

PARKS, RECREATION + TREE COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

December 11, 2023

DRAFT UNTIL APPROVED

The Parks, Recreation + Tree (PRT) Commission met at the Powell Community Center (PCC) on Monday, December 11, 2023 at 6:00 p.m.

In attendance: Commission Members Nicole Sullivan, Chair; Sam Komosa, Sarah Grittmann, Cindy Long, Angela Vandegrift, Jacque Gameson, Kevin Schmidt, Katie Anderson, Dustin Wolfe, Warren Hays and Sarah Emanuels; Council Liaison: Lea Loudon; Staff: Penn Almoney. Not in attendance: Council Liaison 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 November 13, 2023 PRT Meeting. Corrections in spelling and punctuation were recommended.

Sarah Grittmann moved to accept the Minutes with amendments.

Jacque Gameson 2nd the motion.

Approved 11-0.

Positive Improvements

The Holiday Lights and Festive Sights event held on December 1 was discussed. Penn estimated that 750 people attended the event. Commission members Jacque Gameson, Sam Komosa and Sarah Emanuels served at various stations that included games and crafts and food. Commission members who attended gave feedback on the event and the following suggestions were made:

- Parking was difficult for volunteers – the lot that was reserved at Script Pro was immediately locked at the end of the event making vehicle retrieval difficult and time-consuming
- Needed more food via food trucks or local restaurants selling on the streets
- Because the event was held at 6:00 p.m., it was very dark; more lighting would have been a plus
- The firepits in the streets were a welcomed warming center
- The various music ensembles were very nice and enjoyed by all
- The addition of Polar Express, Elf and Grinch characters this season was great

Sustainability Commission Liaison

The next meeting will be January 8, 2024 at 6:30 p.m. Due to the PRT meeting on this date, Sam Komosa will represent the PRT Commission at the February 5 meeting.

City Council Update

The Water Works Park Project contractor was approved. PCC north kitchen and hallway flooring replacement was approved. Preliminary development plan for Mohawk Park Phase 2 was approved.

Water Works Park and Mohawk Park Phase 2 Update

- Work at Water Works Park will begin in January with a ribbon cutting on January 9, 2024 at 4:30 p.m. The Mayor, City Council Members and City Administrator, PRT, Rushton Elementary students/parents and stakeholders have all been invited to attend as well as Centric (general contractor) and Stantec (engineer).
- WaterOne, the land owners who allow Mission Parks + Recreation to program and maintain it, have approved the design and infrastructure elements. Their participation throughout the planning process has helped them coordinate some water line upgrades as part of this park project.
- Mohawk Park Phase 2 will accept contractor bids in January. All the contract elements will be shared with general contractors.

Action Items

- The north bathrooms in the Powell Community Center will be renovated soon. This was approved as a Capital Improvement Project for 2023 for \$35,000. City Council will vote on the recommended contractor next week.
- The Steam Sauna in the pool area needs tile replacement work. The most responsive bidder was \$13,000 and will be voted on by City Council next week.
- The Mission Family Aquatic Center lap pool drain was damaged due to hydrostatic pressure, but a sump pump installation will prevent that pressure this offseason.

Discussion

- **PRT Schedule**

The PRT Commission has been meeting on the 3rd Monday of each month at 6:00 p.m. Due to many holidays falling on the 3rd Monday of the month, the Commission discussed moving their meetings to the 2nd Monday.

Cindy Long moved to change the PR+T Commission meeting date to the 2nd Monday of each month beginning January 8, 2024.

Sarah Emanuels 2nd the motion.

Approved 11-0.

- **Upcoming Meeting**

Nicole reported that the PRT Commission should have a longer meeting on January 8 to review goals/objectives for 2024. This allows staff to share the priorities/goals/objectives to City Council. Nicole expressed interest in formally presenting these in person to City Council. This next PRT meeting should be about two hours in length. The group discussed moving the meeting earlier to 5:30 p.m. and end at approximately 7:30 p.m. Penn will provide food for longer meetings.

- **Super Pool Pass**

A Super Pool pass can be purchased by citizens, allowing them to go to a group of pools in the area in the summer. It is a revenue sharing system between the cities. Penn and Jenna, Aquatics Facilities Manager, met with representatives from Prairie Village, Fairway and Roeland Park regarding Roeland Park's reduced daily/hourly schedule and participation in the Super Pool Pass program. Their continued closures resulted in having their patrons go to the Mission Family Aquatic Center or the Fairway pools, causing overcrowding. As a result, Roeland Park will not be included in the Super Pool Pass group in 2024 due to no guarantees that they'll be open daily. Super Pool Pass participating cities will be Mission, Fairway and Prairie Village in 2024.

- **Champion Tree Nomination**

There was only one nomination for Mission's Championship Tree. The Commissioners approved this submission for 2023. The winner, Barry Oppenheimer, was nominated by his neighbor for having a "very gorgeous Maple Tree at 6356 W 49th St" receives a gift card to Lowe's, a plaque that is presented before City Council and a picture of the tree and owners in *Mission Magazine*.

- **Arbor Day Poster Contest**

Jacque sent out an invitation to the two fifth grade teachers at Rushton Elementary School and both accepted to have their students participate in the Arbor Day Poster Contest. Jacque will pick up the posters on January 25. Katie will assist with this program. This Tree City USA event is will be highlighted during the Arbor Day festivities to students. The state poster winner is usually announced each March and are chosen from the participating Kansas cities.

- **PRT Chair and Co-Chair, 2024 PRT Commission Members**

Nicole reported that the 2024 PRT chair and co-chair will need to be voted on during the January meeting. She reviewed the responsibilities of each position.

Nicole was again nominated for chair and Sarah Emanuels was nominated for co-chair.

There will be an official vote during the January 8, 2024 meeting.

The commissioners acknowledged Warren Hays and thanked him for his contributions for the last two years. He is resigning his position effective at the end of 2023. Sarah Emanuels volunteered to assist Jacque on the Tree Plaque sub-committee in place of the departure of Warren. Penn noted that a new commission member will be appointed to the PRT for 2024.

- **Other Business**

Jacque shared that the presentation by the UMKC students on the Rock Creek Trail and the open houses discussing the trail with the urban planners had been very informing. This also resulted in two of the students becoming employed by agencies that are working on Mission's City Market and the Rock Creek Trail conceptual designs.

The Holiday Family Adoption will be held on December 20, providing food and gifts to family members of 80 families for the holidays. Some of the requests are still not taken from the donation trees the PCC, so the committee will ensure that each family has some gifts this season. They will prioritize the gifts for children.

Adjournment

Sam Komosa moved to adjourn the meeting;

Sarah Emanuels seconded.

Motion Passed.

The meeting adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

Faithfully submitted by Cindy Long, secretary pro tempore.