



PARKS, RECREATION + TREE COMMISSION MEETING

May 16, 2022

**DRAFT UNTIL APPROVED**

The PRT Commission met at the Powell Community Center Conference Room D on Monday, May 16, 2022 at 6:00 PM.

In attendance: Anne O’Leary, Jacque Gameson, Cindy Long, Mark Raduziner, Kevin Schmidt, Nicole Sullivan, and Council Liaison, Mary Ryherd

Penn Almoney, represented staff

Absent: Ryan Casey, Warren Hays, Kim Weir and Jay Fler, Non-resident member

Guests: Laura Smith, City Administrator; Taylor Schaffer, Park Technician and Andy Hyland, liaison from Mission Sustainability Commission

Anne called the meeting to order at 6:03 PM and introduced the guests.

**Approve Minutes**

**Mark** moved to approve the minutes with changes.

**Nicole** seconded.

**Motion Passed 6-0**

**Sustainability Commission Report**

- Jacque attended the May 2, 2022 Sustainability Commission meeting and provided an update of their activities.
- Sustainability Commission will be working on a cooperative effort to establish a “Sustainability Lens” to the future of the City of Mission by working with the City’s Planning Commission to strengthen and unite goals in support of the City. One means to this will be implementing a “Sustainability Score Card” as projects are presented to the Planning Commission. The proposed Mission Preserve development scores high. The Sustainability Commission has requested that they be represented at future Planning Commission meetings.
- Mission is fortunate that Planning Commission member, Josh Thede, is on the engineering team for the Rushton Elementary rebuild.
- Terri Baugh reported that planning for the Recycle and Environmental Fair is progressing well. Nine area cities will be participating; there are commitments for 80 booths, and Ripple Glass has donated \$1,000 toward the \$4,500 budget for this September 17, 2022 event at the Powell Community Center.
- The City of Mission was well represented at the April 9, 2022 Metro-wide Regional Climate Action Summit. Andy encouraged all the MPRT Commission members to “stay tuned” for exciting policies that are being developed for Mission participation in these long-term sustainability goals.
- Kevin will represent the MPRT at the Mon. June 6, 2022 Sustainability Commission meeting at 6:30 PM at City Hall.

**City Council Update**

- Mary announced the Council has unanimously approved the Mohawk Park Final Design and that Council is thoroughly engaged in the discussions on the renewal of the Parks and Recreation Sales Tax for the September mail in ballot. The actual sales tax amount will be determined in June.

### **Feasibility Study Update**

- PROS Consultants are developing a survey which will be sent to residents and non-residents and available on social media web sites to gather responses and comments to continue compiling their study of the Powell Community Center staffing, facility utilization, pricing and programming which should be completed by the end of July or first week of August 2022.

### **Mohawk Park Final Design Update**

- With the recent Council's unanimous approval of the Mohawk Park Final Design, Penn posted the 132 page construction documents requesting bids from interested contractors. This bid documents include engineering schematics of the existing storm water drainage and lighting infrastructure along with the existing topography, planned changes, restroom and breezeway and pavilion construction plans, lighting plans, parking lot plans and concrete trails and slab locations, etc. The documents also include construction fencing and tree protection standards so that trees will not be injured or unduly stressed during the construction. Five contractors attended a pre-bid meeting and asked questions clarifying document information. Final bids are due May 26 by 2PM and will then be presented to Council the first week of June during Community Development Committee meeting. The goal is to break ground in July 2022 and mobilize the construction in August 2022.

### **Chapter 230 + 240 Ordinance**

- Revision of the Mission Ordinances 230 and 240, which includes new definitions of mobility devices and trail use and complies with police standard traffic ordinance (STO) definitions as approved unanimously by the MPRT Commission at their February 21, 2022, meeting was provided to the Commission and will be presented before Council for their approval at their May 18 City Council meeting.

