

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 18, 2017
SUMMARIZED MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT

Brian Bloom
Jennifer Grogan
Charles Hammersley
Jim Stratton
Thomas Ziegler

STAFF PRESENT

Kathy Drummond
Betsy Emery
Rebecca Sayers
Rick Tadder
Steve Zimmerman

OTHERS PRESENT

Bryan Burton
Brian Grube
Rick Miller

MEMBERS ABSENT

Adam Kaupisch

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Vice Chair Stratton at 4:03 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL

Commissioners Bloom, Grogan, Hammersley, Ziegler, and Vice Chair Stratton were present for roll call. Chair Kaupisch was absent.

3. APPROVAL OF THE NOVEMBER 16, 2016 MINUTES

Motion made by Commissioner Hammersley to approve the November 18, 2016 minutes as written. Motion seconded by Commissioner Ziegler. Motion passed with 5 yeas votes.

4. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION - None

5. PRESENTATION

A. Soliere Avenue Private Development - Walter Crutchfield, Vintage Partners. This item was postponed to the February meeting as Mr. Crutchfield wasn't available to attend the meeting.

6. ACTION ITEMS

A. Elect Chair for 2017. Motion made by Commissioner Hammersley to nominate Commissioner Grogan. Commissioner Bloom stated that he was also interested in serving as Chair for the upcoming year. Motion made to nominate Commissioner Grogan was seconded by Commissioner Stratton. Motion passed with 5 yeas votes.

B. Elect Co-Chair for 2017. Motion made by Commissioner Hammersley to nominate Commissioner Bloom. Motion seconded by Commissioner Grogan. Motion passed with 5 yeas votes.

ACTION ITEMS

- C. Letter of Support for Open Space Budget. Open Space Commissioners (OSC) and staff asked the Parks and Recreation Commission to endorse a letter of support to the Budget Committee for funding one full time Open Spaces Specialist position. The current two-year contract is due to expire in June 2017 and it is estimated to cost about \$75,000 for the new position. The City has acquired approximately 2,750 acres of open space since 2012, including Picture Canyon Natural and Cultural Preserve and Observatory Mesa Natural Area. Open space management is important to the long-term success of an open space system and identified as such in the goals of the Regional Plan and should be managed to reduce wildfire risk, preserve important riparian habitats, protect existing cultural sites, and provide safe access to visitors. Other forms of management include litter pick-up, graffiti removal, trail maintenance, fencing, signage, and revegetation work.

The open space program has an annual budget of \$32,000 in addition to approximately \$150,000 in grant funds and partnerships with other government agencies for the management of Picture Canyon and Observatory Mesa areas. They are excited to move forward with the projects that the public have asked them to do and feel the position should be funded permanently. Motion made by Commissioner Bloom to support the letter to the City Manager as presented in the agenda packet with Commissioner Stratton signing for Chair Kaupisch in his absence. Motion seconded by Commissioner Ziegler. Motion passed with 5 yeas votes.

7. DISCUSSION/STANDING ITEMS

- A. Snow Play Update. Brian Grube, Winter Recreation Task Force Chairperson, which is a collaborative effort with other government agencies, distributed the new winter snow play map. The task force felt that a user friendly map with an educational component to it was the best way to present information to the public. The Convention and Visitor's Bureau took on the major responsibility for the map which includes areas as far west as Williams, east and west to Lake Mary Road, and north to the Kendrick Park area as well as safe snow travel information.

They worked closely with the Sustainability Section to promote safety and environmental issues and included Albert the sustainability mascot on the new map. It was also important to the group that a familiar logo be used with a positive message, so the existing winter wonderland logo is posted on all the government agencies' websites and press releases for a continuity of information. The new snow play area at Ft. Tuthill County Park has been a successful model and they opened during the holiday snow fall with approximately 7,000 tickets sold during the first week of operation. The contracted vendor may be interested in snow making opportunities in the future, but the current plan does not include snow making.

- B. Bond Update and West Side Park. The Commission expressed an interest in planning for a future bond and requested staff provide more information. Rick Tadder, Management Services Director discussed the City's ability to issue new bonds and Commissioners expressed their desire to look at opportunities for future bonding, as the last bond the voter's approved for Parks and Recreation was in 2004. The first step is for the Commission to explore scenarios and concepts for future Parks and Recreation bond opportunities in preparation of going out to the voters for their approval. The next opportunity for a bond would be in the Fall of 2018. Further discussion will occur during the February meeting.

DISCUSSION/STANDING ITEMS (Cont'd.)

- C. Hal Jensen Tennis Court Update. Staff presented their plans to the budget team on November 28 and they were granted the opportunity to delay some projects so this item can be completed. Staff is finalizing the documents and will be going out to bid in the next month with construction and completion planned for this spring and summer.

8. REPORTS

- A. Monthly Highlights of Parks. A monthly report was included in the agenda packet and stands as presented. Bushmaster playground equipment has seen less graffiti since the improvements, but staff has seen an issue with someone setting fire to some of the new amenities.
- B. Monthly Highlights of Recreation. A monthly report was included in the agenda packet and stands as presented.
- C. Open Spaces Commission. A monthly report was included in the agenda packet and stands as presented.

9. INFORMATION ITEMS TO AND FROM COMMISSIONERS AND STAFF

Staff is currently working on budgets and base line items which are due this week. The next step is to work on revised service levels (RSL), which are due in early February. The Commission will be brought an overview of the budget regarding capital items and an update on the BBB Recreation 5-year plan. Recreation cost recovery policy discussion will be going to Council in February. Staff will be looking for direction from the Council on cost recovery policy and not specific fees. The January membership drive at the Aquaplex is in full swing and activity classes and babysitting are at capacity. A survey for the Thorpe Park playground improvements is currently on the City's website and staff encouraged Commissioners to participate and complete the survey before the deadline Friday, January 20.

10. AGENDA ITEMS FOR THE FEBRUARY 15, 2017 MEETING

- Bond update
- Overview of Council's 2018 goals and budget process
- Parks and Recreation fiscal year 2018 capital budgets
- Cost recovery policy presentation
- Presentation on the Vintage Project on Soliere Ave.

11. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 5:05 p.m.