

MINUTES
CARBONDALE PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION
December 9,
2020

Hollis Sutherland called the virtual meeting of the Carbondale Parks & Recreation Commission to order at 7:00 p.m. on December 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
Guests:	Celeste Fullerton, Prospective Youth Member Brian Soby, Prospective Alternate 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: Rose *moved* to approve the minutes from the November 11, 2020 meeting. John *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.

ROARING FORK OUTDOOR VOLUNTEERS SEASON RECAP AND FUTURE PROJECTS FOR COLLABORATION—Jacob Baker

Jacob presented the Roaring Fork Outdoor Volunteer 2020 Review and 2021 Preview. He noted that even with Covid limiting many activities, RFOV logged more participation in 2020 than anticipated. There were two main reasons for this level of activity: 1) Community members were looking for ways to reconnect; and 2) The nature of the work (swinging a pick-ax, for example) provides a built-in social-distancing dimension. In the Carbondale area, 546 hours were logged on projects including trail building and maintenance on Red Hill and Prince Creek/The Crown Trail network, Thomas Lakes and Hay Park Trails, Avalanche Creek Trail, the Carbondale Nature Park and the Carbondale Artway. In 2020, RFOV sponsored 146 field days and partnered with 60 different groups and agencies.

RFOV anticipates 2021 activities to represent continuity with respect to trail work, habitat restoration and education, but also changes with an increased focus in Pitkin County, the greater Marble area, and taking the lead for restoration efforts within the Grizzly Creek burn area. The organization will also increase their focus on creating accessible trails. In the Carbondale area, RFOV will be leading the effort to build a new trail (County Road 112 to Red Hill) on the Sutey Ranch property along with continuing trail maintenance efforts.

In terms of the Parks & Recreation Commission involvement, Jacob encouraged the commission members to remember that for RFOV, outdoors is defined as anywhere that is not inside. After good success in Glenwood Springs, he would like to partner with Carbondale groups to assist in community and stewardship education.

Questions/Comments:

Eric pointed to the successful movement of the parking areas and trailhead at Red Hill and was looking forward to

working with RFOV on continued trail maintenance. Jacob added that it would be helpful to know which trails needed the maintenance, and where. He also pointed to the numbers of new visitors to these areas and suggested that new trail users may benefit from education on how to recreate responsibly. Eric responded that they will be installing trail tracking software which will help finetune those details. New signage will also be posted soon.

Luis appreciated RFOV's efforts, and suggested RFOV apply for a community service grant from the Town of Carbondale.

Hollis asked if it made sense to add Nuche Park for habitat restoration consideration.

Eric responded that that park was on his list for projects in Carbondale. Creating a specific parking area for this park is planned for spring. He added that any trails at Nuche Park must be primitive. He went on to mention that the department has had good success with the Summer Advantage program, which would be a third partner for in-town/close-by projects.

Eric asked Jacob if RFOV will be working with Carbondale Arts in the volunteer coordination for building the last project along the Artway. Jacob responded that RFOV has not yet been approached, but they are working with Carbondale Arts on other projects around Carbondale.

Luis mentioned that planning for trails within the Coffman Ranch conservation easement should be coming up in 2021 or 2022. Jacob responded that RFOV does partner with Aspen Valley Land Trust and have been discussing a longer-term trail project. The goal for this property is to make it accessible to the community but maintain its status as a working ranch and protect habitat.

NOMINATIONS FOR VACANT COMMISSION POSITION AND INTERVIEWS

Eric introduced Celeste Fullerton and Brian Soby. Celeste is interested in the youth commissioner position and Brian is interested in the alternate position.

Celeste is a junior at Roaring Fork High School. She likes to hike and before Covid was in Tae Kwan Do. She likes to hike and has volunteered for Mountain Fair as well as school activities. She understands the commitment of the position and is willing to attend the commission meetings.

Questions from Parks & Recreation Commissioners:

Ashley asked Celeste what location in Carbondale she loved the most and what she thought could be improved. Celeste answered that she really likes the dog park.

Eric asked Celeste what she was planning for her capstone project. Celeste answered that she is creating a pamphlet, a website, and a movie centered on the prevention of teen vaping.

