

MINUTES
CARBONDALE PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION
February 9, 2022

Hollis Sutherland called the in-person/virtual meeting of the Carbondale Parks & Recreation Commission to order at 7:05 p.m. at Carbondale Town Hall on February 9, 2022.

ROLL CALL

The following members were present for roll call:

Members:	Hollis Sutherland, Chair Rose Rossello, Vice Chair Ashley Hejtmanek, Member John Williams, Member Leslie Keery, Member Susan Rhea, Member Brian Soby, Alternate Misha Logan, Youth Member
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Town Staff Present:	Eric Brendlinger, Parks & Recreation Department Director Jessi Rochel, Recreation Center & Recreation Programs Manager Chris Gleason, Parks & Recreation Facility Maintenance Lead Luis Yllanes, Board of Trustees Liaison Kae McDonald, Boards & Commission Clerk
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CONSENT AGENDA

Motion Passed: Susan *moved* to approve the minutes from the January 12, 2022, meeting. Leslie *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.

INTRODUCTION OF CHRIS GLEASON – FACILITY MAINTENANCE LEAD POSITION

Hollis asked Chris to introduce himself and share what he is working on as well as his priorities.

Chris replied that he has lived in Carbondale since 2017 and formerly lived on the East Coast. He noted that he took the job over from Derek Miller and pointed out that winter is his down season with most of his activities centered on ice rink maintenance, special events and snow removal. He added that his job is more diverse in the spring with upcoming projects including a Red Hill trail build, installing WiFi at the Gateway RV Park, weed mitigation, and dragging the dirt at the rodeo arena and ballfield. Chris explained that he also completes repairs when needed, so his workplan is different every week. He added that he will be overseeing renovations at the bike track by the Dirt Doctors as well as renovations at the swimming pool.

Hollis asked if he worked alone or if he had seasonal help.

Chris responded that he is usually worked alone but could hire temporary help when needed. He pointed out that some of the youth recreation assistants help with the ballfield maintenance.

Eric pointed out that one of Chris' jobs is to be the on-the-ground leader for Roaring Fork Outdoor Volunteer projects.

TOWN OF CARBONDALE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN UPDATE REVIEW

Eric explained that the Planning Director wanted to provide the commission members the opportunity to review the draft final Comprehensive Plan Update. He instructed them that in addition to the comments submitted as a Commission, everyone can comment on the update as an individual through the advertised survey noting that all comments are due by February 25th. Eric pointed out that the packet specifically includes those items he thought meshed with the Parks & Recreation Commission goals.

Hollis commented that the definition of priority structure was difficult to understand.

Susan noted that it was difficult to read and there was an unfortunate use of red. She added that while she understood the Comprehensive Plan was meant to represent the community's philosophy there wasn't a clear explanation on meeting or achieving the listed goals.

Eric pointed out that if the Comprehensive Plan Update is compared to the Parks & Recreation Master Plan there are a lot of similarities and many of the goals listed under Section 4.0 are already in progress or currently being planned for.

Ashley commented that if the Comprehensive Plan governs the Parks & Recreation Master Plan, then Section 4.0 is closing in on itself. She asked when the Parks & Recreation Master Plan will be updated because the Master Plan is more specific and further noted that the Comprehensive Plan Update is too general, so it is difficult to comment on. She would like the stated goals to be more specific, timely and action oriented.

Eric replied that the Parks & Recreation Master Plan was updated in 2015 and it gets updated every ten years so the next update will occur in 2025. He explained that the update is usually a grant-funded process through Great Outdoors Colorado but noted that because GOCO has altered their granting priorities they will have to see if they can match it to an available grant.

Susan pointed out that under economic development, the update lists supporting Colorado Mountain College by allowing the use of TOC facilities, noting that it was given a priority of seven to ten years, and pointed out that she thought that was ongoing.

Hollis asked Eric to clarify the relationship between CMC and the Town.

Eric responded that there are competing interests which is okay because pre-Covid the Recreation Department was maxed out. He thought there might be an opportunity to review shared space to maximize offerings such as those that occur with the Roaring Fork School District.

Susan asked if there are opportunities to increase sports facilities.

Eric replied that there isn't additional land to do so but there are opportunities to be creative in using what already exists—for example, an adult soccer league uses the baseball outfield in the fall because of the lighting.

Hollis wondered how to create a matching fund so there is the possibility to pursue grants if additional land becomes available. Hollis commented that it all seems vague with no solid action plans.

Luis reiterated that the Comprehensive Plan is the 30,000-foot view and reflects what is important to community members while the Master Plan provides the focus.

