

MINUTES
CARBONDALE PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION
November 10,
2021

Hollis Sutherland called the in-person/virtual meeting of the Carbondale Parks & Recreation Commission to order at 7:00 p.m. at Carbondale Town Hall on November 10, 2021.

ROLL CALL

The following members were present for roll call:

Members:	Hollis Sutherland, Chair Rose Rossello, Vice Chair Leslie Keery, Member Ashley Hejtmanek, Member Susan Rhea, Member Misha Logan, Youth Member
Town Staff Present:	Eric Brendlinger, Parks & Recreation Department Director Jessi Rochel, Recreation Center & Recreation Programs Manager Margaret Donnelly, Aquatics and Wellness Coordinator Luis Yllanes, Board of Trustees Liaison Kae McDonald, Boards & Commission Clerk
Guests/Attendees:	Nancy Peterson, 905 Melissa Lane, Carbondale Sue Zislis, 648 Surrey Road, Carbondale Niki Delson, Carbondale Age Friendly Community Initiative

CONSENT AGENDA

Motion Passed: Ashley *moved* to approve the minutes from the October 13, 2021, meeting. Susan *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.

AQUATICS/WELLNESS COORDINATOR END OF SEASON REPORT

Margaret presented the aquatics end-of-season report:

- There were 7,624 admittances for 2021 (In 2019 there were 4,593 general admittances and 5,200 including swimming lessons)
- The pool was open for 18 weeks (15 weeks is normal)
 - The facility went overbudget on staff to stay open the three extra weeks
 - There were 25 partial day closures, 22 of which were for thunder/lightning
- The pool achieved a 28% cost recovery (this is well within the average for most aquatic facilities)
- There are several maintenance expenditures before the end of the year which will affect the final numbers for the 2021 aquatic facility budget
 - Hot water heaters will be installed on December 2nd
 - The diving board didn't pass the 2021 inspection and with the decision not to replace it, the diving board support structure needs to be removed
 - The storage building roof needs to be replaced
 - When the electric line was cut it shortcircuited the Chemtrol apparatus and it will either need to be repaired or replaced. If it is replaced (at a cost of \$16,000.00), it will have an extended life and can be transferred to the new pool if needed
 - Several pvc pipes need to be replaced
- In addition to water aerobics and swimming lessons, Margaret sponsored the "Swim to Sopris Challenge"
 - It is 15.9 miles from the pool to the Mount Sopris summit and participants could choose to summit 1,

- 2, or 3 times.
- Participants who summited once were awarded a tank top, participants summiting twice received a t-shirt and participants summiting three times were awarded a sweatshirt
- There were 44 participants with 14 summiting once

Questions/Comments

Susan asked if these numbers were included in the CIP.

Margaret responded that everything was included in the aquatic facility budget line items.

Susan asked if there was a way to get an actual count of how many distinct people used the facility. She thought it might be helpful to gauge how the pool population might expand with the new aquatic facility.

Margaret replied that that kind of head count would be hard to breakdown with the current Sportsman software used.

Rose congratulated Margaret on a great job and added that it was a great pool experience this year. She appreciated the swim instructors and the fact that there was always someone manning the front desk.

Margaret noted that under Covid protocols in 2020, they moved the front desk area next to the outside gates and decided to continue to use the location this year. Margaret added that the next Health and Wellness event is the Turkey Trot on Thanksgiving morning. She encouraged everyone to participate in the 5k or 1 mile run/walk, although prizes would only be awarded to the 5k participants. She also needs about 10 or 12 additional volunteers to either help set up between 7:30 and 9:30 am or help guide races and clean up between 9 and 11 am. She also needs volunteers to make miniature pies or cupcakes.

Luis asked when the rate benchmarking for the pool would be reviewed.

Margaret replied that the pool rates are tied to the Recreation Center rates and would be reviewed at the same time.

Jessi added that the Recreation Center rates were reviewed in 2018 and benchmarking occurs every five years, so the next rate review would be in 2023.

Hollis wondered if it would be worthwhile to review the rates earlier.