Brian moved to Carbondale from Portsmouth, New Hampshire. He has two young children and is an avid user of the town's parks as well as Red Hill. His perspective for the commission would be kid-centric use of the parks. His business interests are split between the CoVenture office in Carbondale and a California technology company. Brian asked about the influence the Parks & Recreation Commission had on recreation areas outside the town limits. Eric replied that with regards to Red Hill, Aspen Valley Land Trust purchased the space the fronts Highway 133 with the intention of re-dedicating it to the Town of Carbondale. This land purchase created the safest way for trail users to access Red Hill and multiple agencies were and remain involved in the development and maintenance of the area including the Town of Carbondale/Parks & Recreation Department, AVL, Roaring Fork Mountain Bike Association, Red Hill Council, RFOV, Garfield and Pitkin Counties, and the Colorado Department of Transportation. In terms of the Prince Creek and The Crown trail systems, it is the TOC's responsibility to safely get people to those trails.

Questions from Parks & Recreation Commissioners:

Hollis asked Brian if he would have any conflicts regarding meeting attendance. Brian assured the commission members that he would be able to attend most meetings.

Motion Passed: Ashley ***moved*** to recommend to the Board of Trustees the approval of Celeste Fullerton as the Youth Representative and Brian Soby as Alternate Member on the Parks and Recreation Commission. John ***seconded the motion***, and it was ***unanimously approved***.

AQUATICS FACILITY MASTER PLAN UPDATE

Eric referred the commission members to the attachment in the packet that was presented to the Board of Trustees during the recent Work Session. The consultants continue to work on the funding analysis which may include the creation of a foundation for tax-deductible donations. They were also tasked with parsing out the operational costs and cost recovery levels including revenue streams that can't be utilized by the current pool. Because the consultant's scope of work changed due to Covid protocols, the consultants asked to move under-utilized funds to the work completed that was not listed in the original scope, to which Eric was agreeable. There is yet to be a timeline on when the Master Plan will be completed and presented for acceptance.

Questions/Comments:

Becky noted that at the last meeting the possible location of the pool behind the Rec Center was discussed but that the information presented in the packet only refers to the Main Street location. She wondered which was correct. Eric replied that once the consultants parsed out all of the costs for the location behind the Rec Center it didn't present the cost savings anticipated, so at the BOT Work Session it was decided to concentrate efforts on the current location.

Rose asked if the lap pool were still going to be located next to the building. Eric replied that the consultants will be completing a cost comparison between an extended season versus a normal season. If the numbers for an extended season are positive, it would necessitate the lap pool being located next to the pool building.

Hollis asked if the lap lanes would be open year-round, or just for an extra month or two in the spring and fall. Eric pointed out that the current design of the building calls for year-round use, but he wasn't sure about year-round use of the lap pool.

Hollis followed up by asking what the process would be once the Master Plan is complete. Eric replied that the plan would present information on funding sources as well as the funding process, and that that conversation would also include the BOT. If a bond process is chosen to fast-track the project, there will need to be a consideration of the timing for that process. Specifically, the bond for the Rec Center will be relieved in 2024 and the Town's budget will need to be reviewed to see if there are enough funds available to front construction costs before that time.

SPECIALS EVENTS TASKFORCE AND NEW MOBILE STAGE RENTAL PROCESS

Eric announced that although the Special Events Task Force usually meets twice in December, because so many events are on hold for the first part of 2021 only one meeting is needed. Eric is working with Jamie Wall, and they have sent out the tentative schedule of events to organizers along with a series of questions to firm up the timeline. A lot of spring events have been either cancelled or postponed until later in the year, so the calendar is still being developed and may look different from past years. For example, "Green is the New Black" was cancelled for 2021, the 5-Point Film Festival was rescheduled until October, and the Skate Revival was pushed until later in August. The Task Force will have to consider these differing timelines and reach out to the neighbors, etc. to make sure that it is acceptable. With the delivery of the mobile stage, the task force will also discuss how best to use it, as well as whether new neighbors will be affected. Once the task force pulls a working calendar together, the BOT will also have a chance to review it.

Eric asked for feedback from the commissioners on the mobile stage. He hopes it will be an amenity that the community will want to use, but its use will need to be balanced by the fact that trained staff will need to set it up and break it down without incurring too much overtime. There will be fees to rent it and Eric referred the commission members to the benchmark rates in the packet.

