

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 17, 2018
SUMMARIZED MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT

Tim Behrens
Jennifer Grogan
Charles Hammersley
Adam Kaupisch
Jim Stratton
Thomas Ziegler

MEMBERS ABSENT

Brian Bloom

STAFF PRESENT

Andy Bertelsen
Sarah Darr
Kathy Drummond
Betsy Emery
Dan Folke
Gino Leoni
Claire Harper
Jennifer Mikelson
Rebecca Sayers
Steve Zimmerman

OTHERS PRESENT

Rose Houk

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Grogan called the meeting of January 17, 2018 to order at 4:00 p.m.

2. **ROLL CALL**

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

3. **APPROVAL OF THE NOVEMBER 15, 2017 MINUTES**

Motion made by Commissioner Hammersley to approve the November 15, 2017 minutes as written. Motion seconded by Commissioner Kaupisch. Motion passed unanimously with six (6) yea votes.

4. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION** – None

5. **DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS**

- A. **Elect Chair for 2018.** Motion made by Commissioner Hammersley to nominate Commissioner Ziegler. Motion seconded by Chair Grogan. Motion passed unanimously with six (6) yea votes.
- B. **Elect Co-Chair for 2018.** Motion made by Commissioner Kaupisch to nominate Commissioner Bloom. Motion seconded by Commissioner Grogan. Motion passed unanimously with six (6) yea votes.
- C. **Thorpe Park Annex/Mogollon public works yard repurpose.** City Council recently requested that the Friends of Thorpe Park (FTP) group consider proposing a concept plan to include a small number of affordable housing units. The Council also directed the City Manager's office to begin looking at other opportunities for affordable housing in Flagstaff. Ms. Rose Houk affirmed her previous statement that she is concerned about setting a precedent which could impact municipal parks in the future.

DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS (Cont'd.)

City staff from the Planning and Housing sections were in attendance so they could answer any questions the Commissioners had regarding affordable housing. Parks and Recreation Director Sayers shared that City staff has met on one occasion to talk about Council's direction and what the public input meetings and affordable housing could possibly look like in the area. Sara Darr, Housing Director, stated that the goal of the Housing Section is to blend affordable housing in the surrounding neighborhood and come up with a solution that meets multiple needs in the community. The use of park dedicated property for anything other than its intended use would require it to be rezoned. Staff will keep the Commission informed when City staff meets again and update the Commission as discussions continue.

- D. Park amenities and decision-making process. Staff described the process used for replacing play structures, which is based on budget, trends, exercise science, design, accessibility, and technology. Once a site has been identified for improvements, staff looks at the site and other nearby parks to consider options for upgrades. They reach out to playground vendors whose design teams develop design concepts. Staff reviews and considers features, gives feedback to vendors, and tweaks the plans according to the footprint of the park. For large park projects staff reaches out to the community for input, but for the neighborhood and pocket parks staff uses their professional knowledge in determining which design is the best fit for the location. Commissioners requested that as equipment is updated and replaced, play equipment for each age group remains at the park so that all children have safe equipment to play on.
- E. Winter Recreation Update. The Winter recreation map was recently updated and staff distributed copies to the Commission. The map is very clear that there is no parking on highway 180 or Snowbowl Road and both Wing Mountain and Crowley pit are closed indefinitely. Other recreation areas to the south, west, and north of Flagstaff as well as Thorpe Park, Buffalo Park, Jay Lively, Foxglenn Park, and the Visitor's Center skating rink was highlighted as well. The intent is to keep the same messages from last year regarding playing and traveling responsibly and trash and recycling opportunities. City staff has also put together a budget to be spent on outreach, messaging, advertising, police officers, trash and recycling. The Task Force is scheduled to meet again in February.

6. REPORTS

- A. Monthly highlights of Parks. A monthly report was included in the agenda packet and stands as presented. Two new full time permanent employees recently began employment with the City. New play structures are currently being installed in Mobile Haven and Smokerise Parks.
- B. Monthly highlights of Recreation. A monthly report was included in the agenda packet and stands as presented. Winter Wonderland at Heritage Square was a success with school bands, carolers, the community band, and the tree lighting. A group of Phoenix teens recently came to Flagstaff to interact with teens from the Hal Jensen Recreation Center. They were hoping to play in snow, but instead went to Flagstaff Extreme for a group activity. Due to Danny Neal's retirement, a refresh opportunity has been presented to Recreation staff. Four individuals are participating, each one rotating every two months, in hopes of acquiring new job skills and furthering their professional development.
- C. Monthly highlights of Open Space. A monthly report was included in the agenda packet and stands as presented. Next month staff will be sharing information about the Flagstaff Regional Trails Initiative with the Commission. The initiative will involve a number of stakeholders, including the National Park Service, Coconino National Forest, Arizona Trail Association, Coconino County, and Flagstaff Biking

REPORTS (Cont'd.)

Organization. The plan will focus on trails within the FMPO boundary. The initiative will review existing and proposed trails and plan where current gaps exist within the current trail network. Open Space staff will also present to the Commission on their research regarding equitable access to open space, including passive park areas. Ms. Emery shared that she will be leaving on June 1 to pursue a graduate program in Oregon.

7. INFORMATION ITEMS TO AND FROM COMMISSIONERS AND STAFF

The rubber surface at Bushmaster Park is still under warranty and the vendor is looking at temporary repairs until permanent repairs can be made next summer. Staff arborists have begun assessing some of the trees in McPherson Park and it looks like seven trees may need to be removed and pruning work will be completed on some of the others. This should help the issue of shading around the tennis courts at McPherson Park. Commissioners proposed the idea of a Summer recreation map, which would include FUTS, hiking, and biking trails. It was noted that a large transient camp has been set up on the City owned property near Staples. Staff will notify the police about the transient camps and then have crews clean it up.

8. AGENDA ITEMS FOR THE FEBRUARY 21, 2018 MEETING

- Security cameras in parks
- Open Spaces presentations
- FY19 operating budget updates
- Flagstaff Open Space Parks and Recreation (FOSPR) update

9. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Ziegler adjourned the meeting at 5:18. p.m.