Eric replied that it would be a hard sell because the pool is losing features (for example, the diving board) rather than gaining features.

Luis countered that the pool has seen a steady increase in users and the community seems to enjoy it, so it might be a worthwhile endeavor.

CARBONDALE AGE FRIENDLY COMMUNITY INITIATIVE (CAFCI) OVERVIEW AND INTRODUCTION TO THE OUTDOOR LIVABILITY ASSESSMENT TOOL (OLAT)

Hollis asked Niki Delson (CAFCI Co-Chair) to share key points and projects of the Carbondale Age Friendly Community Initiative. Niki explained that CAFCI is an Ad Hoc caucus of older adults in Carbondale that is a policy driven advocacy group with the goal of registering as a 501(c)(4) organization. She added that CAFCI is distinct from the two 501(c)(3) program-driven nonprofits (Valley Meals and More and Senior Matters) that serve the older adult community in Carbondale. CAFCI officially became a member of the National AARP Network of Age-Friendly States and Communities in 2019. The Network is an independent affiliate of the World Health Organization's Age-Friendly Cities and Communities Program. Niki pointed out that Colorado was the third state to join the program and Carbondale was the 13th municipality in the state to join in 2019; she added that Carbondale is the only town in Garfield County with an age-friendly organization. Niki noted that CAFCI's mission is guided by AARP's eight domains of livability, there is overlap with the Parks & Recreation Commission. Niki added that CAFCI would like to open dialogue with the Parks & Recreation Commission to bring national and global resources more effectively to those domains that overlap:

- Outdoor Spaces

- Respect and Inclusion
- Healthy Communities
- Social Participation

Hollis asked Niki to share some examples of projects CAFCI has undertaken that fall in line with the Parks & Recreation Master Plan.

In response, Niki listed several examples:

- Sidewalks/Trails
 - Through the AARP-approved Walking Audit, CAFCI was able to examine the sidewalks along the Bike, Pedestrian and Trails Commission designated priority corridors. This audit provided key information and helped trigger the current 8th Street Project. During the audit, CAFCI members were also able to connect with nine people with mobility issues.
 - CAFCI was also able to coordinate the placement of benches along the Weaver Trail that were strategically located to provide for a resting place along a popular route taken by Heritage Park residents. CAFCI was able to partner with the Town of Carbondale Parks and Public Works Department with an easement approved by Heritage Park and the benches donated by private citizens.
 - CAFCI is also coordinating the installation of a compressed surface under the two benches along the Rio Grande Trail near Dos Hombres.
- Aging in Community will be a focal point of the Comprehensive Plan update
- CAFCI doesn't solicit for public funding—their goal is to be strategic with their advocacy to better help those organizations they work with.

Susan asked if there was a standard for bench spacing.

Sue Zislis commented that while there are Americans with Disabilities Act recommendations for indoor spaces, outdoor spaces are much more difficult. She added that there are universal design philosophies, but these are also dependent upon environmental constraints.

Niki added that CAFCI did bring the question up to RFTA because there are no accessible-appropriate benches the length of the Rio Grande Trail from DeRail Park to Main Street.

Hollis thanked Niki for her presentation and asked her to explain the Outdoor Livability Assessment Tool.

Niki began by explaining that she can share the concept, but CAFCI doesn't have permission to use or disseminate the assessment tool yet. She explained that CAFCI had been considering what it meant to be accessible and how they could go about assessing Carbondale's parks. Niki posted a request on the AARP Age Friendly Network Forum Board requesting input about the topic and she received contact information for someone who has developed such an assessment for urban living spaces and parks. CAFCI has asked for permission to beta test the assessment tool in a rural community—the second draft of the assessment tool is included in the meeting packet. Niki shared that they have used the tool and written a summary but can't release the results yet.

Hollis asked Eric if he could share how he sees the use of the assessment tool and commented that she thought it was important to let the Commission members know about this tool and how it may be used.

