



Minutes
Carbondale Parks & Recreation Commission
Regular Meeting
November 8, 2023

Hollis Sutherland called the in-person and virtual meeting of the Carbondale Parks & Recreation Commission to order at 7:02 p.m. at Town Hall, Room 1.

The following members were present for Roll Call:

Members:

Hollis Sutherland	Chair
Rose Rossello	Vice-Chair
Leslie Keery	Member
Drew Sorenson	Member
Eli Cohen	Youth Representative

Town Staff Present:

Eric Brendlinger	Parks and Recreation Department Director
Margaret Donnelly	Recreation Center Manager
Erica Sparhawk	Board of Trustees Liaison
Kae McDonald	Boards and Commissions Clerk

Guests:

Rachel Brenneman	Manifest Communication
Fred Porter	213 Holland Thompson Drive

1. Roll Call

2. Consent Agenda

Motion to approve the Parks and Recreation Commission October 11, 2023, Meeting Minutes.

Moved by: Drew Sorenson

Seconded by: Eli Cohen

Carried

3. Items from Citizens Present Not on the Agenda

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

4. Action Items

4.1 Manifest Communications Dog Park Signage

Rachel Brenneman referred to the mock-ups from several meetings ago, noting that the commission members had provided lots of good ideas and feedback to incorporate into the Nature Park final product including:

- Changing the large blocks of color from blue to teal
- Refining the icons
- Identifying the electric fence
- Making the phrases more consistent
- Eliminating the cursive fonts
- Adding a key
- Accentuating the parking area

Rachel explained that for the “Do’s and Don’t’s” Sign she simplified the messaging and eliminated the cursive fonts.

Drew expressed his appreciation for the edited version, noting that the message was very clear, and the language made more sense.

Eli questioned whether the double negatives on the “Don’t’s” column should remain.

Hollis didn’t think that would be an issue, pointing out that most people would only be glancing at the sign and wouldn’t absorb that detail. She also complimented Rachel on the sign.

Eric noted that the QR codes on the sign would land users on a specific webpage that will provide a lot of information.

Drew asked if the short loop path near the entrance of the Nature Park could be added. He also wondered if the existence of the social trail through the center of the park should be formalized, pointing out that it is very visible on the Google Earth map. Drew noted that there is a lot of research on the amount of space ground-nesting song birds require and that there is a report by the Audubon Society that speaks to dog predation on meadowlark nests.

Eric replied that that would require addition signage on-site to train people, noting that they may mimic the BLM’s use of posting “This trail is being reclaimed” and they will need to act

before the trails are braided. He added that there will be a cantilevered kiosk at the Nature Park that will afford more space to add information for the park's users. He acknowledged that the Google Earth image is representative of current user patterns and wasn't sure he wanted to take any of those trails away.

Rose suggested adding "Don't" make your own trail or "Don't" go off trail.

Rachel moved on to the Hendrick and Glassier signs and asked if the commission members thought it would be helpful to include the name of the park at the top of the sign. She acknowledged that both signs were much simpler than the Nature Park sign.

Rose commented that she appreciated the distinction between the parks that allow dogs and those that don't. She pointed out that having the name at the top was not necessary because they would already be at that park.

Hollis asked that the "Nature Dog Park" be changed to the "Nature Park," because the Nature Park is the official name and dogs are allowed to be there.

Rose suggested "No Dogs Allowed" instead of "Dogs Not Allowed." She also suggested adding a happy dog face and a sad dog face under the respective heading, and shading the words in the same color as those areas that allow or don't allow dogs.

Hollis countered, suggested all that was needed was a symbol like that on the Nature Park sign that depicts a dog with a line through it.

Leslie thought it was a little confusing the state "no dogs allowed."

Hollis pointed out that dogs aren't allowed in all the other parks.

Eric thought it best to just shade the star next to the word so the readability isn't lost.

Rachel explained that these final changes will be made, and the project will move forward. She pointed out that duplicate signs will be produced in Spanish, as well.

Eric added that a Request for Proposals will be advertised for the signs manufacturing, and they would like to finish the project using funding in the 2023 budget. He added that the kiosks have already been ordered and installation is anticipated for early spring.

5. Information Only Items

5.1 Parks & Recreation Department's 2024 Budget Highlights with action plans

5.2 Aquatics Facility Design and Construction Update

Eric explained that they are exploring a new technique for presenting budget highlights to the Board of Trustees that explains how the Parks and Recreation budget supports the BOT goals and objectives as well as identifying which budget line item is being used. He noted that many documents were used to create the FY-2024 programming requests including the Integrated Weed Management Plan, the Special Events Task Force, the Crystal Rivier Restoration Plan, the 2015 Ten-year Parks, Recreation and Trails Master Plan, the Gateway River Park and Gateway RV Park Master Plan and the Carbondale Aquatics Facility Master Plan. He identified each of the goals and objectives:

- Parks Maintenance and Recreation Programming
- Communications
- Park Master Planning
- Capital Improvements

- Climate Action Plan and Path to Net Zero for New Construction and Existing Buildings

Hollis asked about the Dog Park Signage, noting that she thought the money was allocated in the 2023 budget? She asked if the 2024 allocation could be for new signs.

