

PARKS, RECREATION + TREE COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

February 12, 2024

DRAFT UNTIL APPROVED

The Parks, Recreation + Tree (PRT) Commission met at the Powell Community Center (PCC) on Monday, February 12, 2024 at 5:30 p.m.

In attendance: Chair Nicole Sullivan, Vice-Chair Sarah Emanuels, Commission Members- Katie Anderson, Sam Komosa, Cindy Long, Angela Vandegrift, Jacque Gameson, Dustin Wolfe, Kevin Schmidt, Sarah Grittmann, Council Liaisons- Debbie Kring and Brian Schmid, Staff- Penn Almone, City Administrator Laura Smith, Guests- Mayor Solana Flora and Mission Resident Alison Hooper.

Call to Order

Chair Nicole Sullivan called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. City Administrator Laura Smith, Mayor Sollie Flora and Mission resident Alison Hooper were welcomed to the meeting.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes were reviewed from the January 8, 2024, PRT Meeting. Corrections were recommended.

Sarah Grittmann moved to accept the Minutes with amendments. Dustin Wolfe 2nd the motion.

Motion Passed 9-0.

City of Mission Milhaus Development

City Administrator Laura Smith presented a power point outlining the discussions with Milhaus, a developer that is interested in building market-rate apartments on Mission's park land (Beverly Park) and adjacent private property land. Smith began by presenting the project history beginning in the summer of 2022. There have been multiple discussions on tax abatements, the park area on Beverly Street and the Martway St office buildings. Recent developments were presented to the City Council during their January meeting. Smith presented a chart with the estimated tax impacts on the community and how the current annual taxes from that development are estimated to double over 10 years.

Many factors were considered in the recommendation of the tax abatement with the total abatement percentage at 75%. Smith also discussed the enhanced greenspace involved in the project.

Milhaus has agreed to a \$500,000 cash contribution which may fund additional park land purchases near the impacted area.

The Mayor and Smith are proposing to Council to dedicate individual parcels owned by Mission as park land along the Rock Creek Trail corridor between Woodson and Outlook.

Next Steps

- Public Hearing on Tax Abatement including a Petition period for the park disposition.
- Submission of Final Development Plans and Close on Properties March-December 2024
- Anticipated construction begins April 1, 2025, Mission gets first right to acquire property if the project does not proceed.
- Anticipated construction completion August 30, 2027

Positive Improvements

- Penn reported that the PCC steam sauna was upgraded and completed
- Playgrounds in Water Works Park and Mohawk Park will be upgraded for all abilities, and noted this will be a “sensory rich oasis.”
- The Water Works Park groundbreaking was a success with many in attendance including the Mayor, City Council Members, PRT Commission members, many Rushton students and parents, Penn and other city employees and developers. There will be new 10-foot wide trails, bathrooms, shelter and EV bike charging capability when finished. Penn said that the park construction stakeholders meet every other week on site to discuss progress and challenges.
- Many people are now using the new Broadmoor Park trail.

Sustainability Commission

- Sam Komosa represented the PRT Commission at the February 5 Sustainability Commission meeting. Sam said there are many opportunities for the PRT Commission to work with the Sustainability Commission as they are very “pro-tree.” They have a priority tree planting list and as the PRT reviews our Tree Plan, we should consider including joining forces with the Sustainability Commission on a Tree Drive in mid-summer 2024.
- Donating trees for the parks was discussed. Penn reported that last year, of 19 new trees planted, 5 were donated and planted along the Rock Creek Trail. The City of Merriam did something like this in partnership with Bridging the Gap, a non-profit organization promoting a green, healthy environment in the Kansas City area.

City Council Update

Brian Schmid and Debbie Kring are the PRT Commission’s new City Council Liaisons. Brian asked what kind of information the PRT Commission wanted from the City Council. This was discussed as well as the January City Council Meeting in which Evergy Electric Company was asked to attend due to residents’ frequent power outages.

Tree Plaque Update

Jacque Gameson reported that the artwork for the Tree Plaques are ready to be sent to SignPro. She thanked Katie Anderson and Sarah Emanuels for assisting with the project. All of the new plaques will be installed in Andersen Park this season.

November Meeting

The November Meeting is planned for Veteran’s Day on November 11. Since this is a national holiday, it was suggested that the meeting be moved to another date.

Dustin Wolfe moved to change the November PRT Meeting date to November 18. **Sarah Grittmann** 2nd the motion.

Motion Passed 9-0.

Water Works Park

Penn reported that work has begun at Water Works Park. When negotiations were made with WaterOne, who owns the property, it was determined that the name of the park would change to two words from Waterworks to Water Works Park. The work will progress from the north end of the park toward the south end. The work will be completed in July for a grand opening in August. There will be a

WiFi hub at the new shelter, solar charging table, native plantings, education boards/panels, restrooms, bike racks, new “All-abilities” playground, EV charging capabilities, new parking lot and new 10-foot wide trails.

Mohawk Park

Phase 2 will be presented to the Planning Commission on February 26. If the Planning Commission recommends the project for advancement, staff will post the project for bid/proposals. The biggest discussion item during the Planning Commission’s preliminary development plan were the pickleball courts and the potential noise for neighbors, noise remediation efforts and the half-court basketball use. Like Andersen Park, nets will need to be checked out to play. Efforts will be made to remediate the noise through bush plantings.

Review Park Maintenance Needs/Goals/Objectives (attached to February Minutes)

The PRT Commission was provided a document by Nicole Sullivan, “Priorities and Recommendations 2024” to review.

Jacque Gameson complimented Nicole on her excellent work on the plan. This document will be reviewed by the City Council on March 6 with any revisions forthcoming, if necessary. This document will guide the Commission for 2024 as well as the PRT budget, which must be recommended to City Council by April 1, 2024.

Other suggestions for PRT Discussions

- Dustin Wolfe suggested that the Commission go on a tour of the Powell Community Center to review the improvements
- There should be a revised discussion on the merits of adding a Dog Park in Mission
- The March PRT Meeting will include any budget/CIP follow up questions and the tree plan
- The Tree Protection Ordinance could be discussed if it’s ready for review
- Potentially changing the name of the Mission Market site (currently Johnson Drive Park) to Rock Creek Park

Adjournment

Dustin Wolfe moved to adjourn the meeting, Sarah Grittman 2nd the motion.

Motion Passed 9-0.

The meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Faithfully submitted by Cindy Long, secretary pro tempore.