Eric responded that he envisions it to identify deficiencies in the parks, especially to provide hard data during budget season. Eric noted that the department is six years through the current ten-year Master Plan, and it would also be a good tool to use as the Commission develops the next Master Plan.

Sue Zislis commented that CAFCI would prefer to use it to delineate the strengths of each park, rather than the deficiencies, and be able to share that with the public. She added that accessible can mean a lot of things and they would like to identify features in public parks that would encourage community members to get outside.

Hollis noted that the Town website has a page that provides a high-level description of each park, and this tool might be a way to provide more detail.

Sue reminded the commission members that accessibility doesn't always equal mobility—it could be visual or sensory, as well.

Ashley commented that as a landscape architect, her firm has used a professional group to perform a complete accessibility report. She cautioned that the OLAT delves into ADA requirements and while she understands that while CAFCI doesn't want to draw attention to the deficiencies, the OLAT isn't a complete ADA assessment, and it could become problematic. Ashley asked when there was an ADA assessment of all TOC facilities completed.

Susan asked for confirmation that the assessment tool wasn't ready.

Niki confirmed that it was not, but pointed out that there are lots of pieces that could be addressed right now including:

- Adding a contact phone number to a park sign to report maintenance issues
- Incorporate wayfinding throughout the community
- Address details such as the discrepancy between park hours listed on the web page and park signage

Susan commented that she feels like enforcement is lacking throughout the community.

Hollis explained that the police department requested an enforceable time rather than "dusk" which can vary throughout the seasons and noted that the web page may not have been updated.

Niki asked if the Parks & Recreation Commission would like to participate with CAFCI on this project.

Susan thought the partnership would be a good idea.

Ashley thought that more information on the intention and deliverable was needed before the Commission agreed to participate.

Susan countered that even with the final product some aspects may not be applicable and suggested a rating system.

Ashley wondered even if a park isn't fully accessible, does that mean that something must be done about it? She thought it would be worthwhile to have a conversation with the Town Attorney.

Niki commented that there isn't an expectation that every park must be accessible to every person. She suggested publishing a wayfinding device with icons that explained what was available at each park (for example, if the bathroom is wheelchair accessible).

Susan added that the assessment would help with the park inventory.

Leslie suggested accentuating the positive instead of promoting a grading system. She thought the icon system was a great idea.

Sue Zislis agreed with Leslie that the goal was to be positive. She reiterated that there isn't an expectation that everything would be accessible to everyone--especially with outdoor spaces.

Hollis suggested a continuing conversation with Niki as CAFCI continues to refine the OLAT and invite them back when the tool was ready. She also suggested that commission members interested in working on this project reach out to her.

Niki added that Carbondale has great parks, and this is a way to advertise them. She also pointed to the opportunity to install pocket parks in areas that need more green space.

Eric appreciated the Commission's discussion and Ashley's perspective. He acknowledged that the story map needs to be updated and thought some of the highlighted information could be added.

2021 BUDGET: PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLANS & FIVE-YEAR CIP SPREADSHEET, BUDGETED COST RECOVERY, RECREATION SALES AND USE TAX BALANCES

Eric commented that he has included the final version of the 2022 Parks & Recreation Capital Improvement Plan in the meeting packet; this memorandum was presented to the Board of Trustees earlier in the fall and describes those capital improvements that are attached to the 2022 budget. Eric noted that the attachment also includes anticipated capital improvements for 2022 through 2026.

Questions/Comments:

Susan asked Eric to clarify the funding mechanisms for the Crystal River Front Park.

Eric explained that this project was lengthy and has been in-process since 2016 and various funding sources have been utilized due to the nature of the project which includes ditch, river, and upland components. He noted that it is a complicated project, but the design is now completed. He pointed out that although the project received U.S. Army Corps of Engineer approval because the work window is affected by whitefish spawning, a new timetable will need to be worked out and until the new timetable can be worked out and approved, the Colorado Water Conservation Board grant has been pulled.

Susan commented that she noted the numerous references to needed signage in the Master Plan but observed there is no mention of signage in the CIP and wondered where expenditures for signage would be included.

