

**MINUTES**  
**CARBONDALE PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION**  
**January 13, 2021**

Hollis Sutherland called the virtual meeting of the Carbondale Parks & Recreation Commission to order at 7:00 p.m. on January 13, 2021.

**ROLL CALL**

The following members were present for roll call:

Members:	Hollis Sutherland, Chair Rose Rossello, Vice Chair Ashley Hejtmanek, Member Becky Moller, Member Kathleen Wanatowicz, Member Tracy Wilson, Member Celeste Fullerton, Youth Member
Town Staff Present:	Eric Brendlinger, Parks & Recreation Director Jessi Rochel, Recreation Center & Recreation Programs Manager Luis Yllanes, Board of Trustees Liaison Kae McDonald, Boards & Commission Clerk

**CONSENT AGENDA**

**Motion Passed:** Tracy *moved* to approve the minutes from the December 9, 2020 meeting with one correction on page three:5-Points should be referred to as 5-Point Film Festival. Kathleen *seconded* the motion, and it was *unanimously approved*.

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

There were no items from citizens present but not on the agenda.

**2020 INTEGRATED WEED MANAGEMENT PLAN**

Eric brought the commission members up to date on the progress of the Weed Management Plan. After the 2020 Weed Management Plan was presented to the EBoard in February 2020, the pandemic stopped forward momentum and 2021 will essentially be the first use of the plan. By initiating the process in January, Eric is hopeful to have all approvals in place before spring. Besides presenting to the Parks & Recreation Commission, Eric will present to the Environmental Board on Monday, January 25th, and the Board of Trustees on February 9th. Eric referred the commission members to the attachments and pointed out the amount of information built into the process to make educated decisions. He pointed out that the body of the memo addresses the problem parks and how Parks & Recreation personnel are treating these areas. Based upon the information gathered by these personnel, the department now has enough data to present the information to the Board of Trustees for a decision. This year, the department will be requesting some chemical use with the intent to compile data to examine whether its use was successful. The requests are primarily for spot-spraying specific types of A, B, or C list weeds, and Eric reminded the commission members that there is a state mandate to eradicate these types of weeds. Eric asked for feedback from the commission members and added that he feels like the department is following the rules and will complete the required public notification. The department will also be reaching out to natural land managers managers as well as Steve Anthony, the Garfield County Vegetation Manager for other potential non-chemical weed management suggestions.

Questions/Comments:

Kathleen noted that while this is not her area of expertise, she would like the Parks & Recreation Commission to consider their philosophy to approaching weeds.

Hollis responded that the Weed Management Plan already states the philosophy. She offered to send another copy to those commission members that are interested.

Becky added that the plan in its entirety is the Town of Carbondale's philosophy on weeds.

Luis followed up by stating that the management plan is not just the philosophy, but the TOC's messaging on herbicides. He pointed out that with people spending more time outside—especially because of Covid—there may be more sensitivity about the use of chemicals and asked that the public messaging is explained and advertised well.

Eric responded that the goal of the plan is to maintain good soil health. He went on to say that the revegetation plan still needs some thought, but he plans to rely on the advice of land managers for that piece. Luis asked if application areas will be closed to the public. Eric replied that they will and pointed out that the plan identifies the specific steps for the process. He also added that all information will be reproduced in Spanish, as well.

Rose complimented Eric on the plan and its specificity. She prefers alternative methods to eliminate weeds but understands the importance of eliminating them. She asked where the public noticing will be placed. Eric responded that the signage placement will be based on the manufacturer's recommendation for each chemical used. They will be posted on signboards in multiple spots at each location and the area may also be physically closed as well.

Becky added that the posting will occur within at least 48 hours before the chemical application.

Rose noted that she would prefer as much advance notice as possible.

Hollis pointed out that the plan states at least 48 hours notice but wondered if Parks Department personnel could post even earlier. She also noted that community members can sign up for e-mail notifications.

Tracy suggested using a QR code on the signage that will take people to the Town's website.

Becky asked for clarification on the Dog Park plan--specifically the plans to burn and pick two locations for trial use of chemical herbicides. Eric answered that they will be attempting to propagate a rust fungus that has successfully eliminated some thistle as well as learning more about that process. They would also like to get a better feel for Avenger, which is a non-selective burn-down herbicide—they have found that it eliminates the above-ground portion of the weed but doesn't kill the root system. Another trial is a systemic chemical on the burdock and thistles.

**Motion Passed:** Rose *moved* to approve the 2021 Weed Management Plan as presented. Tracy *seconded* the motion, and it was *unanimously approved*.

### **AQUATICS FACILITY MASTER PLAN & NEXT STEPS**

Eric has provided a link on the agenda to a very large file that contains the updated Aquatics Facility Master Plan that will be presented to the BOT Work Session next Tuesday, January 19th at 6:00 pm. The document is now at 90% completion and has addressed the information requested during the last BOT Work Session that included:

- An in-depth operation analysis comparing a 15-week season against an expanded season;
- High, medium, and low, cost recovery analysis—the BOT thought the original estimates for revenues versus expenditures was too high. Eric suggested that an expanded season and more public use may increase the cost recovery;
- Funding mechanisms for construction
  - o Original funding was based on the Recreation Sales and Use Tax at its current level;
  - o BOT requested reviewing other revenue streams before a bonding process;
  - o If \$1,000,000 is raised by using the Recreation reserves and grant sources and a bond is used to secure the remaining funding, a \$380,000 annual payment will be required to retire the bond. Possible revenue streams to cover this payment include \$200,000 after the Rec Center bond is relieved, a possible increase (would require public approval) to the Recreation Sales and Use Tax, Naming rights and/or sponsorship, or forming a foundation.
  - o All of the revenue streams will need to come together to secure the funds for the pool construction, otherwise a less-costly project may need to be considered.

