

MINUTES
CARBONDALE PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION
October 14, 2020

Hollis Sutherland called the virtual meeting of the Carbondale Parks & Recreation Commission to order at 7:05 p.m. on September 9, 2020.

ROLL CALL

The following members were present for roll call:

Members:	Hollis Sutherland, Chair Rose Rossello, Vice Chair Ashley Hejtmanek, Member Becky Moller, Member John Williams, Member Kathleen Wanatowicz, Member Tracy Wilson, Alternate
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Town Staff Present:	Eric Brendlinger, Parks & Recreation Director Margaret Donnelly, Aquatics/Wellness Coordinator Kae McDonald, Boards & Commission Clerk
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CONSENT AGENDA

Motion Passed: Tracy *moved* to approve the minutes from the September 9, 2020 meeting. Ashley *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.

YOUTH ART PARK GOCO MINI-GRANT CONCEPTUAL DESIGN PRESENTATION

Nicholas DiFrank and Amy Kimberly attended the Parks & Recreation Commission to present the conceptual design for the Youth Art Park, which was recently awarded a GOCO mini-Grant. The park will be located behind the Carbondale Recreation Center between the Rio Grande soft trail and the existing fence. Although the design was originally centered on the pedestrian walkway, it was shifted approximately 200 feet in order to better take advantage of the Mount Sopris view. Another goal of the design was to take advantage of the railroad grade change. The design process began in mid-July with a visioning process on how to incorporate “art” and “play” while breaking down the “Do Not Touch” barriers many grew up with. Ultimately, the guiding force was a play on the concept of parkour “p-Art-kour” synthesizing active and passive play. The design will also need to provide stacked value (for example, including an area for an amphitheater/performance area/outdoor classroom) while also satisfying five criteria:

- Safe
- Open
- Inclusive
- Accessible
- Exciting

Top Level Organizing columns also include:

- Playful
- Adventurous
- Creative
- Educational

Design elements selected will further aid in the translation of a mountain environment with kids’ play. Based on these considerations, two designs have been developed. Program Exploration A provides a symmetrical layout with

the outdoor classroom/programming space in the center with a soft surface trail and play areas on either side. An Artwall/mural will provide local high school seniors the opportunity to reflect on their ideas and experiences. The area will be ADA-accessible.

Program Exploration B is the design option that has received the most positive response. The outdoor classroom/programming space is angled for the best view of Mount Sopris. The soft surface trail will skirt the outdoor classroom and will allow programming to proceed uninterrupted by passers-by. The Artwall is still included and the design will provide ADA-accessibility, as well.

Questions/Comments:

Kathleen asked if the area is designed with an “experience” or story in mind. Nick responded in the affirmative explaining that the play experience will be closely intertwined with the art wall—the goal is to mesh art and play together. He did note that Program Exploration A has a more formal quality, while Program Exploration B is more informal in design and the spaces are more broken up.

Kathleen followed up with a question about who will be making the final decisions on design. Amy responded by pointing out that this is a five-year project and so far they have worked with 7th graders on particular design elements, they have exhibited the plan at the Library, and they have had design boards posted at First Bank and the LaunchPad. The feedback from this outreach has distilled the project into something workable. Nick added that they have also had a community zoom meeting where they received good feedback, as well.

Ashley asked what the Town of Carbondale’s role was. Amy responded that while the project is primarily a Carbondale Arts project, the Town will administer the GoCo grant. RFTA is also a partner—they will help where they can, and they also own the property.

Eric pointed out that the Town has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between Carbondale Arts, RFTA, and the Parks & Recreation Department. Carbondale Arts will maintain the park and RFTA will continue to maintain the trails.

Hollis asked about liability insurance. Amy replied that Carbondale Arts holds adequate insurance coverage and will also name RFTA as an additional insured.

Tracy had a series of questions and comments:

- Will the seats in the outdoor classroom area be stationary or movable?
- Will a ramp be incorporated into the soft trail to provide ADA accessibility?
- How do you plan to address the compatibility of the mural art and the possible need to repaint with maintaining the integrity of the climbing handholds?
- What is the selection process for the art wall?
- In her experience, insurance rates are significantly higher for climbing walls with heights exceeding eight feet.
- Option B was her favorite design.

Nick replied that the seats in the outdoor classroom will be stationary, but the seat placement will accommodate ADA accessibility. The art wall will be separated from the climbing wall, and the selection process will include all Roaring Fork High School seniors.

Hollis noted that the designs focus on active play, but not all kids can participate in that type of play. She asked if the design is taking that into consideration. Nick replied that the focus is really on experiential play and ADA access will be accommodated in all areas.

Amy also pointed out that the park is funded entirely by the amount of money raised, and it will be designed so elements can be phased in as funding allows.

Eric added that shade should also be considered in the final design.

Tracy added that adding a white board or wall across from the outdoor classroom seating would enhance the learning experience.

Becky asked how long RFTA will allow the park to exist. Amy replied that although the RFTA right-of-way is railbanked and could be converted back into a transportation corridor, that likelihood is slim for at least the next 20 years. She also noted that nothing permanent—like trees—will be installed in the area.

A quick survey of the commission members indicated a preference for the Program Exploration B design.