Eric replied that signage expenditures would be a line item in the regular budget and noted that the signage designated for Red Hill and for the entrance to Weaver Cemetery are included in the CIP.

Hollis reiterated that key projects are included in the CIP while other expenditures are included in the regular budget.

Eric agreed and added that capital improvements are defined in the first section of the memorandum.

Luis added that there is more detail concerning maintenance in the annual municipal budget.

Ashley asked about the "Burke Move With Us" grant listed as the first item in the CIP.

Luis replied that it will be used for improvements to two playgrounds.

Eric confirmed that in 2022 it would be specifically for the playground at Hendricks Park.

Hollis asked Eric if it was possible to maintain consistency with the use of colors in the charts (for example, revenue switches from blue to orange).

AQUATICS FACILITY MASTER PLAN—NEXT STEPS: HILLTOP SECURITIES SCOPE OF WORK DOCUMENT

Eric referred to the cost recovery charts included with the CIP memorandum to understand how much money is used for current operations.

Hollis asked for confirmation whether "Rec Center" referred to the facility and "Rec Department" referred to staff.

Eric clarified that "Rec Center" was for programming.

Ashley commented that she appreciated the chart published in the Sopris Sun that listed big ticket items.

Luis commented that while there is an increase in Sales Tax, there is also an increase in costs. He suggested engaging the community well before the next election because it might not be a slam dunk.

Eric noted that the letter of engagement with Hilltop Securities is included in the meeting packet and explained that they will assist TOC staff in getting the bond underwriters to write the ballot language for the upcoming 2022 municipal election in April. Eric added that there will be a presentation to the BOT on November 23rd proposing a 25-year bond with five different funding scenarios:

- Two would propose no new taxes (utilize existing funds)
- One would propose a limited tax
- One would propose an unlimited tax (a general obligation bond or mill levy)
- One would propose a multi-pronged approach to increase sales tax

Eric commented that the BOT will decide which approach is most favorable and the ballot language must be approved by January 7.

Susan asked how the bond council is defined.

Hollis pointed out that the bond council is defined by the BOT.

Susan asked if the same entity would manage the bonding process.

Eric replied that the bonding agent is a municipal advisor acting on behalf of the TOC and the Bond Council will act as underwriter. He added that a third party will need to be formed to promote the vote outside of TOC staff or the Parks & Recreation Commission.

Rose asked that the commission members be informed if support is needed at the upcoming meetings.

Hollis requested that what the commission members can or can't do be clearly defined.

Eric replied that that will depend on the funding mechanism.

BOARD ORIENTATION HIGHLIGHTS

This topic was postponed to a later meeting.

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 projects that are finished have been moved to the completed column.

Jessi Rochel, Recreation Center & Recreation Programs Manager:

- The Recreation Center hosted another successful blood drive that day
- They have implemented several changes to the Recreation Center including moving the equipment back to their pre-Covid locations
- They have 10 teams participating in the current volleyball league
- Youth programming includes Dinky Dunkers and youth basketball
- New fitness classes include a mat Pilates class Tuesday and Thursday from 12 to 1 and spin classes will be offered beginning in December on Tuesday and Thursday at 7 am, 12 noon, and 6 pm
- A recent Senior trip was to the Grand Junction museums and an upcoming trip will be to the Alpaca Farm and Battlement Mesa Christmas Craft Boutique
- First Friday in December will be Light Up Carbondale with a full suite of events

Hollis Sutherland, Parks & Recreation Commission Chair:

- Hollis announced that Misha came in second out of 300 participants in his age group in the 5k sponsored as part of the lead up to the New York Marathon.

Susan Rhea, Parks & Recreation Commission Member:

- Susan asked several questions about the Weed Management Plan, the timeline for updating the Master Plan, the Nature Park and Hillcrest Cemetery
- Given the potentially lengthy conversations these topics might lead to, they were tabled for another meeting

ADJOURNMENT

The November 10, 2021, regular meeting adjourned at 9:05 pm. The next regularly scheduled meeting is scheduled for December 8, 2021, at 7:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Kae McDonald