### **Positive Improvement**

This is an opportunity for any of the Commission members to present a "hooray" for MPRT successes:

- Penn reported on the progress of the \$340,000 improvements to the tennis courts in Andersen Park which are progressing on pace and on budget with completion anticipated by June 1. Striping of the two tennis courts and four pickleball courts should be completed next week. Benches and shaded seating should be delivered and installed by mid June. Ribbon cutting for this first major park improvement in over 20 years is scheduled for June 1 at 6:15PM before the Community Development meeting.
- Penn updated the Commission on the MFAC where new lap lane reels have been installed and concrete cuts made to improve drains. New this year at the MFAC beginning June 15 will be Lunch Lap Swim 11AM-12Noon Mon – Fri. New signage will be installed on May 18.
- Taylor informed the Commission about Mission's plan to address the invasive Bradford Pear tree concerns and emphasized that there is only one species of the tree which is invasive, and he is closely addressing their removal as necessary in the City's parks and green spaces.
- Penn reported on some recent park improvements: the Waterworks porta-pot has been moved to the west edge of the park- away from the park sign and parking lot. Repairs to the retaining wall rebar, squeaky swing chains and removal of the trash at the southeast corner of the Broadmoor ravine all suggested by Kevin have been completed.
- The Park Conceptual Design Open House on May 12, 2022, was very successful and well-received especially since it presented more than one park. Approximately 55 attended, 79 post it notes were added to the park designs on display and 15 comment cards were submitted. Commission members: Mark, Nicole, Anne and

Jacque shared highlights of their discussion with attendees. The most numerous remarks concerned playground equipment, retention of the tree canopy, upgrading the standards for trash and recycling and stressing the maintenance of trails. There were positive comments about the relocation of the parking at Mohawk and a dog park to Streamway rather than Broadmoor. Penn added that the playground equipment upgrade will be coming in later phases of the park improvements and will be different for each park. Jacque asked the Commission to consider ASAP, prior to sales tax vote, swapping out a swing in at least one park, possibly Mohawk or Broadmoor, to facilitate handicapped children. Anne thanked Penn, Laura and City Council and staff for this engaging and successful Park Conceptual Design Open House.

#### **P + R Sales Tax Renewal and Rate Recommendation**

- Penn invited Laura Smith to the Commission meeting tonight to provide information for the Commission to support the campaign to deliver the renewal of the Parks and Recreation sales tax which will be conducted through a mail-in ballot in September 2022.
- Laura's presentation and distributed power point packet explained the history of the tax and the revenue it provides for upgrades and maintenance to the Powell Community Center, MFAC and public parks in Mission. Laura explained the financials in the packet detailing revenue and expense history and forecasts of this tax. She also explained state and county codes regulating such taxes, as well as the affect of the elimination of the grocery tax, and adjoining city peer approaches to taxation. Laura mentioned that the Council's sales tax philosophy underscores the importance of parks and greenspace as well as street maintenance and improvements.
- Laura stated the marketing for the tax campaign will roll out August 1 with a handout, website and media campaigns and a newsletter to registered voters timed to arrive shortly before the ballots are mailed in September.
- The previous community engagements used for these tax initiatives in Mission since 2007 were discussed. During this lengthy discussion of the issues and marketing, Commission members made suggestions for marketing:
  - reach out to community through the kids,
  - promotion of tax renewal at Summer Picnic and City Market in July and August,
  - engaging summer camp kids in campaigning.
  - Mark suggested a marketing slogan -- "Parks-Worth the Money".
- Mary stated that Council members toe a fine line and don't want to see taxes increase, but they do want investment in parks and continue to be thoughtful of the economic impact of taxation. Laura told the Commission that they should not feel that important voices are not always heard, and assured the Commission that the Council does strongly support the maintenance and upgrading of Mission's Park and Recreation system.
- Laura asked the MPRT Commission for their recommendation on the tax rate. Anne stated the Commission needs to advocate for our position, which is just as important as streets, and that borrowing from general funds won't complete the needed park improvements. Kevin suggested the rate stay the same because costs are going up. If projects are going up each year, we should try to maximize the revenue. Anne asked for a motion from the Commission to recommend a rate to the Council for their upcoming Parks and Recreation sales tax rate discussion. This tax would be dedicated to the operation, maintenance and improvements of our parks.

**Kevin** made the motion to recommend Council renew the P+R Sales Tax at the 3/8 cent rate for a 10 year period

**Jacque** seconded

**Motion unanimously approved 6-0**

#### **Tree Growth Award**

- Penn tabled the discussion of the Tree City Growth award to the next MPRT Commission meeting.

Mark made a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Cindy seconded.

**Motion carried 6-0**

Meeting adjourned.

Faithfully submitted by Jacque Gameson, Mission Parks Recreation + Tree Commission Vice Chair, secretary pro-tem, for Kim Weir, who was unable to attend this MPRT Commission meeting.