Eric replied that the 2024 funding was for production but no new signage for other parks. He referred to the Aquatics Facility Design heading, noting that they will get updated information tomorrow in anticipation of the upcoming November 14th BOT meeting. He added that the budget exercises had previously been based on a year-round pool design and because the costs were too high, a more recent cost exercise scaled back to a six-month operating season. He noted that Land + Shelter will also be creating a document that outlines the project's timeline of decision making that led to the current budget projects.

Hollis encouraged anyone available to attend the November 14th BOT meeting because it would be informative and will also demonstrate the Commission's engagement on this project.

Eric added that the current challenge is to figure out the difference in cost of electrifying the building and using a heat pump for the pool versus electrifying the building and using gas to heat the pool.

Erica noted that an air source heat pump will provide the temperatures needed for the pool project and geothermal wasn't practical for a seasonal pool.

Fred Porter stated that he is a fan of heat pumps for heating.

Eric reiterated that the project is currently over budget, and they need to consider big picture savings to bring the budget down.

Fred passed out several bar charts that depict the costs associated with various combinations of gas and heat pumps, noting that he preferred to use the 2030 greenhouse gas factors rather than 2025. He summarized his findings:

- Resistant heat doesn't save much, and it is expensive.
- There are debates on upstream emissions using gas.
- With heat pumps there are fewer emissions as the transition to renewables supports the electrical grid and he supported leveraging off-site solar farms for electricity needs.

Fred also analyzed hybrid heat alternatives, suggesting that a combination of gas and smaller heat pumps might be the most cost-effective option. He added that using a large heat pump might not be efficient, but there would still be an emissions reduction.

Eric asked if Fred thought the heat pumps that were included in the cost projections might be overkill.

Fred wasn't sure, but suggested considering the use of a separate heat pump for the spa because the water must be heated so much higher.

Hollis asked if alternative energy sources were being used elsewhere.

Fred noted that there is a lot of adaptation in Australia and Europe. He pointed out there is a state grant available for heat pumps and while Holy Cross tends to focus on buildings, they may provide some help.

Eric reiterated that the question remains whether the project can afford the cost of air source heat pumps, noting that just one heat pump is \$600,000 and they will need two plus the cost of the heat exchangers.

Erica explained that based on her background, she raised questions because she felt there were inconsistencies in the cost until she realized they were based upon a year-round pool

design. She pointed out that the bond was based on a seasonal pool and a more in-depth conversation might have been had if a year-round pool had been proposed. Erica also noted that part of the cost includes a 100% gas backup of the systems. She stated that she wants to make sure that everyone has a realistic expectation of the technology and if there is a decision that gas is the most viable option right now, it is important to be transparent and plan for a future opportunity to make it better.

Hollis asked if they are still considering how much fundraising is needed.

Eric replied that that will be discussed at Tuesday BOT meeting. He explained that it was discussed during budget discussions and an estimate is 1.6 million for the capital campaign along with a request for 1.6 million from the general fund.

Erica added that the current project cost estimate is 11.6 million which would be for an all-gas pool and building and not many amenities.

Rose asked if there will be a tiered estimate that would be useful for fundraising for added amenities.

Fred suggested exploring the possibility of taking the heating system out of the budget and financing it through a performance contract.

Eli stated that if the budget is released it needs to be paired with information on sustainability projections.

Eric pointed out that he included a list of possible grant and funding sources in the packet.

Rose asked if a grant writer had been hired yet, pointing out the upcoming submission deadlines on some of the grants listed.

Eric replied that that is being considered, but that the grant writer would provide services for multiple Town departments not just for the pool project.

5.3 Project Updates

Eric updated the commission members on the Chacos Park Master Plan project, noting that RE: Land was awarded the contract. He added that he has met with Nicholas DiFrank several times and they have developed a timeline for the project. Eric noted that it will be a three-month process with anticipated completion by the end of February. He asked if anyone would be interested in serving on the Steering Committee.

Drew indicated a possible interest.

Eric updated the commission members on the beaver deceivers, noting that they have explored the issue further and the issue seems to be stemming from the culvert under the road on private property in tandem with the ditch that is located along the eastern edge of the Nature Park – it appears that the culvert is blocked and with the ditch is still running full both of the culverts on Town property are still under water. Eric anticipates working with the neighbor to see if the ditch water can be diverted so the water will recede enough to determine what is causing the flooding.