END OF SEASON POOL REPORT

Margaret presented the season-end report for the pool. Operationally, everything went well under the Covid protocols instituted, but the financials were significantly down due to the limited number of patrons that could use the pool at any one time. There were a total of 1400 lap swim reservations and 500 family zone reservations with an average of four people per family zone visit. The reservations for both lap swim and family zones was 1 hour and 15 minutes compared to 45 minutes at other facilities across the Roaring Fork valley. Margaret noted that most of the lap swimmers were quite happy with the reservation system, but she was disappointed by the lack of LatinX users. Margaret thought that the two primary factors most likely limiting the number of LatinX patrons were that the translation of pool information into Spanish has not been completed and that group reservations required a supervising adult. Margaret's goal is to complete the translations over the winter. She also noted that once patrons figured out when the reservation time slots opened, especially for the lap swim lanes, those people tended to monopolize the system. If Covid protocols are required again next summer, she will try to provide more family zone time slots and possibly limit patrons to two reservations per week. Her final point was that this season emphasized the need for separated lap swim and recreation pools—most lap swimmers are comfortable with a water temperature of 84 degrees or less, while the recreational users preferred a water temperature of 86 to 90 degrees.

Questions/Comments:

Kathleen indicated that she would like to get more involved in strategies to encourage pool use by a broad range of patrons.

Hollis congratulated Margaret on a great job extending the season and providing the best quality of service under the current situation.

TIMELINE TREE STUMP INSTALLATION

John is crafting a "timeline tree stump" from a large tree that had to be cut down next to the Thompson House museum. John estimates that the tree is approximately 120 years old, and it provides the opportunity to document historic events that occurred in Carbondale over the last century. He is donating his time and effort to craft the product, and a local printshop will be providing the tags. The final location has yet to be determined, but John is working with the Parks Department staff to secure a location that will protect it but also be available to a wide audience. He provided a list of events to be highlighted in the packet and welcomed additional suggestions.

OFFICER ELECTIONS FOR 2020-21 COMMISSION CHAIRPERSON AND VICE-CHAIR: VACANT COMMISSION POSITION

Eric officiated the election for Parks & Recreation Commission Chairperson and Vice-Chair. Hollis had expressed an interest in remaining as Chair and Rose was interested in remaining as Vice-Chair; there were no other nominees. Because of the virtual nature of the meeting, Eric asked for a show of hands in support of each candidate. Based on a unanimous vote, Hollis was re-elected Chair and Rose was re-elected Vice-Chair.

Eric brought up the fact that Genevieve had resigned from the Parks & Recreation Commission after the last meeting, which means there is a vacant member position as well as a vacant youth representative position. Rose brought up the fact that Genevieve resigned because she had felt bullied. She suggested all the commission members take a hard look at their behavior and reminded them that they are representing not only the Parks & Recreation Commission, but the Town of Carbondale, as well. She and Hollis will be putting a position description together for review at a later meeting.

Hollis indicated that it will also give the commission members a chance to review the bylaws and reflect on whether they continue to accurately describe the philosophy of the commission.

Tracy remembered getting a handout when she began serving on the commission. Tracy went on to express that although it was unfortunate that Genevieve didn't feel comfortable as a commission member, she thought it was important to have dissenting opinions. Referring to Genevieve's MEM project, Tracy thought that the policy for proceeding through the project wasn't clear and navigating that challenge was lost in the process. She added that the intentions of the commission members were good, but perhaps it didn't come across as well as it could have because of differing personalities.

Hollis agreed with Tracy and went on to point out that it wasn't about dissenting opinions, but more about decorum.

Ashley supported a review the by-laws. She would also like to see more diversity in the commission member skill sets and thought it would be great to have someone on the commission that was engaged in youth athletics.

Rose knows of at least two people that may be interested in applying; she will touch base with them and have them send Kae a completed application.

Tracy indicated that she is comfortable in the role of alternate and would prefer to remain in that role for the foreseeable future.

REPORT & UPDATES: STAFF AND COMMISSION MEMBERS

Eric Brendlinger, Parks & Recreation Director:

30/60/90 Staff Work Plan and Outstanding Project Status Report (it is the last page of the packet):

- The Sopris Park gazebo is being painted;
- Electric service is being enhanced at the rodeo grounds;
- The 50-amp project at the Gateway RV Park is being completed this fall;
- The contract for the Red Hill signage and amenities has been awarded;
- The fence permit for Nuche Park will be presented to the RVR Board for approval on October 21st;
- Upgrades to Gianinetti Park are in progress;
- A work session for the Aquatic Master Plan with the BOT is planned for November 17th;
- The fencing project at White Hill Cemetery has been postponed until 2021;
- Because Eric has been spending a lot of time working through Covid-related questions, the MEM project presentation has not been completed;
- Programming at the Rec Center is working well. The next priority is to figure out how to safely provide youth climbing classes.

Rose Rossello, Parks & Recreation Commission Vice-Chair:

- Asked if there were any specific guidelines for Halloween. Eric recommended reviewing the State and National Covid protocols.

John Williams, Parks & Recreation Commission Member:

- Related an issue with a possible vicious dog and asked if the commission could do something. After a lengthy conversation, it was recommended that John forward the issue to the Code Enforcement officer, and if that didn't produce results to contact the Chief of Police directly.

ADJOURNMENT

The October 14, 2020, regular meeting adjourned at 9:20 pm. The next regularly scheduled meeting is set for November 11, 2020, at 7:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Kae McDonald