

PARKS, RECREATION + TREE COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

November 20, 2023

DRAFT UNTIL APPROVED

The Parks, Recreation + Tree (PRT) Commission met at the Powell Community Center (PCC) on Monday, November 20, 2023 at 6:00 p.m.

In attendance: Commission Members Nicole Sullivan, Chair; Sam Komosa, Sarah Grittmann, Cindy Long, Angela Vandegrift, Jacque Gameson and Sarah Emanuels; Staff: Penn Almoney. Not in attendance: Kevin Schmidt, Katie Anderson, Dustin Wolfe, Warren Hays and Council Liaisons Lea Loudon and Mary Ryherd.

Call to Order

Chair Nicole Sullivan called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes were reviewed from the October 16, 2023 PRT Meeting. Jacque Gameson recommended updates to the information under Positive Improvements and requested that Mission's 2040 Tomorrow Together Comprehensive Plan should be added. She suggested adding information about the Arbor Day Tree City application, too.

Sam Komosa moved to accept the Minutes with amendments.

Sarah Emanuels 2nd the motion.

Approved 7-0.

Positive Improvements

- Penn announced that 13 trees had been purchased with City funds and reviewed their park and trail locations. He added that there were 5 donated trees that were planted along the Rock Creek Trail (west end). Those trees were planted by City staff as part of a wellness program activity in November.
- The Sustainability Commission requested a Celebration Tree (Silver Maple) be planted on the Mission Market site which will be installed the first week of December. Countryside's community group reached out to Penn to purchase a Celebration Tree in the Spring 2024.
- Penn and Nicole attended a meeting the previous Thursday, November 16, to view a presentation for the Rock Creek Corridor. They showed two conceptual designs for the Mission Market and Rock Creek Trail area. Nicole said that all ideas discussed were placed in the designs.
- There will be a public open house at the Powell Community Center on Thursday, December 7 for the public to review the conceptual designs and provide feedback. It was suggested that Nicole send out a reminder email about this meeting to all Commission members.

Sustainability Commission Liaison

- The PRT is moving to a quarterly attendance model with the Sustainability Commission meetings.

City Council Update

- Both Council members were not in attendance due to schedule conflicts.

Water Works, Broadmoor + Mohawk Ph 2 UPDATE

- Penn reviewed Water Works Park and said the \$1.158 million bid was approved by City Council. This does not include the cost for the playground, picnic tables, benches, trash cans and bike racks. Staff saved roughly \$40,000 by purchasing those items separate from the general contractor bid. The restrooms will be ordered first since it is a prefabricated building that has a six-month lead-time.
- The Water Works Park groundbreaking is planned for January, which will be closer to the mobilization by the general contractor, Centric Construction. Penn noted that he is working with Rushton Elementary's PTA to get the message about the groundbreaking out to the children and parents so they can attend.
- Broadmoor Park's trail project is almost completed, the last remaining element for the general contractor, Gunter Construction, is laying 1,800 square feet of sod along the north trail edge and repairing the bench that was damaged during the landscaping. Parks + Recreation will be replacing parts of the existing bridge to improve the aesthetics and long-term durability.
- The Planning Commission approved Phase 2 of Mohawk Park. There is a concrete pad north of the parking lot that will be equipped with a basketball hoop, 4 ft perimeter fencing and lined for half-court basketball and pickleball in the Phase 2 design. One Overland Park neighbor expressed concerns about noise from the pickleball player use, which were discussed by Planning Commission members and Penn during the meeting. Penn agreed to plant additional shrubs around the perimeter of the multi-purpose court to absorb the sound. Penn shared that neighboring communities have had discussions about pickleball noise, but that we have not experienced negative feedback on the two existing pickleball courts in Andersen Park. Pickleball players can check out a net at the PCC, need to bring their own nets or some are okay playing on the higher tennis court nets. Phase 2 will be going out for bid in January.

Action Items + Planning

- The three action items pertaining to Parks + Recreation were a CIP project for the PCC north kitchen and hallway floor tile removal and replacement with epoxy for \$9,432, the Water Works Park general contractor bid acceptance for \$1.158M, and approval of the preliminary development plan for Mohawk Park Phase 2. Confluence is gathering a revised Order of Magnitude estimate for Phase 2 construction.
- The next CIP project is remodeling the north restrooms in the PCC. Penn is currently gathering bids. This will be the last Capital Improvement Project of the year.

Maintenance

- A two-year-old bench was removed from Water Works Park and placed along the Rock Creek Trail. This replacement was along the west end where a fallen tree damaged the previous bench.
- Penn added that a John Deere Gator utility vehicle will be stored in Mohawk Park's new storage building and will be utilized for snow removal and tree watering seasonally.

Tree ID Plaque

- Jacque reported that Tree ID Plaques have been identified for specific trees within Andersen Park. The subcommittee is finalizing text and pictures for this project. She also mentioned that one tree was mislabeled during planting, Ginkgo species, which is unfortunately a relatively common maple species. She suggested that Mission continue to look for opportunities and locations to include a Ginkgo tree.

Park Commission Banquet Review

- Jacque, Katie and Penn attended a banquet on Friday, November 17 at Children's Mercy Park and represented Mission Parks, Recreation + Tree (PRT) Commission. A motivating speaker, Marc Harrell who is Chief Inclusion Officer for Variety KC spoke about the theme "An Inclusion Revolution" and the importance of converting all parks to All Abilities and changing the mindset to including all abilities, ages and demographics in recreation. Attendees were also able to take a tour of the Sporting KC locker rooms, training rooms, meeting spaces and suites.

Champion Tree Nomination

- Penn shared the lone tree that has been nominated. The December 1 deadline may need to be extended to get more nominations. Penn agreed to pushing out another social media post to generate more interest in this program which helps Mission maintain Tree City USA status.

Arbor Day Poster Contest

- Jacque explained the program and asked PRT commissioner members for support to proceed with this in 2023/2024. Jacque entertained a motion to engage our teachers/partners at Rushton Elementary.

Sarah Grittmann moved to support the program in 2024,

Sarah Emanuels 2nd the motion.

Motion Passed. 7-0

Upcoming Notes + Meetings

- **Holiday Lights & Festive Sights** at Mission Market, 6:00 pm on Friday, December 1, Sarah and Joe Emanuels, Jacque and Sam will assist with station activities.
- **Pearl Harbor Commemoration** at the PCC on Thursday, December 7, 11:30 a.m.
- **Move the PRT Commission Meetings** to the 2nd week of every month due to consistent holiday conflicts. This was tabled until next month when more commission members can be present and share their feedback.
- **Holiday Family Adoption** – this year the community is adopting 87 families for Thanksgiving food distribution, which happened this morning at the PCC. There are currently Angel Giving Trees in the PCC main hallway. The gifts and food will be distributed on December 20 from 7:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. Disadvantaged families receive 40+ pounds of food and 2-3 gifts per person during the holiday season.

Adjournment

Cindy Long moved to adjourn the meeting,

Sarah Grittmann seconded.

Motion Passed. 7-0 s

The meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

Faithfully submitted by Cindy Long, secretary pro tempore.