

PARKS, RECREATION + TREE COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

February 21, 2022

DRAFT UNTIL APPROVED

The PRT Commission met at the Powell Community Center Conference Room E on Monday, February 22, 2022 at 6:00 PM.

In attendance: Anne O’Leary, Ryan Casey, Jacque Gameson, Warren Hays, Cindy Long, Mark Raduziner, Kevin Schmidt, Nicole Sullivan, Kim Weir and Council Liaisons- Lea Loudon and Mary Ryherd, Terri Baugh- liaison from Mission Sustainability Commission

Penn Almoney, represented staff

Absent: Jay Fleer, Non-resident member and Amy Warren

Jenny Smith, Parks + Recreation Program/Events Supervisor, was introduced, honored at a refreshment reception and congratulated for receiving the Kansas Recreation & Parks Association’s 2022 Distinguished Professional Award as an experienced and energetic go-to person for young P & R professionals in the State of Kansas. Jenny promoted and solicited volunteers for the ‘Bunny Eggstravaganza’ on April 16 from 10AM to noon at Broadmoor Park.

Penn welcomed the five new commission members present and our two new Council Liaisons. Each Commission member then provided a brief introduction of themselves.

Anne called the meeting to order at 6:15 PM

REVIEW

Approve Minutes

Jacque Gameson moved to approve the minutes without changes.

Mark Raduziner seconded.

Motion Passed 9-0

Poster Contest update

- Jacque stated that voting at the Powell Community Center for the Top Ten Arbor Day Posters was a big success. Of the record number of 68 votes cast, the competition was close with 16, 15, and 11 votes respectively for First, Second and Third place winners.
- First place poster was sent by overnight mail to The Kansas Forest Service in Manhattan, KS. for their decisions on the District and State winners of the almost 100 posters submitted by City winners throughout Kansas.
- Once The Forest Service announces those winners, which probably won’t be until March, plans will be made to acknowledge our Rushton Poster winners with framed posters, Target gift cards and Charter Oak participant ribbons and quarters for all the fifth-grade artists.
- Winning poster will be displayed in the signboards at Waterworks, Broadmoor, Andersen and Mohawk Parks.

Welcome/Onboarding Packets

- A new commission member welcome/orientation power point has been created by Anne, Mark, Jacque and Penn
- Mark glossed through a preview of the elements of the orientation power point to the entire Commission
- Penn will be meeting with each of the new Commission members to provide them with their copy of the onboarding information, which includes detailed resources to assist and discuss with them in being a knowledgeable and effective member of the Commission.

Sustainability Commission Invite

- Jacque attended the February 7, 2022 Sustainability Commission meeting and provided an update of their activities.
- They have budget items which promote our PRT goals: educations signs for native landscaping at City Hall and \$325 to purchase a tree to be planted at a public facility
- Successful recycling of holiday lights and 1.7 tons of used batteries at Powell Community Center since 2016
- Terri Baugh elaborated on the Environmental Fair they will host at Powell Community Center from 9 AM to Noon on Sept 17 along with nine other NE Johnson County cities. Terri encourages all PRT Commission members to participate and help as volunteers representing the City of Mission
- Nicole Sullivan will attend the Mon, March 7, 2022, Sustainability Commission meeting at 6:30 PM at Powell Community Center

City Council Update

- Mary updated the Commission on the hourly wage increase for lifeguards and the City's investment to yield energy savings with energy and environment upgrades heating, cooling, LED lighting, destratification fans, natatorium dehumidifying system, new chlorinator and sand filter systems, skylight replacement and ceiling/slide stairs waterproofing.
- Mary also mentioned the status of the new Gateway agreement and the end of the mask mandate.
- Lea discussed the new alcohol permit for public gathering spaces, which includes the parks and solicited site suggestions for an interior or exterior mural supporting teen suicide prevention.
- Lea also requested from Penn a list of the e-mail addresses for the MPRT Commission members.

Retreat recommendations to Council

- Anne presented the PRT retreat as an opportunity for the Commission, now that we have such wonderful "fresh minds" with our six new Commission members, to develop recommendations and goals for the PRT to present to Council.
- The retreat date in April will be immediately preceding the April PRT meeting.
- Penn recapped the completed PRT accomplishments this past year that were previous recommendations to Council: wayfinding signs throughout city, new monument signs in all 8 parks and receiving grant funding toward the design concepts for the restrooms and pavilion at Mohawk Park.