Questions/Comments:

Hollis asked if the 5-Point Film Festival moves to October this year, will it be scheduled for March in 2022? Eric wasn't sure, but he thought that some consideration for the filmmakers will need to be given.

Ashley asked if there will be a geographic limit where the stage can be rented. She also asked if it must be set up only on the TOC property. Specifically, she wondered if it could be used at a ranch venue outside the Carbondale town limits. Eric replied that he would consider its use in the 81623 zip code and that it might be used on private property as long as the rental contract and damage deposit had enough "teeth."

Becky asked if there were specific groups that might rent it and where in town might it be located. Eric thought

appropriate locations might include the Gus Darien rodeo arena, North Face Park, and some streets. He thought the mobile stage would fill a special event niche that isn't being realized right now—for example, using it to host a drive-in movie in the Roaring Fork High School parking lot or possibly for weddings or quinceaneras.

John asked if the trailer unfolds and the stage pop ups? Eric concurred and indicated that the stairs, skirting, and all the other pieces fit inside the trailer.

Eric added that because of Covid he anticipates non-profits asking for fee waivers, but staff costs won't be waived. Luis thought that the fee waiver would be okay for non-profits but was concerned about potential damage costs. Eric responded that regardless of the fee waiver, there would still be a substantial damage deposit requirement.

John asked if additional insurance would be required for the stage over-the-road time. Eric replied that he would need to consider that.

Hollis asked if any of the commission members had any issues on waivers for non-profits. Rose indicated that she would prefer to discuss each request individually rather than give a blanket okay. Becky added that each organization would still have to go through the established process for a fee waiver—it just extends to the stage now.

Becky asked why the stage was purchased. Eric responded that the stage that they had was no longer usable. He added that the new stage has a life span of at least 20 and possibly up to 30 years.

Rose wondered if there should be a cap on the number of fee waivers awarded by each quarter or on an annual basis, so the process doesn't become overwhelming. Eric replied that he doesn't want the fee structure to limit the stage use but he acknowledged that there is a fine line before there is too much use—especially with regards to staff time and burnout.

Hollis thought the fees seemed fair.

John thought that the staff cost of \$35.00 seemed low. Eric replied that as of now, the only staff trained for set up and take down are Russell, Derek, and him. Set up takes about 50 minutes and only one trained staff person is required along with an assistant.

Becky asked if it would be possible to keep a tally of who is renting the stage and why. She also asked if it was possible to base a sliding fee on annual income for individuals that might want to rent the stage.

Hollis asked that in addition to the tally of users, keep a tally of inquiries as well.

Eric responded that the whole point of benchmarking was to keep the fee structure simple and trying to include a sliding scale for individuals could become very complicated.

Ashley pointed out that there wasn't a private category on the rate sheet. Eric responded that quinceaneras are placed in the business use category.

REPORT & UPDATES: STAFF AND COMMISSION MEMBERS

Eric Brendlinger, Parks & Recreation Director:

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

- Due to time limits, Eric asked the commissioners to review the last page of the packet for more detailed information.

Becky asked if Christmas tree chips would be placed on the trails at the Nature Park. Eric said he would check with Mike Callas—if they are used for that purpose it will be after the snow melts.

Jessi Rochel, Recreation Center & Recreation Programs Manager:

- The December First Friday was very successful and even scored a spread in the Glenwood Springs

Post Independent;

- There is a blood drive scheduled for January 6th;
- The Rec Center is hosting youth art classes, climbing classes and Tae Kwan Do;
- Letters for Santa will be available in December;
- An ADA compliant automatic door will be installed on December 14th.

Luis Yllanes, Board of Trustee Liaison:

- The 2021 budget was approved at the last Board of Trustees meeting and included line items for the remaining electrical work at the RV park as well as Red Hill.
- He gave a kudos to the Parks & Recreation Department for their continued hard work.

John Williams, Parks & Recreation Commission Member:

- Most senior groups are staying home, but he has noted that the Pickleball courts at North Face park are full on most sunny days. He has observed that many players aren't wearing masks and wondered how to handle the situation.

ADJOURNMENT

The December 9, 2020, regular meeting adjourned at 9:00 pm. The next regularly scheduled meeting is scheduled for January 13, 2021 at 7:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Kae McDonald