

MINUTES
CARBONDALE PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION
October 16, 2019

Becky Moller called the Carbondale Parks & Recreation Commission meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. on October 16, 2019, in the Town Hall meeting room.

ROLL CALL

The following members were present for roll call:

Members:	Becky Moller, Chair Tracy Wilson, Vice Chair John Williams, Member Hollis Sutherland, Member Rose Rosello, Member Genevieve Villamizar, Member
Absent:	Camy Britt, Alternate Ashley Allis, Member Luis Yllanes, Board of Trustee
Town Staff Present:	Eric Brendlinger, Parks & Recreation Director Kae McDonald, Boards & Commission Clerk

CONSENT AGENDA

Motion Passed: Tracy *moved* to approve the minutes from the September 11, 2019 meeting. Hollis *seconded* the motion, and it was *unanimously approved*.

PERSONS PRESENT NOT ON THE AGENDA

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

CAFCI PRESENTATION AND PROGRESS REPORT ON TRAIL BENCHES AND LIAISON FOR PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION – NIKI DELSON

Niki Delson, the Co-Chair of Carbondale Age-Friendly Community Initiative (CAFCI) gave a progress report on the installation of a bench along the ditch trail behind Heritage Care Center. Accompanying Niki was Sue Zislis; Sue is a retired pediatric physical therapist who has experience in universal design. CAFCI is an ad hoc caucus of seniors and others with the purpose of improving a variety of issues not only for seniors, but those with other challenges, as well. Since CAFCI made their last presentation at the Parks & Recreation Commission, Carbondale was accepted in June, 2019, as the 13th community in the State of Colorado that has the national AARP designation as an age-friendly community. AARP partners with the World Health Organization (WHO), so acceptance into AARP's designation by extension includes that designation with the WHO. Niki went on to explain that the AARP and WHO recognition is less about being "designated" than it is an aspiration, with the goal that as government and citizens consider age-friendly issues, they realize that by resolving these issues they are also improving the community for everyone.

The current project evolved as a way to provide a destination point for caregivers to take residents of Heritage Park along the ditch trail behind the facility. CAFCI partnered with Parks & Recreation, Public Works, and Heritage Park to work out the legal issues and design criteria. Private donations funded a majority of the project. Eric pointed out that the "Donation Bench" usually installed by Parks and Recreation (it is a specific type of bench that requires minimal maintenance) was found to be uncomfortable by many seniors, and they worked with CAFCI to find a better bench design. Niki also pointed out that as they worked with Public Works to engineer the slab, they improved the design to include two benches in a conversational setting as well as wheelchair access. The total cost per bench came to \$1,725.00 and includes a customized plaque.

Sue commented on the issue of universal design and that the goal of "furniture" such as benches is to be supportive while sitting, but also to make it easy to stand back up. The type of material used is also important. She also stressed that the issues CAFCI is addressing should not focus on "old folks," but it can benefit everybody and allows people to take charge of their health.

Niki finished by stressing two things:

- There are a lot of grants available for projects serving vulnerable populations on the western slope. She would like to find a liaison with Parks & Recreation to coordinate with CAFCI. After a short discussion, Tracy volunteered to serve as that liaison.
- There is a CAFCI event scheduled for November 21st, and she would love to see members of the Park & Recreation Commission in attendance.

Questions/Comments:

Becky pointed out that universal design is a priority in the Master Plan. She also asked if the plaques placed on the bench were of a standard design. She also commented that there was a bench on the trail between the Cemetery and Village Lane; and that at some point its location and design might be addressed. Her final request was that CAFCI keep the Parks & Recreation Commission informed of their activities, so the Commission can incorporate and coordinate their plans with those of the Town.

Rose was very complimentary of CAFCI's accomplishment and asked when CAFCI met (to which Niki replied that they met twice a month, currently on Sundays, but that may change in the future.)

Hollis added that she thought it was a good idea for CAFCI to have a Parks & Recreation Commission Liaison. She also asked if accessibility was being incorporated into the improvements to Miners Park (to which Niki added that she would like to talk with TOC staff about whether there might be grants to go after for more accessibility improvements.)

