

**MINUTES**  
**CARBONDALE PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION**  
**January 12, 2022**

Hollis Sutherland called the in-person/virtual meeting of the Carbondale Parks & Recreation Commission to order at 7:05 p.m. at Carbondale Town Hall on January 12, 2022.

**ROLL CALL**

The following members were present for roll call:

Members:	Hollis Sutherland, Chair Rose Rossello, Vice Chair Ashley Hejtmanek, Member John Williams, Member Leslie Keery, Member Susan Rhea, Member Brian Soby, Alternate Misha Logan, Youth Member
Town Staff Present:	Eric Brendlinger, Parks & Recreation Department Director Jessi Rochel, Recreation Center & Recreation Programs Manager Luis Yllanes, Board of Trustees Liaison Kae McDonald, Boards & Commission Clerk
Guests/Attendees:	Kathleen Wanatowicz, Outgoing Parks & Recreation Commission Member Nancy Peterson, 905 Melissa Lane, Carbondale

**CONSENT AGENDA**

**Motion Passed:** Susan *moved* to approve the minutes from the December 8, 2022, meeting. Rose *seconded* the motion, and it was *unanimously approved*.

**ITEMS FROM CITIZENS PRESENT NOT ON THE AGENDA**

There was no one present, not on the agenda, to address the Commission.

**RECOGNITION OF SERVICE OF OUTGOING PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION MEMBER KATHLEEN WANATOWICZ**

Hollis thanked Kathleen for her years of service as a Parks & Recreation Commission member.

Eric read into the record the memo recognizing Kathleen's service:

"Much was accomplished by the department under the guidance of the Parks & Recreation Commission during her tenure. Kathleen was instrumental in producing a public outreach process that was initially driven by the commissioners to explore the next steps to replace our aging aquatics facility. This effort enabled staff to produce a successful GOCO grant to conduct a funded Aquatics Facility Master Plan process. Due to her background in the field, she has always been a champion for the essential services the Parks & Recreation Department provides to the citizens of Carbondale. She constantly supported the Parks & Recreation Department efforts and provided a voice of reason when we needed it.

We wish her luck in her future endeavors and thank her profusely for her valuable volunteer service and her knowledgeable perspective on all things Parks & Recreation related."

Kathleen thanked the commission for the recognition and noted the importance of the work the Commission is doing. She added that she would like to stay involved with the aquatic facility and commended the members for staying involved in the strategic planning process and implementing the goals in the Master Plan.

Hollis noted Kathleen's positivity and her willingness to look for ways to achieve those goals.

Rose also thanked Kathleen and pointed out that Kathleen was the person that prompted her to apply for a seat on the Commission. She commended Kathleen for being welcoming to commission members and guests alike and for being a great role model.

### **DRAFT 2022 INTEGRATED WEED MANAGEMENT PLAN**

Eric explained that this is the time of year that the department reviews the 2021 weed management efforts and begins planning for the 2022 growing season. He added that once the 2022 plans are solidified, they will be presented for recommendations by the Parks & Recreation Commission and the Environmental Board and submitted to the Board of Trustees for approval.

Eric noted that in 2021, the department set aside two experimental plots at the Nature Park—one of the plots was around the cabin and it was divided into three fenced-in areas while the second plot was in the center of the park in a disturbed area. In the plot around the cabin three strategies were used including an herbicide called Tenacity, a post-emergent herbicide called Avenger and a proprietary product applied by a natural land manager (Alpha Naturals). Eric explained that the Avenger worked, but because it is a non-selective chemical it killed all the vegetation. He noted that the Tenacity slowed weed growth but didn't eradicate the weeds and the Alpha Naturals slowed the growth of bindweed but seemed to act as a fertilizer on other weeds. Eric pointed out that this experiment illustrated the fact that a single product won't kill every type of weed and that re-growth requires a lot of spot applications with a corresponding labor requirement, so it is not a realistic strategy given the size of the Nature Park. Eric added that for 2022 they will revert to previous strategies that may include burning and the use of volunteer hand-pulling of weeds along with possible experimentation with the use of goats for weed eradication. Eric commented that there is such a seed build-up in the soil, they may be right back to where they were and that is the reality of noxious weeds.

Eric pointed out that the meeting packet includes the 2022 Weed Management Plan and specifically highlights the problem parks including the Gateway RV Park, the Nature Park, the Baseball Infields, North Face Bike Park, and Riverfront Park. He noted that they will continue to work with Alpha Naturals, especially on the hillside above North Face Bike Park where the application knocked down the Canadian thistle and worked well on the bindweed. Eric further noted that Avenger didn't work on the bindweed, and they tried to steam both weed types on the Baseball infield with limited success. Eric pointed out that the plan this year will be to apply the Alpha Naturals product and then top dress the infield with new infield material.