Eric explained that, after the “poop flagging” was published last year, Independence Run and Hike approached him about installing dog pots farther uphill to provide dog owners more opportunities to dispose of the waste properly. He added that IRH is willing to fund two new stations and regularly service them if they can add their brand to the units, which Eric agreed to. He noted that the IRH employees will also be carrying branded dry-bag backpacks to transport the waste which will be disposed of at Public Works. He wasn’t sure what the volume

would be yet and that will determine IRH's level of commitment. He added that the new dog pots should be installed by the end of the week.

Eric noted that they are beginning the process to input all the cemetery data into the CemSites database and receive training on the software. He pointed out that the new plots on White Hill won't be saleable until they are using CemSites.

Eric asked if anyone was interested in a tour of the Crystal River Restoration Project, noting that it must be done before the December 1st Bald Eagle closure.

5.4 **Special Event Task Force Agenda & Meeting Schedule**

Eric explained that the first meeting of the Special Event Task Force is scheduled for Friday, November 17th at 3:30 pm in Room 1 at Town Hall and it will be a recap of the 2023 event season. He welcomed anyone interested to attend. Eric added that the second meeting will develop the 2024 schedule and it will be Thursday, November 30th from 6 to 8 pm. He noted that they will then present their findings and draft calendar to the BOT on January 9th. He explained that this is also a good time for the public and neighbors to provide input and pointed out that an invitation has been extended to property owners surrounding the rodeo grounds, but also cautioned that each event is only one piece of a larger picture.

Rose indicated that she will be attending, but also encouraged new attendees.

5.5 **Reports & Updates: Staff & Commission Members**

- Eric Brendlinger, Parks & Recreation Director
 - Eric announced that the Rec Center Staff and invited parents and coaches will participate in an Aspen Institute focus group on the "State of Play" in the greater Roaring Fork Valley.
- Margaret Donnelly, Rec Center Manager
 - The most recent older adult trip was to the Botanical Gardens; they had seven attendees.
 - Gateway RV Park reservations are open for the 2024 season.
 - The pool has been drained and covered; Lia has moved almost everything that will be retained for the new pool into the Parks storage.
 - Broomball reservations are open.
 - They are reviving the Cooking Matters classes; the first class will be November 28th and the classes are geared for lower-income individuals.
 - There were 13 parks and facility reservations.
 - Lia is offering a new fitness class in lieu of Silver Sneakers Boom; one of the fitness instructors is on maternity leave and a new class has been added on Tuesday and Thursday at 9 a.m.
 - The October climbing classes are done. They will offer a November class and then pause the class until Youth Basketball is over.
 - Adult volleyball is ongoing.
 - Tae Kwan Do is ongoing.
 - Dinky Dunkers will finish next week and there was a total of 30 kids participating; they had to add two additional sections to accommodate all that were interested.
 - Youth basketball is full, and practice begins Monday, November 4th.

- Indoor Pickleball has started.
- The Turkey Trot is scheduled for Thursday, November 23rd. They currently have 111 registrants and have a goal of 400. Margaret still needs volunteers. It will also be Jamie's last day.
- Upcoming older adult trips include the Eagle Winter Market this Saturday, November 11th, the Alpaca Farm on December 8th, and the Glenwood Caverns Winter on the Mountain on December 15th.
- Will is offering a three-day sports camp as part of a new "No School" program.
- A Roaring Fork High School Senior is hosting a Game Night as part of her capstone project. It will be open to five-to-seven-year-olds on November 16th from 5 to 7 pm and to eight-to-twelve-year-olds on November 17th.
- December 1st Friday will be "Light the Night."

Rose asked if Margaret had considered partnering with the Fire Department to provide oxygen tanks for seniors that might need the additional assistance during fitness classes.

Margaret replied that those that might need oxygen usually bring in portable tanks.

- Erica Sparhawk, Board of Trustees Liaison
 - The Board of Trustees are making their way through the budget process.
 - Community Grant reviews are upcoming; 1% of the Town's revenues are allocated for these grants. They are timing their allocation with the tobacco tax payments which support mental health programs. The tax payments open additional opportunities to fund other groups through the community grant allocations. It is also an example to Basalt and Glenwood Springs of the opportunities to do the same thing.
- Parks & Recreation Commission Members
 - Hollis announced that Hannah-Hunt Moeller, the Chair of the Environmental Board, is looking to collaborate with the Tree Board, Parks and Recreation Commission, the Planning and Zoning Commission, as well as Town Staff to review landscape standards in the code with the goal of developing water-wise standards.

6. Adjournment

The November 8, 2023, meeting of the Carbondale Parks and Recreation Commission adjourned at 9:06 p.m. The next regular meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, December 13, 2023, at 7:00 p.m. in Room 1 at Town Hall.

Respectfully submitted,

Kae McDonald

Boards & Commissions Clerk, Town of Carbondale