Feasibility Study Update

- Penn announced that Council approved the hiring of Pros Consulting from Indiana to perform a feasibility study of the PCC, to be completed by June 2022.
- Pro Consulting will evaluate the use of space, staffing and pricing of the PCC operations based on a regional and a nationwide comparison to more effectively program and operate the PCC in conjunction with current and future trends. This will invite more resident and visitor use and decrease the financial impact on the City's

General Fund. Kathy Lockard's supervisory position at the PCC is currently open and under evaluation to be hired sooner rather than later as part of this study.

- Recovery costs will be an important element. Before COVID and the Merriam Community Center and Planet Fitness joined the region, PCC memberships and fees contributed to 70-80% cost recovery standard. The past two years have been significantly impacted by COVID shutdowns; the recovery costs have declined to 34 and 35% respectively.
- When asked if rental spaces are advertised to local businesses, Penn stated that the PCC conference room are advertised in the Mission Magazine, NE Johnson County Chamber of Commerce Magazine and the Parks + Recreation Activity Guide. Social media and new marketing materials add to that effort.

Mohawk Park Final Design Update

- SFS Architects will complete geotechnical survey, construction and final design phase documents of the restrooms and pavilion (bid alternate- parking lot demo and install) at Mohawk Park for \$135,000.
- More electrical lines have been discovered and there could be some beneficial storm water mitigation which would improve the impervious surface analysis on site.
- Ground breaking is anticipated by July 2022.

DISCUSSION

Positive Improvement

This is opportunity for any the Commission members to present a "hooray" for PRT successes

- Anne thanked Penn and Laura Smith, City Administrator, for filling the Commission vacancies with so many energetic and talented Mission residents and business owners.
- Penn told the Commission about the top-to-bottom natatorium overhaul with new skylights, coating and deck sealing surface, sand blasting and resealing the stairs waterproofing. Installation of the polar ionization, new chlorinator and sand filtration systems and dehumidifying system will bring the pool amenities up to the technological standard that has advanced during the past 23 years. High efficiency boiler, A/C handling on the roof, LED lighting throughout and building envelope upgrades will all increase energy efficiency. New pads on the basketball backboards, new fitness equipment and branded signage complete the major upgrades.
- These improvements were supported by Council as part of a Facility Conservation Improvement Program (FCIP) which helps cities upgrade aging facilities with energy efficient improvements that must generate cost recovery over the next 15 years.
- American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds will help ease the financial impacts of COVID-19 on City operations, especially at the PCC.
- Anne complimented Penn for his attention to this and being a good steward over these funds.
- Penn reported on the progress of the \$340,000 improvements to the tennis courts in Andersen Park. The new fill and net sleeves are complete. When the area to be resurfaced has adequately dried, work will continue toward completion by June 1, 2022. The courts were originally built in the 60's and there has not been significant investment in them since then. Land & Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) monies were received for Andersen Park amenities years ago, just like what was received for Mohawk Park improvements. Penn will be updating the LWCF details on file at Andersen Park in compliance with that grant, which states that any land receiving LWCF monies must stay recreation-based in perpetuity.

Tree Plan + Recommendations

- Penn explained the necessity of timeliness for the approval of the Tree Plan 2022, which must occur every two years. It is included on the Community Development Committee agenda Wed, March 2, for Council approval.
- After presentation by Jacque and discussion by the entire Commission.
- **Mark Raduziner** moved to approve seven minor revisions to grammar and wording by adding tree planting, reliance and resilient and update staff and City department titles and Poster contest name. **Kevin Schmidt** seconded. **Motion carried 9 -0.**
- Penn will provide to all Commission members a red-lined copy of this revised document that he will present to Council.

