



PARKS, RECREATION + TREE COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

August 15, 2022

DRAFT UNTIL APPROVED

The PRT Commission met at the Powell Community Center Conference Room D on Monday, August 15, 2022 at 6:30PM.

In attendance: Anne O'Leary, Jacque Gameson, Cindy Long, Mark Raduziner, Kevin Schmidt, Warren Hays, Kim Weir and Council Liaisons, Mary Ryherd and Lea Loudon.

Penn Almoney represented staff

Absent: Ryan Casey, Nicole Sullivan, and Jay Fler, Non-resident member

Guests: Laura Smith, City Administrator, City of Mission; Jenna Dickman, Aquatic Facilities Manager, City of Mission

Anne called the meeting to order at 6:33 PM, and began the round of introductions and welcomes from those present.

Approval of Minutes:

Mark made a motion to approve the minutes. Cindy seconded the motion.

Motion Passed 7-0

CIP Budget Process- Laura Smith: Laura walked us through the 2023-2025 CIP memorandum. It was noted that the City has been struggling with revenue streams due to multiple factors. There is still a healthy general fund, and the city is not looking at making a cut in the budget thanks to reserves and excess funds. There are competing priorities for the excess fund, including recommendations made by PRT.

Laura stated it has been one of the most challenging budget process in her 17 years with the City. The majority of expenses for capital projects are budgeted and paid for from the 5 year CIP budget. There is a subsidy for the community center and MFAC operating costs for each year.

Focus was on the capital program with funding for streets, storm water and Parks + Recreation. Each focus has a dedicated revenue stream. Mission is planning to do major improvements including storm water, curb and sidewalk around Lamar Ave and Foxridge Dr.

Currently coordinating with utilities who are working/upgrading in this area.

There have been fewer opportunities on the Parks + Recreation side for funding, but it is foreseen that funding might increase through various grants and new programs.

Laura outlined the carrying of debt on improvements and when the debts will be paid off. Some existing bonds will sunset in 2023 for streets and the MFAC, with the only remaining debt being storm water.

One of the things the City Council has requested is to see if improvements can be made on an accelerated plan. The current plan was built on what is known, which is- increasing investment in the outdoor parks. The existing plan shows the costs and needs of park improvements and staffing and the additional funding which would be required.

There are some projects in the 5 year CIP plan that are placeholders; the CIP 5 year plan can be revised at any point, especially once some results of the feasibility study are received.

If the Parks + Recreation special sales tax is renewed, a more specific implementation plan will be quickly created. If the sales tax is not renewed through the mail-in ballot election, then Mission has \$125,000 per year specifically dedicated to Parks + Recreation, which does not go very far. The special sales tax renewal is vital to accomplishing park

improvements within a reasonable timeframe.

A lot of the conversation at the Council level was consistent with PRT recommendations, with money going to capital improvements and not operational funds.

Ballots are expected in mailboxes by September 1 or 2; September 20 at 12 noon is when they are due.

There is ongoing conversation about timing Waterworks Park improvements with the rebuild of Rushton Elementary. Mark asked for clarification on how much money the alcohol tax generates for the city.

Leah requested clarification on the start of phase two for Mohawk Park.

Mark noted that the residents of Milhaven should be informed that phase two will not be possible if the renewal tax does not go through.

Thanks to Senate Bill 13, there is not a property tax lid, so they have moved into a process where the county calculates a mill levy which is the rate at which taxes are levied. In order to capture that growth, a city has to mail notifications to alert citizens of cities intent to operate above revenue neutral rate.

Kevin asked for clarification on the line-item budget.

Jacque asked where the revenue for Sylvester Powell goes. Laura clarified it goes into the general fund, which is used for staffing costs, routine building maintenance and program costs.

Cost recovery for the Powell Community Center is trending at 53% which is an improvement from the previous year of 34%.

Mark asked if to be revenue neutral does the Council have to lower the mill levy? Laura stated that the council would like to keep the rate at 16.369% slightly above revenue neutral rate. Other cities have been exceeding revenue neutral and then rolling back their mill levies.

Penn noted that there are concerted efforts to cut costs as much as possible each fiscal year to minimize the subsidy.

Parks + Recreation Sales Tax: a website has been launched, and is continuing to be built out. Tag line is "Choose Your Adventure" being that Parks + Recreation can mean something different to everyone. An educational mailer will be sent to residents, starting August 31. Mission is duplicating the "Pave Your Way" campaign. They will be beefing up the conceptual plan information, along with launching a video.