#### Questions/Comments:

Susan asked if the Alpha Naturals product is specific to weeds.

Eric replied that the Alpha Natural proprietor has noted that grasses will still grow.

Susan followed up by asking if a pre-emergent product has been used.

Eric responded that they haven't yet resorted to a pre-emergent product because they are trying to treat without chemicals. He added that Michael Callas, the TOC arborist, used Tenacity in the roundabout gardens because there is no public access, and he used that treatment in combination with the weed steamer, but they are still battling the thistles. They are considering an herbicide called Opensight and will consult with the Garfield County Weed Manager regarding its use; Eric pointed out that the herbicide use will be limited to the roundabout.

Susan commented that she thought burning promoted the growth of cheatgrass.

Eric replied that they have burned about 80% of the Nature Park and it keeps the Canadian thistle smaller.

Brian asked if the Parks Department had considered the use of highly alkaline/acidic products in areas where they don't want any vegetation growth.

Eric responded that some organizations use vinegar-based products, but the TOC haven't yet tried them.

Brian suggested that salt-based products may be beneficial and might open other application avenues. Brian also asked if there was an Alpha Naturals product sheet to review and reminded Eric about the misinformation surrounding another “organic” herbicide.

Eric replied that the proprietor of Alpha Naturals—Bee Safe Consulting, LLC—guarantees the product efficacy, but because Alpha Naturals is a proprietary product, there is no product sheet. Eric explained that there is a loophole in how “organic” herbicides list ingredients—there can be a certain amount of non-organic components, but if it isn’t enough to cause damage, the product can still be touted as organic. Eric is planning to continue research on that product.

Nancy Peterson commented that whatever method is being considered for the Nature Park, especially because spring is important for birds and other wildlife, that experts be consulted to mitigate the negative effects of burning and/or herbicide use on the wildlife in the park.

Eric responded that the experimental plots didn’t yield favorable results so other options need to be considered. In addition to possible burning, they will oversee some of the bare areas to see if that will limit the number of weeds that grow.

### **SPECIAL EVENTS TASK FORCE 2022 CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

Eric noted that the 2022 Special Events and street closure requests were presented to the Board of Trustees during their January 11, 2022, meeting. He explained to the commission members that the ad hoc Special Events Task Force was formed in 2013 and has been a great way to bring event producers and interested community members together. Eric informed the commission members that the committee convened twice in December—at the first meeting the 2021 events were reviewed and the 2022 calendar was reviewed at the second meeting. Eric pointed out that “cheat sheets” that have been developed to help event producers deliver the required paperwork are included in the meeting packet and the very first question asks whether the event producer has received permission from the Special Events Task Force. He added that this question allows the task force to review every event and the flowchart allows event producers to gauge their timeline.

Eric noted that the following events have been moved:

- Wilderness Workshop Community Party from September to June First Friday
- Garden Concert has moved from the Thompson House Park to the Bonnie Fischer Park because they were rained out several times in 2021 and the Third Street Center will act as a backup location
- Festival Las Americas from May to June 26th
- Potato Day will be on the first Saturday in October—2022 will be unique because the first Saturday is October 1<sup>st</sup> and therefore Potato Days won’t follow First Friday (the traditional timing helps consolidate street closures). The plan for 2022 is to coordinate with Roaring Fork High School Homecoming Parade to kickoff Homecoming Week.

New Events include:

- A once-per-month gymkhana—although gymkhanas are not a “new” event, the organizers are new
- Carbondale Fall Festival—this event will replace Celtic Fest and OktoberFest and is meant to be a shoulder season tourist-oriented event utilizing the Fourth Street Plaza

Cancelled Events include:

- Easter Egg Hunt
- Green is the New Black
- Celtic Fest and Oktoberfest

Eric noted that other items discussed included extending the street closures for First Fridays in the summer months and allowing Mountain Fair the continued use of the 579 Main Street park space and Weant Boulevard.

Questions/Comments:

Rose wondered if the vendors at the park space and Weant Boulevard will be happy with those locations.

Eric pointed out that the 2021 Mountain Fair was the best year to-date according to the vendors. He also noted that the traditional kid-focused parade will return in 2022, subject to current public health advisories.

Hollis asked why the Special Event liquor license was under the not-for-profit heading.

