

MINUTES
CARBONDALE PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION
February 13, 2019

Becky Moller called the Carbondale Parks & Recreation Commission meeting to order at 7:08 p.m. on February 13, 2019, in the Town Hall meeting room.

ROLL CALL

The following members were present for roll call:

Members:	Becky Moller, Chair John Williams, Member Ashley Allis, Member Todd Chamberlin, Member
Absent:	Hollis Sutherland, Member Tracy Wilson, Vice Chair, Rose Rosello, Member Genevieve Villamizar-Alternate Camy Britt
Town Staff Present:	Eric Brendlinger, Parks & Recreation Director Jamie Wall, Facility and Special Events Coordinator

CONSENT AGENDA

Ashley Allis ***moved*** to approve the minutes from the Parks & Recreation Commission meeting on January 9, 2019. John Williams ***seconded*** the motion, and it was ***unanimously approved***.

PERSONS PRESENT NOT ON THE AGENDA

Malcolm McMichael (board member of the 3 Rivers Little League): Concerned for popular sports – difficult to build new fields. Not sure on numbers/field availability issues in Carbondale for baseball and softball. Reaction to proposal: looks great. Field scheduling/forecast of demands. Specific to baseball: little bit of growth and could create problems. 2 of 3 baseball facilities have shared space in Carbondale.

Eric mentioned that the RVR field in Triangle Park and the Tiny Nightingale shared space with soccer use during the spring seasons. Due to an overlap with Little League and TOC Recreation Department's summer baseball and softball league, so there is a short window where the two leagues overlap (May & June) and the leagues don't have enough field space – doesn't justify building a new field facility.

Eric mentioned a few additional things about the park and shared space and how we arrived at the present design for pickleball Plan C.

- Multiple events can happen at the same time: creating more parking issues
- All of our open space is utilized. What do we give up to have more land/space? The proposed plan creates more play elements, could drive more people to the park.
- Bike Polo: not interested in artificial turf, but they are interested in utilizing the open space on grass and potentially the outfield of the Bill Hanks for Tournaments due to the grass and lights.
- Users of the Park currently: Adult softball, little league, youth baseball, t-ball, adult kickball leagues, and rentals.
- Nice to have extra space for other players/teams to warm up on – when fields are all being used. Pitchers need a place to warm up outside of the playing area.
- No preference on Plans, as long as the number of parking spaces doesn't change.

Jim Noyes Representing Roaring Fork Pickleball Association: Plan C makes the most sense (while having tournaments the courts are closest to Tennis Courts). Plan B doesn't offer anything more than plan C. Plan A is something we can live with but the court is jammed in between parking lot and road (no room for tents for special events and tournaments).

Stats: 35 pickleball players on average between 7am-11am. Peaked one day at 75 – but didn't last because people couldn't play. With dedicated courts – you can play all day – weather permitting. Don't see pickleball immediately growing, but over time yes. Fundraising: excavation issues might be a problem and could run into a clay soil that would require additional excavation work. Cost estimates 250k – confident we will get the money, but not sure how fast. Goal would be to build in 2019 with fundraising. Bank loan through Alpine Bank. Requires personal collateral.

NORTH FACE PARK-MASTER PLAN PUBLIC OPEN HOUSE, PUBLIC SURVEY DISTRIBUTION AND DATA COMPILATION

Plan A: 16%

Plan B: 11%

Plan C: 73%

(Based on the Plan you chose) Elements most excited about:

1. Futsal/Lacrosse fields
2. Close proximity pickleball/tennis courts (more room for tournaments)
3. Dedicated courts
4. Compact
5. Alignment of courts
6. Fastest growing sport in USA
7. Access to Skate Park
8. Separation of tennis and pickleball courts

What aspects of the proposed North Face Park improvements are you most concerned about?

1. None
2. Long term maintenance
3. Who will pay for it
4. Bathrooms
5. Lighting
6. Shade
7. Paving and vehicular stripping of parking space at both parking lots
8. Security of courts (skateboarders)
9. We already have tennis courts with pickleball lines, why more of the same thing
10. Not kid friendly
11. Parking – traffic flow
12. Losing grass fields
13. Visually obtrusive
14. Loss of other sports venues
15. Separate space for soccer field – not wrapped around pickleball courts
16. Appearance, fragmenting of the open space
17. Losing open space
18. Parking and infrastructures being able to handle the demand
19. Too much congestion

What additional elements or features would you like to see included in the park?

1. Bathrooms
2. Water fountain
3. Developed Parking
4. Viewing stands
5. Lighting
6. Shade structures
7. Sports equipment storage
8. Ballfield improvements
9. Pavilions

10. Trees
11. 8 courts instead of 6
12. Raised announcers for special events
13. Skate park expansion
14. Asphalt professional pump track
15. Different orientation of the courts as it relate to the sun
16. Play equipment
17. Basketball courts
18. Volleyball sand courts
19. Surrounding sidewalk/trails for access or walking while kids are playing on associated field's
20. RFTA shuttle stop

What elements in your preferred design are you the least excited about and why?