The mailer lists accomplishments to date, a frequently asked questions section, map to the various parks, and testimonials of Parks + Recreation users, deadline for voting and details on the specific rate.

Staff is timing the mailer to be near when the ballots are mailed. Penn will be at the Mission Market along with Jacque and Nicole to promote the campaign. Penn reported that there was good interest in the campaign and conceptual plans at last week's Mission Market.

MFAC End of Season - Jenna Dickman: Changes made in 2022: No limited capacity, no reservations, brought back Super Pool Pass and included more special events and rentals.

Total revenue for the 2022 season was \$153,568.00, which is a cost recovery of 74%.

Membership visits as of August 15: resident usage was up, but non-residents down partially due to other neighboring cities opening their pools this year.

Mission is hoping to recruit more workers for 2023. Many programs are staff dependent.

Highlight: new pool vacuum, UV light repair, splash pad put on a push timer (all of which were budgeted for in the 2022 CIP budget).

Staff made multiple saves this summer, and were very proactive.

16 seasonal team members are transitioning to part-time. Staff really stepped up for staffing shortages. Jenna expressed it was a great team.

Mark asked if anyone knew why there was a lifeguard shortage, Penn noted that certification standards have risen, pay has increased in other jobs and the stress of being responsible for someone's life might be part of the reason.

Sustainability Commission Report: No one from PRT attended the Sustainability Commission meeting in August, due to meeting scheduling conflicts.

Anne did sign up the PRT to have a table at their school fair next month (September 12). She also noted that they are looking for door prizes for this event. Cindy Long volunteered to attend the September Sustainable Commission meeting on September 5.

City Council Update: Mary reported that the City Council will have budget discussions during the September 7 committee meetings and will hear from the Gateway Project developers and finance representatives on Wednesday, September 14 and the regular City Council meeting on September 21. September 28 will be a hearing for TIF funding for the Mission Gateway project. Leah mentioned that Rushton Elementary will be part of the budget meeting discussion too.

Mohawk Park Project Update: Ground breaking happened this evening which is why we are starting PRT later. Well over 100 people attended, which was a great turnout.

Sands Construction will mobilize midway through September and the last thing needed is the city permit, which is dependent on the Overland Park and Mission rights of way permits.

The project timeline estimates beginning on September 15 with the project finishing in March 2023.

Mark asked if there was a traffic study requested. Penn said yes and the study found that there was no additional traffic flow or risk posed with the parking lot moving from the west border to the south border of Mohawk Park.

Feasibility Study Update: Meeting this week with the stakeholder group. Six individual reports were drafted with specific focuses on operations, financial, organization, programming, rentals and aquatics.

Penn and Laura will meet up by phone tomorrow to discuss preliminary notes. After two weeks there should be final recommendations.

Penn said they may be ready to present to the City Council in late September or the first week of October.

From the drafts that Penn has seen there is more supporting data and analysis needed, and he is hoping that will be in the continuation of the drafts.

Positive Improvements: Padded chairs have been placed in the meeting rooms.

The seating is installed at the tennis court and park use regulation signs went up the past week.

To create the sign, Penn combined items from three versions of the Mission parks signs, and then edited them to highlight larger concerns or problems.

There will be a separate sign on each entrance of the parks when they are renovated.

Sales Tax Renewal Efforts: Anne wanted to thank all of those who have donated to the cost of yard signs. The cost is \$6 a piece per sign, and donations are being taken for an additional order of signs.

Jacque and Nicole will be at the Mission Market to promote the renewal with Penn on August 18.

Jacque hopes that the signs can be sold or available at the market or separate events.

Talking points will largely revolve around improvements from the last 10 years of Parks + Recreation sales tax funding and using the conceptual park design poster renderings to answer questions and promote the long-term vision of Mission Parks + Recreation for the next 10 years.

Jacque pointed out that 38% of the tax is from non-residents, and without that revenue parks would suffer.

Parks Tour: Thanks for reviewing the parks as a group. The feedback that was given to Penn was to continue chipping away at the 2022 parks goals and not overwhelm Taylor, parks technician.

Tree Growth Award: The potential areas for focus of the Tree City USA in 2022 will be budget, continuing education, ordinance revisions, tree planting and removal ratio or new tree board members. **Mark** made a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Kevin seconded.

Motion unanimously carried 7-0

Meeting adjourned at 8:07 PM.

Faithfully submitted by Kim Weir, Mission Parks, Recreation + Tree Commission member.