Chapter 230 + 240 Ordinance Revision Recommendations

- Penn began discussion of the revisions by stating they were necessary to improve the current ordinance language to encourage more equitable use of the parks.
- Subcommittee on ordinance revision consisted of Anne, Mark and Ben Chocie, former PRT Commission member, now Councilmember for Ward IV. These revisions were reviewed in August 2021 by Jacob A. Turner, attorney with Payne & Jones chartered for legal content.
- Subcommittee presented this to council in September and November 2021 where Anne and Ben clarified the message that is currently in place with the ordinance that restricts more than it allows. We want to be a welcoming community to all ages and abilities, to those using strollers and wheelchairs as well as e-bikes or other low speed, wheeled recreation devices. The proposed changes address the current trends and keeps the focus on safety and inclusion.
- Warren mentioned that 230.20 should include the addition of virtual meetings.
- Kim asked for a definition of “micromobility device”. Anne pointed to 230 definition and stated that the emphasis on the revision of this ordinance was in anticipation of future types of mobility devices and the need for flexibility and safety on the trails.
- Penn added that this was brought to the city’s attention by a resident reprimanded when pushing her infant in a stroller by a pedestrian on a City park trail which was defined as a ‘walking trail’.
- **Motion to approve** the changes presented at this meeting to Ordinance 230 was made by **Mark Raduziner, Ryan Casey** seconded. **Motion Carried 9-0**
- Penn will present these to Council for their approval and provide all commission members with a revised copy of Mission City ordinance section 230.080(A)- remove ‘walking’, 230.085- define ‘micromobility devices’, accessibility device, and motorized scooter, 230.090- ‘Trails’, limit the speed and Director may designate certain sections of trail as walking only, 230.150- posting of signs in parks, 230.260- limit use of sport surfaces to pedestrians or those with accessibility devices, 305.040- clarification on trail use that passes through commercial districts
- Revisions to Ordinance 240 were tabled until the March 2022, PRT commission meeting.

P + R Sales Tax Renewal Update – Sept 20, discuss monthly

- Penn provided background and purpose for the 3/8 sales tax utilized for parks and recreation capital improvements which sunsets in 2023 and is up for a vote for renewal in September 2022.
- 3/8 tax has generated \$900K+ each of the last few years and shows a revenue stream that lenders need to see to issue bonds to fund large scale improvements like the Mission Family Aquatic Center
- Direction Finder surveys are gathered every other year to generate feedback from residents on their preferred level of investment and importance on topics like streets and parks. This has been ongoing for over 10 years.

Laura Smith, City Administrator, and Brian Scott, Deputy City Administrator, are gathering data for our future sales tax related discussions.

- In 2021, City voters strongly approved the increase in the street sales tax from 1/4 to 3/8.
- The City Council has the option to adjust the current sales tax rate or keep it the same
- From now - June 2022, the PRT will consider marketing elements to promote the renewal of the P + R Tax.
- Mark shared the Marlin's swim team put forth a great amount of time and effort to secure voters' approval in 2012 for the 3/8 tax, which provided funds to help build the Mission Family Aquatic Center.
- Anne shared that since Council members cannot tell constituents how to vote, it will be the responsibility of the PRT Commission members and other stakeholders to share the positive message and encourage all the registered voters in Mission to cast a positive vote on the P + R tax renewal in Sept 2022.
- Anne concluded this important discussion by emphasizing we as a Commission must support the tax renewal and keep conversation progressing

CIP Review 5-10 Yr

- When Penn began the presentation of CIP document slides on the City of Mission budget preparation Anne asked that in the future each commission member be provided a hard copy of the budget documents
- Penn elaborated on the recent progress of postponed CIP spending during COVID-19 which are visible with tennis courts, PCC improvements and upgrades, and MFAC improvements in the last few months.
- FCIP project upgrades roughly \$2M and \$396K Land & Water Conservation Grant for Mohawk Park.
- Many cities support their Parks and Recreation from the general fund money and Capital Improvement Program funds are typically devoted to renewal, renovation, improvement, expansion type projects.
- Reviewed the budget impacts if the Parks + Recreation sales tax is not renewed

Park Proforma Maintenance

- Tabled until March 2022 meeting

UPCOMING NOTES + MEETINGS

- Lea corrected the date of the next council meeting which is March 9, 2022.
- Next PRT meeting is at 6 PM on Monday, March 21, 2022
- Anne apologized for the length and complexity of tonight' meeting but shared overwhelming appreciation to the new Commission members for their active engagement in tonight's meeting and she looks forward to future contributions to the success of the PRT with their input and participation.

Cindy Long moved to adjourn.

Ryan Casey seconded

Motion carried 9-0.

Meeting ended at 8:02 PM

Faithfully submitted by Jacque Gameson, Mission Parks, Recreation + Tree Commission Vice Chair, secretary pro-tem, for Kim Weir, who broke her wrist.