Questions/Comments:

Becky asked how can the lap pool accommodate 100 people as it is listed in the plan and wondered how accurate that number was. Eric responded that the estimate was over the course of a day, not at one time.

Kathleen asked if the financial piece needed to be solved at this meeting. She asked what needed to be done at this meeting to prepare for next week's BOT Work Session and what was needed to keep the project moving along. Eric replied that the point of the Master Plan was to explore a variety of options, but it does come down to what can be funded with the available revenue streams.

Kathleen asked if there was money available for a second cost analysis. Eric responded that the Master Plan presents a realistic cost. He pointed out that there was enough feedback on the conceptual design that it can be used as a benchmark, however the final design might not exactly mirror the proposed design. He added that the work products for the current contract have been completed, but a secondary contract could be entered into if more work is required.

Becky pointed out that this may be another Master Plan that Carbondale can't afford.

Eric thought the project just needs more work on the funding piece.

Luis added that the Master Plan provides a stark realization of what is needed to pull off such a project. The BOT does not have a lot of appetite to go through the bonding process based on the costs and a minimal expanded season. He thought that a foundation would be great but noted that it would require a full-time employee to work on it.

Becky was disappointed in the results but noted that there was time to raise funds or figure out a way to complete the project in different phases or add more band-aids to the one we have.

Kathleen stated that she is not giving up and that this is a process all major municipal projects go through.

Eric pointed out that the reality is that this is what it costs to build an aquatic facility. He thought it was possible to consider a smaller building or the phase-in the design elements. The Master Plan is generally optimistic and lays out the nuts-and-bolts of the project.

Eric is planning to invite the members of the working group to the BOT Work Session. Hollis indicated that she could attend and Becky thought she might be able to as well.

**SPECIAL EVENTS TASK FORCE 2021 CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

Eric included the 2021 Calendar of Events as approved by the BOT last night, contingent on public health orders at any given time. Celtic and Oktoberfest are cancelled for 2021 in order to accommodate rescheduled events. There are two new events on the calendar—the O2 event and the Pickleball Tournament.

Questions/Comments:

Tracy asked that the contact for Bonedale Bike Week be updated with her name as the contact (Bonedalebikeweek@gmail.com--it is a collective email).

**P & R COMMISSION 2021 MASTER CALENDAR DRAFT**

Hollis is organizing the Parks & Recreation Commission calendar to reflect the month-by-month tasks required of the commission. She hopes that it will be a good way to orient new commission members and is looking for input on items to add.

Questions/Comments:

Eric asked about the RVR Triangle Park quarterly review.

Kathleen reminded the commission members that it had been decided to check in with the RVR Board and get feedback on what was happening with the parks.

Eric thought that twice per year—preseason and postseason--would probably be sufficient and noted that RVR also maintains a couple of riverfront parks.

Kathleen asked that Gateway RV Park be added to the calendar. She would like to discuss its future, the highest and best use of the space and how to monetize it more.

Eric suggested adding that topic to April's agenda.

Ashley appreciated Hollis' effort and suggested checking in with groups such as RFOV, the Tree Board and GOCO.

### **UPDATE HIGHLIGHTED PARKS, RECREATION AND TRAILS MASTER PLAN**

Eric pointed out that Jamie had added the correct plan yesterday and if the webpage is refreshed, it will pop up with the corrected version. Eric added that the Master Plan continues to be a working document and it is still directing the workflow of the Parks & Recreation Department. Hollis asked Eric if he could provide a list of accomplishments to acknowledge at next month's meeting.

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

Eric Brendlinger, Parks & Recreation Director:

30/60/90 Staff Work Plan and Outstanding Project Status Report:

- Eric referred the commissioners to the last page of the packet for more detailed information.

Jessi Rochel, Recreation Center & Recreation Programs Manager:

- Will is teaching youth hockey at the ice rink through the first week of February;
- Youth climbing will start again after ice hockey is over;
- Margaret is working on the course for the Full Moon Winter Tri. The event has been modified to accommodate current Covid protocols;
- 51 Letters to Santa were mailed in December;
- The St. Mary's Blood Drive maxed out last week with 47 donors.

Luis Yllanes, Board of Trustee Liaison:

- No real updates. Carbondale Public Arts is accepting the Bear Sculpture by the dog park, which has been donated to the TOC, and a possible new location is being discussed.

Tracy Wilson, Parks & Recreation Commission Member:

- She has noticed some divisive language on the Carbondale Facebook page which is disappointing because she sees Carbondale as a hopeful, engaged, and community-loving town. She asked that the Parks & Recreation Commission continue to be an example of positivity and civil discourse.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

The January 13, 2021, regular meeting adjourned at 8:40 pm. The next regularly scheduled meeting is scheduled for February 10, 2021 at 7:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Kae McDonald