John was very encouraging and would like to see more benches in other areas of Carbondale. He also volunteered to be the liaison if Tracy can't.

Tracy was also very supportive, and pointed out that there was a new Assisted Living project being built off the bike path (to which Niki replied that they have already been working with the project proponents and TOC staff). She asked how the money for the project was processed.

Eric responded that there are specific policies for donations such as benches. The Town accepts the donations and acts as the fiscal agent, and Parks & Recreation orders the bench and checks the language on the plaque. However, no orders are placed until the full cost of the bench and plaque are in hand.

Hollis asked if accessibility has been considered with the Miners Park upgrades (to which Eric replied that they had).

Genevieve invited CAFCI to be a stakeholder in her project at the Nature Park.

VILLAMIZAR MEM PROJECT RELOCATION

Although not on the agenda, Genevieve's invitation to CAFCI to be part of her project at the Nature Park sparked a whirlwind of comments from Commission members. Eric indicated that because of some other plans in the works for the North Bridge Park, Genevieve's proposal had been transferred to the Nature Park. Genevieve indicated that because there is no document in place for the Nature Park, her plan was to look at historic and current uses, ongoing maintenance, and how policy has been shaped for the park. There was considerable pushback from Commission members on several points including how and why the Nature Park was substituted for the RVR Park, in which role Genevieve would be representing herself (Commission member versus Stakeholder versus Graduate Student) through the project, how her "Wild Child" concept would be incorporated into an open space that has historically been designated as an off-leash dog park, and whether Genevieve's project is or should be considered a Master Plan or a Research Project. Ultimately, all agreed that in light of the location change, Genevieve's proposal needed to be reconsidered and discussed again at the next Parks & Recreation Commission meeting.

PARKS & RECREATION QUARTERLY REPORTS

Eric presented the quarterly reports that are submitted to the Board of Trustees. He suggested that the Commission members read through them on their own time.

APPOINTMENT RECOMMENDATION FOR KATHLEEN WANATOWICZ FOR ALTERNATE POSITION

Eric presented Kathleen Wanatowicz' application to the Parks & Recreation Commission as an Alternate Member.

Motion Passed: Hollis *moved* to recommend Kathleen's application as an Alternate Member of the Parks & Recreation Commission to the Board of Trustees. Becky *seconded* the motion, and it was *unanimously approved*.

OFFICER NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS FOR 2020 BOARD CHAIRPERSON AND VICE CHAIR

According to the resolution that established the Parks & Recreation Commission, elections for the Chair and Vice-Chair must take place as soon as possible after the 1st of October. Nominations were opened, and Rose indicated her interest in being Vice-Chair. Becky and Hollis indicated their interest in being Chair. After voting, the Chair is Hollis and Vice-Chair is Rose.

HOUSEKEEPING

Becky asked Eric if the painting of the playground equipment as brought up by Rose at the September meeting had been completed. Rose also asked if the Merry-Go-Round would be maintained through the winter season. Eric replied that the painting would most likely take place later in November, weather permitting. John also mentioned that the dog agility equipment had been installed at the Hendricks Dog Park.

REPORT & UPDATES

Eric Brendlinger, Parks & Recreation Director:

- The post-tension slab for the Pickleball Court will be poured by the middle of the following week. North Face Park will be closed for safety considerations during the process;
- Interviews for the Aquatic Facility Master Plan will take place on Thursday. The finalists are Design Workshop and Connect 1;
- Eric will be at Red Hill on the upcoming Monday to identify the placement of signage along the trails;
- Special Event Task Force will reconvene on November 20 and December 4 to finalize the 2020 events.

Becky Moller, Chair of Parks & Recreation Commission:

Becky attended the Penny Hot Springs Steering Committee Meeting two weeks ago. Although she missed a portion of the meeting, there was resolution of four items:

- Vision Statement: Keep it as natural as possible...;
- Recommendations to the Pitkin County Open Space Board ...;
- The Committee was unanimous in not allowing dogs at the hot springs;
- Parking

ADJOURNMENT

The October 16, 2019, regular meeting adjourned at 9:05 pm. The next regularly scheduled meeting is set for November 13 at 7:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Kae McDonald