

PARKS, RECREATION + TREE COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

August 21, 2023

DRAFT UNTIL APPROVED

The Parks, Recreation + Tree (PRT) Commission met at the Powell Community Center (PCC) on Monday, August 21, 2023 at 6:00 p.m. New Commission Members Katie Anderson and Sam Komosa were introduced. Penn Almoney noted that this was the first time to have a full quorum in attendance and is excited to have balanced representation from each ward.

In attendance: Commission Members Nicole Sullivan, Chair; Kevin Schmidt, Vice-Chair; Warren Hays, Katie Anderson, Sam Komosa, Sarah Grittmann, Dustin Wolfe, Cindy Long, Jacque Gameson, Sarah Emanuels. Council Liaison Mary Ryherd; Staff: Penn Almoney. Absent: Angela Vandegrift and Council Liaison Lea Loudon.

Call to Order

Chair Nicole Sullivan called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m. and welcomed those present.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes were reviewed from the July 17, 2023 PRT Meeting and approved.

Sarah moved to approve the minutes

Jacque seconded

Motion passed 10-0

Positive Improvements

Penn reported that the ribbon cutting at Mohawk Park was a success with well over 80 in attendance.

Jacque complimented the recently published Fall Adventure Guide. She also complimented the city for the quick removal of trees and limbs after the storm. Penn shared that the costs associated with storm cleanup would be around \$90,000, most of which was covered without any additional costs to residents.

Penn reported that the Land & Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) application for the Streamway Park Dog Park was not approved due to a couple factors- the tribal review committee flagged the park as a potential historical location for tribal activity and the difficulty in having two state agencies, (KDOT and KS Dept. of Wildlife and Parks), lay claim to the same property was not a precedent that either department wanted to start. KDOT owns this land currently and updated their Joint Use Agreement with Mission in 2022 which gave us permission to make improvements in addition to verbal confirmation from the Metro Engineer that a dog park and new parking lot were allowable and supported. The existing lot is deteriorating asphalt and needs a large investment. It is unfortunate news and may delay the Streamway Park investments.

Penn is currently applying for grant funds from LWCF for phase 2 improvements in Mohawk Park, which will include an All Abilities playground, poured-in-place rubber surfacing and shade system, removal of the existing 6 foot asphalt trails and replacement with 10 foot wide concrete perimeter trails. There will also be on-street parking along Horton and a basketball/pickleball court installed.

Sustainability Commission

The Environmental Fair is scheduled for Saturday, September 23 at 9AM. The PRT will have a table hosted by Jacque and Penn. They will have a brochure for attendees advertising Tree City USA pieces and Championship/Celebration Tree brochures. Jacque said, "We have a wonderful tree inventory and I would like to present it to the people at the Fair." Sarah Emanuels suggested a tree scavenger hunt for attendees to have active participation. Jacque will finalize the hunt which will include trees around the Powell Community Center perimeter.

City Council Update

Mary reported that the City Council is currently very involved in budget discussions. Much of the discussion is focused around a potential Mill Levy increase.

At the last meeting, Council voted that no new business can sell tobacco products within 1,000 feet of a church, school or park. Every store previously selling tobacco products will be grandfathered in. The next Community Development Committee meeting will be September 6.

Feasibility Study

The Feasibility Study was presented to the City Council and it was supported. Penn noted short-term key performance indicators of some additional programming and attendance, a new PCC Business Manager job posting, membership experience and value surveys, room capacity use analysis and marketing improvements that will be completed by 4Q 2023. There will be no change in fees or pricing at the PCC in the short-term.

Waterworks Park Project Update

The Planning Commission and City Council approved the proposed project. A few neighbors attended the City Council Meeting and voiced concerns about playground use noise, trees affecting a neighboring garden and maintenance and safety components. He reported that Council comments were positive. Stantec is finalizing the construction documents and RFP in preparation for bid gathering. They anticipate breaking ground in November to stay on schedule for an August ribbon cutting.

Mohawk Park Update

Penn reported that planning for Phase 2 is in full swing; the anticipated ground breaking will be in January or early 2024. He has been meeting with the conceptual design landscape professionals at Confluence and has submitted the preliminary plan for the Planning Commission to review in October. Two elements of particular interest are the Best Management Practices (BMP) that will detain or slow the flow of rainfall into the storm water infrastructure and adding 10 additional on-street parking spots on the eastern edge of the park along Horton. The circle drive will be removed and native plants and trees will be added. The existing playground will be removed and replaced with an All Abilities playground, soft fall surfacing and a shade system. A new trail will be installed north of the new playground and complete a perimeter trail composed of 10 foot wide concrete. There will be a new concrete pad for half-court basketball and pickle ball courts. A chain link fence was removed from the 67th Street side and any remaining chain link fencing will be removed in phase 2.

Discussion

The Commission reviewed the goals for the year. Penn distributed a document, "Parks, Recreation + Tree Commission 2023 Priorities and Recommendations." Items discussed were:

- **New Construction and Park Projects**
 - Mohawk Park Phase 2, is progressing
 - Waterworks redesign is completed, approved and moving forward.
 - Broadmoor Park- Council has approved; permitting has been applied for; work should begin in mid to late September.
- **Trail Updates and Maintenance**
 - Expedite Broadmoor Park trail resurfacing due to safety concerns.
 - Rock Creek Trail – The UMKC students’ presentation was given to the Commissioners.
 - Trail connectivity is being studied; Nicole reported that she is on a Rock Creek Corridor committee to discuss this.
- **Fundraising**
 - Penn is looking into the need for additional funding to complete Mohawk Park with a potential grant/discount on playground equipment.
- **Maintenance Considerations**
 - Penn noted this is probably the #1 item on the list.
 - Penn referenced the \$60,000 increase in the budget to prune, plant and maintain trees which will help offset losses significant losses in Broadmoor and Andersen Parks.
 - It has been discussed to move the Legacy Park art installation to Mohawk Park at some point.

Upcoming Notes and Meetings

- The PCC is closed from August 21-September 4 for maintenance projects.
- Saturday, September 16, 10:00 a.m. is the Rock Creek Corridor Walk & Roll Tour which will begin in the Wendy’s parking lot along Martway Street. Nicole encouraged everyone to attend.
- The next PR+T Meeting is September 18; the Commissioners will review the PR+T Calendar

Adjournment

Cindy Long moved to adjourn the meeting,

Dustin Wolfe seconded.

Motion Passed 10-0

The meeting adjourned at 7:14 p.m.

Faithfully submitted by Cindy Long, secretary pro tempore.