

PARKS, RECREATION + TREE COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

October 16, 2023

DRAFT UNTIL APPROVED

The Parks, Recreation + Tree (PRT) Commission met at the Powell Community Center (PCC) on Monday, October 16, 2023 at 6:00 p.m.

In attendance: Commission members Nicole Sullivan, Chair; Kevin Schmidt, Vice-Chair; Warren Hays, Katie Anderson, Sam Komosa, Sarah Grittmann, Dustin Wolfe, Cindy Long, Angela Vandegrift, Jacque Gameson, Sarah Emanuels; Staff: Penn Almoney, Council Liaisons Lea Loudon and Mary Ryherd. Guest: Sustainability Commission member Cathy Boyer-Shesol. Laura (last name unknown) was a visiting Mission resident.

Call to Order

Chair Nicole Sullivan called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m. Attendee introductions were made.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes were reviewed from the September 18, 2023 PRT Meeting. **Jacque Gameson** moved to accept the Minutes as written. **Sarah Grittmann** 2nd the motion. **Motion Passed 10-0.**

Positive Improvements

- The PCC carpeting has been removed in the C/D/E meeting rooms and the concrete has been polished to complete the transition to a multi-use meeting/rental space; it is a substantial improvement.
- Mohawk Park Phase 1 improvements have been well-received through resident feedback, particularly the outdoor sinks, making it easy to quickly rinse and go. The picnic tables that allow for wheelchair access were complimented by Lea and additional members.
- Jacque attended Mission's Planning Commission meeting and reported that Mission's 2040 Tomorrow Together Comprehensive Plan is very supportive of tree canopies and areas to strengthen walking near parks.
- Penn reported that 10 trees are budgeted for planting each year and this year there will be enough funds to purchase 13 trees. They will be purchased from Rosehill and Family Tree Nurseries. The Sustainability Commission is sponsoring a tree, but it has not been purchased to-date. Katie Anderson suggested promoting the opportunity to purchase trees to other groups in Mission. Lea Loudon suggested putting this information in *Mission Magazine*. Penn noted that Heartland Tree Alliance and Bridging the Gap groups have also sponsored a tree in 2023.
- Some Homeowners' Associations have reached out to Penn to ask what tree species are most appropriate to plant in this region.

Sustainability Commission

Sam Komosa attended the Sustainability Commission's October 2 meeting.

- He reported that the Fire Department (Consolidated Fire #2) gave a presentation detailing the importance of putting out coals as well as discussing final life documents. The Fire Chief explained what happens when someone calls 911.

- There is an Energy Pilot Program that will include 16 homes and ways to conserve energy. The Energy Audit Meeting will take place via Zoom; Kevin Schmidt will send further information to PRT Commission members.
- There is a “Mission Possible” Program that assists with tree trimming in Mission. Grants are available for this program and can be found on the Missionks.org website.
- The next time a PRT Member will be invited to attend the Sustainability Commission meeting is for the January/February meeting. Nicole recommended that we determine who will attend at the December PRT Meeting.

City Council Update

Mary Ryherd reported that the City Council will be approving the cost for the All-Abilities playground equipment for Mohawk Park Phase 2 at their next meeting.

Penn reported that Mission will receive an approximate 50% discount by committing to the purchase early in the manufacturing process so that the playground manufacturer can pass along the savings from economies of scale.

The City Council also approved the Adult Lounge furniture purchase in the Powell Community Center (by the south lobby) that will include a limited coffee area. This area will act as a gathering space for patrons waiting on family or friends or working/relaxing while children are participating in recreation programs.

Parks Update

Water Works Park- Penn reported that this park project is currently accepting bids; initially two contractors showed up to the pre-bid meeting on Thu, October 12. Seven additional contractors showed up 30 minutes later. The bids will not include the playground or bench, picnic table equipment. That will be purchased directly by Penn to eliminate the GC markup.

Final bid collection will be this Thursday, October 19. The responsive bids will be reviewed by Stantec and staff and one contractor will be recommended to City Council during the November Community Development meeting discussion.

The design will include keeping as many trees as possible, especially any trees with Tree Plaques. Jacque shared that Rushton Elementary School students plant a tree every year in Water Works Park and it’s important to keep those trees along with their history in place.

Katie Anderson noted that the Rushton students are enthusiastic about attending the groundbreaking for Water Works Park, which is tentatively scheduled for early December 2023. Anticipated project completion will align with Rushton Elementary Schools completion in August 2024.

Broadmoor Park- Penn reported that the trail is mostly demolished and concrete is being poured in sections. He noted that the donated champion Oak tree will be saved! Jacque’s plea was heard and some grading changes allowed for the tree to be avoided during the demolition and installation. The entire trail, parking and entrances will meet ADA accessibility standards. There will be a ribbon cutting ceremony scheduled once the park project is completed. Penn anticipates completion by January, but it could be done earlier since the contractor, Gunter Construction, is making great progress.

Mohawk Park- Penn reported that there will be a meeting with the Planning Commission next Monday, October 23 to discuss the new Phase 2 improvements which include 10 ft concrete perimeter trail, All-Abilities playground with shade and poured in place rubber surfacing, a multiuse sport court lined for basketball and pickleball and new on-street parking spots along the eastern edge. The newly renewed P+R sales tax is funding these projects.

Discussion

- Two new part-time P+R staff have been hired; Ryan has been working with Taylor for two weeks; an additional employee will begin next week
- Nicole, Jacque and Penn are donating trees to be planted along the Rock Creek Trail as a wellness activity for Mission full time staff on Friday, October 20.
- Nicole suggested that any time a member sees the need for maintenance in the parks, they should email Penn
- Penn reported that the handrail along the northern access steps in Legacy Park has cracked the concrete and was movable posing a safety risk; it will cost \$4,000 to repair
- Tree ID Plaques- a sub-committee was formed with Jacque, Warren and Katie to compile data for Tree Plaques creation. They are 3x4" full color plaques containing up to 200 characters and 4 lines of type. The sub-committee will find photos on the internet of distinguishing characteristics of the trees. The group will meet and select five trees at Andersen Park to identify and accentuate.
- Penn described the history and process of how Water Works Park was designed and the stakeholder feedback that resulted in the final rendering.
- The Tree City USA /Growth Award application is due by December 31 to continue the ongoing streak.
- The Champion Tree Nomination will be promoted on social media in time for fall foliage considerations.
- The next PRT Meeting is November 20

Adjournment

Cindy Long moved to adjourn the meeting, **Sam Komosa** seconded. **Motion Passed 11-0.**

The meeting adjourned at 7:06 p.m.

Faithfully submitted by Cindy Long, secretary pro tempore.