Eric replied that a Special Event liquor license can't be obtained if it isn't attached to a not-for-profit (501c3) organization; for example, Cowboy Up chooses a not-for-profit that benefits from the proceeds of that event and in turn, the not-for-profit applies for the Special Event liquor license.

Brian asked what percentage of the money ends up being donated to the 501c3 organization.

Eric responded that while he didn't have the explicit legal language in front of him, he presumed that once the event expenses were paid, the remaining proceeds would be given to the 501c3 organization.

Brian followed up by asking if the for-profit organization had to sign a document guaranteeing that they would give money to the 501c3.

Jessi replied that the two organizations work it out and pointed out that the 501c3 organization wouldn't have incentive to apply for the liquor license without some type of benefit.

Luis commented that the process includes Board of Trustee approval, and the liquor isn't being sold for a profit.

Eric responded that the 501c3 organization obtains a liquor license that is attached to a specific event after which the event organizers submit the remaining paperwork which includes proof of the approved license.

Hollis asked if these guidelines had been developed elsewhere and adopted by the Parks & Recreation Commission.

Eric pointed out that the liquor laws apply specifically to events held on Town of Carbondale property and the regulations are handed down from the State government.

Jessi noted that the liquor licenses used to require a state application, but the TOC clerk can now process the request.

Brian suggested uninvolving the Commission as much as possible and limiting the application to a yes/no question.

Eric replied that all the requested paperwork is necessary for each event and thought there was a good calendar of events coming up in 2022.

### **RED HILL TRAIL HEAD SIGN REVIEW**

Eric noted that the final stage of design is being reviewed for the Red Hill kiosk signage and because of the numerous partners and stakeholders the process took much longer than anticipated. He added that each of the panels have been reviewed by the Bureau of Land Management, Red Hill Council, Roaring Fork Mountain Bike Association and Roaring Fork Outdoor Volunteers and that Spanish translations will be included as much as possible. Eric pointed out that the C-Line Trail will be added to the map; it is currently going through the environmental assessment process with the Bureau of Land Management. Eric informed the commission members that a request for proposals is being requested for the manufacture of the panels and a second RFP is being advertised for landscaping and the picnic shelter/outdoor classroom—these items are listed as part of the Aspen Valley Land Trust Resilient Communities grant awarded by Great Outdoors Colorado. Eric was hopeful the signage and landscaping would be completed in early spring.

Questions/Comments:

Ashley asked why the distances weren't listed for each trail segment.

Eric replied that that wasn't an intentional omission, and he will add that recommendation.

Susan wondered whether more of the map verbiage should be in Spanish. She questioned the conflicting verbiage “leash required” versus “leash recommended” and commented that since that can be such a contentious issue it needs to be clear and should include how rules are enforced. She noted that in terms of design aspects there are a lot of different fonts and recommended that the headings should all be the same size/type of font. Susan also suggested using more pictures rather than words. She observed that the acknowledgements take up a lot of space and wondered if that could be edited. Her last comment was that there isn’t any contact information listed.

Eric replied that the contact information is provided as a QR code.

Brian asked if a “User Experience” professional reviewed the signage and asked how the information was created.

Eric replied that given the makeup of the stakeholders—personnel from the Bureau of Land Management, Roaring Fork Mountain Bike Association, and the Red Hill Council—they could all be characterized as “User Experience” professionals and a graphic artist then compiled the information provided.

Susan asked about the listed bike etiquette, noting that some trails say no horses and others say yield to horses.

Eric pointed out that horses are allowed on the Sutey Ranch trails, but not on the trails closest to Carbondale and that is why the symbology is different.

Ashley noted that she typically sees trailhead as one word and asked that Eric check on that convention. She also noted that there were some strange capitalizations throughout the text.

Rose asked that Eric ensure that when the signs are printed there is a sufficient border so none of the signage is obscured by the frame.

Leslie noted that she has observed a lot of fading with blue and darker inks after the signs have been posted.

### **AQUATICS FACILITY MASTER PLAN—NEXT STEPS: BUTLER SNOW (BOND COUNCIL) BALLOT LANGUAGE & BALLOT PROMOTIONAL RULES FOR COMMISSIONERS**

Eric explained that the Resolution No. 3, Series of 2022, was presented for approval at the January 11, 2022, Board of Trustees meeting. He noted that the resolution contained language authorizing a bond election in April and after the parameters of each scenario were presented, the BOT recommended scenario three. Eric added that the BOT also approved the ballot language after adding language under the first bullet point stating:

“The proceeds of such debt to be used for the construction, installation, operation and maintenance of park and recreation facilities including an aquatic center.”

to include for more specificity:

“The proceeds of such debt to be used for the construction, installation, operation and maintenance of park and recreation facilities including to replace the existing aquatic center.”

