7:17pm.

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