1. Lack of bicycle rack
2. No need for more courts, use existing tennis courts
3. Ballfield improvements
4. Permanent nets
5. Closer access to parking
6. Resurface tennis courts and striping
7. How will we pay for it
8. Pickleball courts could be far away from tennis courts
9. Parking is not exciting because our family rides bikes
10. Adequate signage for parking
11. No paths to parking to courts
12. Loss of space for soccer
13. Additional maintenance and amenities for Parks and Recreation Department
14. More Pickleball courts
15. Goalie location in relation to the sun
16. Elimination of free play/small kiddo zones
17. Lack of creativity in the design
18. Pickleball community has to come up with the money and no other use group has to

NORTH FACE PARK-MASTER PLAN-PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION PREFERRED DESIGN DISCUSSION AND DECISION

Plan C Discussion: Fits in both fields for soccer and boxed lacrosse fields. Access to both tennis and designated PB courts. Sidewalk to access Skate Park could be added with crusher fines or cement.

Would lose the trees in between the existing tennis courts and the new pickleball courts – town arborist said two are not in good shape (keep one and re-plant it in the park. Lose two trees and replace them with healthy trees in another location in the park. The trees are Autumn Blaze Maples)

Powerlines/irrigation plans- would be disrupted by this design. If the power lines have been correctly sleeved with appropriately sized conduit this would not be an issue to pave over them. Part of the irrigation system could be capped and the other part salvaged with this design. This might not provide enough coverage and it may need to be redesigned to have additional irrigation heads.

Phase 1 on the Urban Soccer & Lacrosse field: keep the grass as natural and irrigated. The pre-fabricated Urban Soccer & Futsal fields will have potential for multi-use (removable walls, nets, two separate fields or one long field, led lights) Boxed lacrosse: removable walls/netting. Lacrosse and Futsal fields need netting/fencing for the containment of the balls for the tight space of the park, and the proximity to other park uses, users and parking lots. There is a plastic product that places walls and nets on the natural turf in a permanent, or non-permanent manner and can be removed at a later date.

Plan A Discussion: cuts off access to parking lot/ball fields. Bringing in materials (semi-trucks) to ballfield and to the bike park is needed through this access point. However, plan A presents a path for Pickelball courts, soccer

field, and ballfield. Plan A doesn't have a designated Lacrosse field – because a large amount of the turf area would need to be used for parking. It only is left with a shared space with soccer and open space.

Nothing will change for the parking lot near the hill (smaller lot). Not enough space for pickleball courts.

Commission preferred design comments:

Ashley Allis: Option C. maximized the green space, option for skate park expansion, layout makes more sense, restrooms, access to all field uses.

Becky Moller: build them as pickleball courts, but if no one else is using the courts: futsal can be used on the PB courts. Nothing that would harm the courts such as skateboarding, razors or bikes.

Luis Yllanes: Plan C preferred option. In terms of parks and rec water use: how would this affect water management at parks in regards to the VCAPS report for future drought scenarios?

Todd: Plan C makes most sense, parking issue over the years. When does it max out? Noise?

Eric: Roaring Fork Futsal (winter based) 49 teams, 240 kids, 260 men & 41 women, (590 futsal players) in local gyms. Interested in summer leagues.

Documented noise complaints from Pickleball in other towns? (Jim explained that the pickleball industry was started with wooden paddles and a hard plastic ball. The industry now uses graphite paddles and a different material in the ball so the noise is dampened somewhat. Pickleball courts are not appropriate for a courtyard surrounded by residences.)

Becky: Don't want to feel rushed on the decision. More future vision, what is the smartest way to build, not just rush based on money. No playground for little kids – or room for one.

John Williams made a motion to accept Plan C and fast track. The approval process at the Trustee level to take advantage of free money coming to the Town and utilizing the space for a popular sport allowing it to stay in Carbondale.

Ashley Allis: Okay with seconding the motion and recommending to the Trustees the acceptance of Plan C, but is not ok with including the language in the motion to fast track the process. She would like to see some final engineered designs.

Ashley Allis moved to make a motion accepting Plan C as the preferred plan of the Parks and Recreation Commission to go to the Board of Trustees.

John Williams second the motion. Motion was put to a vote with three votes in agreement (Allis, Williams and Chamberlin and one vote against (Moller) The motion was approved.

REPORT & UPDATES

Eric Brendlinger, P & R Director: Eric mentioned that the Ice Rinks are still going strong and that the Broomball Tournament is taking place. Ice maintenance is excellent. Longest time the ice has been open and we have a rental on Sunday February 17th that should be possible. Future Parks & Recreation Commission items were discussed including: VCAP reports (how we manage our parks and what our future parks look like), Moving forward on Crystal restoration-plans for Riverfront Park, and the Tree labelling project from the Environment Board.

Jessie Rochel, Recreation Center Manager: Jessie is playing in the broomball tournament so was unable to attend the meeting.

Commissioners: Nature Park fence damage and checking on the porta potty servicing at the Delaney Nature Park. (Eric mentioned this was checked into and is being serviced weekly. He said he will check into the hole in the fence around the solar array at the same park.)

Luis Yllanes, Trustee Liaison: Mentioned VCAP report as it pertains to park management discussions for a future meeting topic.

ADJOURNMENT

The February 13, 2019, regular meeting adjourned at 8:09pm. The next regularly scheduled meeting is set for March 13, 2019 at 7:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Jamie Wall