Eric pointed out that the most important question for the community is if they want to authorize the Town to go into debt without raising property/sales tax by using existing monies at the general fund level. Eric emphasized the fact that community members wouldn’t be subject to additional tax but noted that the ballot language can be confusing. He added that there is good support at the BOT level but there were some questions about how the current facility can be maintained if the ballot doesn’t pass. Eric explained that the original Master Plan reviewed five scenarios that included such an option, and it will be expensive to renovate the existing pool and bring it up to current ADA standards. He also noted that when the GOCO consultants looked at the pool, their opinion was that it would be a waste of time and money to try to utilize the pool facility as is. Eric added that the BOT had questions on fundraising and grant writing and how those endeavors would fit into the process.

Eric pointed out that Butler Snow provided guidelines on how Parks & Recreation Commission members can abide by the Fair Campaign Rules, and these were included in the meeting packet. He asked that the commission members familiarize themselves with the rules, and emphasized that as a citizen of Carbondale, commission members can share their opinion, but no TOC money can be spent on pro or con arguments. Eric also noted that a campaign committee must be separate from the commission and members can’t participate in an official role. He also noted recent opinions in the Sopris Sun published erroneous information and suggested factual responses.

Questions/Comments:

Susan commented that an important aspect of the ballot language discussed at the BOT meeting was that this is a Parks & Recreation tax that can't be utilized for housing or 8<sup>th</sup> Street.

Luis reiterated that the sales tax is dedicated for that purpose and there is less than two years overlap with the Recreation Center bond and a small gap that will be covered with the General Fund. He agreed that the ballot success will have a lot to do with messaging.

Susan noted that if the construction goes over the 8-million-dollar budget, grants and fundraising are essential.

Hollis encouraged the commission members to listen to the BOT meeting recording.

John asked what the estimated timeline would be to retire the bond. He also noted a typographical error in the Memorandum— "...of \$14,433 million for a 25-year term" and asked that it be corrected in the official document.

Eric replied that it is a 25-year bond, but that timeline might be reduced.

Susan asked if the TOC would produce a Blue Book on the ballot pros/cons.

Eric wasn't sure but noted if something is published it must adequately cover both arguments.

Susan asked what the construction timing would be and if the pool would be closed for an entire season.

Eric replied that the planned construction timeline would close the pool in September for a late fall/winter/spring construction with a late opening the following summer.

## **REPORT & UPDATES: STAFF AND COMMISSION MEMBERS**

Eric Brendlinger, Parks & Recreation Department Director:

- Eric invited the commission members to review the 30/60/90-day spreadsheet noting that a lot of projects are planned for Spring 2022; those of note include:
  - Gateway RV radio Wi-Fi—this is the final stage of 30/50 amp installation and there will be no further subsurface disturbance
  - Hendricks playground equipment will be replaced
  - Crystal River/Weaver Ditch efficiency project—if two more grants are awarded, the project will be fully funded. They were able to work with Colorado Parks & Wildlife to expand the construction timeline through September, so anticipated construction would be to start work in the river in July and be completed by late September.

Jessi Rochel, Recreation Center & Recreation Programs Manager:

- The Recreation Center will host a blood drive the first Wednesday in February
- The January Member Appreciation sale—buy three months and get one free—is in progress
- The vaccination clinics hosted by the Recreation Center were well-attended
- A new strength and conditioning fitness class will be offered beginning this month on Mondays and Wednesdays from 12 to 1 pm
- Recreation Center programming currently includes youth basketball, climbing, and hockey, as well as a youth art class. Adult broomball has started, and several cooking classes are being offered
- First Friday was one of the quietest she has been to
- The ice at both rinks is good and much improved from the holidays

Hollis Sutherland, Parks & Recreation Commission Chair:

- Hollis asked how the commission members would like to fill the vacancy left by Kathleen Wanatowicz' resignation. She explained that she would like to see a better cycle of staggered terms (three terms just started, the Youth representative's term expires in 2022, and then there are currently four members and the alternate set to expire in 2023) and suggested a slight shift with the open position expiring in 2022. She

added that if they move the open position to 2022, a decision needs to be made about either allowing someone to fill it and then reapply this summer or leave it vacant.

- She will prepare something to discuss and vote on at the February meeting.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The January 12, 2022, adjourned at 9:00 pm. The next regularly scheduled meeting is scheduled for February 9, 2022, at 7:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Kae McDonald