Leslie agreed with the comments about the color coding and suggested changing the label that refers to priorities.

Hollis suggested that Category #2.1.2 "Create attractive, consistent wayfinding and gateways along Highways 82 and 133" should be a high priority. She also suggested adding a different color code that reflects an ongoing strategy not limited by time. Hollis also asked for clarification of the acronym "RFC."

Eric replied that "RFC" stands for Roaring Fork Conservancy and noted that he highlighted that because the Crystal River Project would fall under it.

Rose asked if Category 1.1.2 “Highlight the future intersection and roundabout at Highway 133 and Lewies Ln/Weant Blvd as the southern entry into town...” could be moved into the high priority category because the closest signalized crosswalk is 0.8 miles from that intersection.

John wasn't in favor of a roundabout and suggested a signalized pedestrian crosswalk in that location.

Rose countered that based on her conversations with CDOT, they are not going to install that type of crossing, but they are leaning towards a crosswalk.

Hollis reminded the group that everyone can make additional comments as individuals, but they need to develop a statement specific to the Parks & Recreation Commission.

Ashley reminded everyone that along with the Bike, Pedestrian, and Trails Commission's purview, trails are also included in the Parks & Recreation Master Plan and while the Commission has made some headway some areas still need to be addressed.

PROPOSAL TO STAGGER TERMS OF PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSIONERS

Hollis acknowledged how tedious and cumbersome working through the procedure of commission appointments but reminded the commission members that it will simplify the process. She noted that the packet attachment lists the current term expiration dates—with no regular member terms expiring in 2022 and five expiring in 2023--and given Kathleen's resignation, four different scenarios that would achieve a more balanced rotation. She explained that a balanced term rotation will help maintain institutional knowledge. She pointed out that there are three ways to shift the vacated position to 2022:

- We can ask the Trustees to appoint the Commissioner to a 3-year term now, that would then have a 2025 expiration date.
- The position remains open until the annual appointments are made in August and the appointee would serve a 3-year term.
- Trustees fill the term now with the appointed person applying for reappointment (for a 3-year term) this summer.

Susan acknowledged that the first scenario is the most efficient way to achieve the desired rotation. She asked if it was necessary to have the alternate for voting and suggested it might be easiest to let Brian remain as the alternate until August.

Rose stated that it would be best to fill the open position as soon as possible.

Brian responded that he was happy to remain as the alternate, but he was willing to be a regular voting member if needed. He added that he didn't want to introduce added complexity to the current situation.

Hollis pointed out that if the position were to be filled immediately, they would advertise in time to interview in March with a Board of Trustees appointment in April. She agreed that despite the open position, with Brian continuing as the alternate, commission business could proceed as usual until August.

Susan asked for clarification about getting to the proposed staggered 3-2-3 scenario.

Hollis explained that a request would be made for the Board of Trustees to make a one-time three-year appointment that would end in 2025. She added that alternatively, a term expiring in 2023 could be shortened by a year and end in 2025.

Rose moved to advertise for the vacant position in March and request that the Board of Trustees do a one-time three-year appointment to end in 2025. Susan seconded the motion.

Motion Discussion

John commented that he would prefer to leave the position vacant until August and have Brian remain as the alternate. He thought the situation was being made too complicated and with Misha as an alternate as well, there would be enough commission members for a quorum.

Hollis pointed out that they have been fortunate that they haven't had any quorum issues lately.

Ashley noted that sometimes life happens, and she wasn't sure how much weight she would put on getting everyone on a set schedule.

Hollis replied that it will be a lot easier once the schedule has changed and reminded the commission members that because the appointment schedule wasn't followed in the past there will be too many vacancies at one time. She suggested adding a question on the application about preference as a regular voting member or alternate.

Motion Passed: Rose *moved* to advertise for the vacant position in March and request that the Board of Trustees do a one-time three-year appointment to end in 2025. Susan *seconded* the motion and the motion *passed* with Ashley and John abstaining.

UPDATE MASTER PLAN RECOMMENDATIONS

Eric asked commission members to review the 2022 proposed projects that are reflected as part of the Parks & Recreation Master Plan. He explained that the packet attachment was color-coded according to progress and those recommendations that aren't highlighted are not likely to happen or aren't needed anymore. He advised that as requested by commission members a budget work session should be planned for April or May.

Hollis agreed to send out a google poll to figure out best availability of commission members for a work session.

AQUATICS FACILITY MASTER PLAN—NEXT STEPS: BALLOT TEXT AND PUBLIC NOTICE FOR PRO/CON STATEMENTS

Eric noted that the Town Clerk has distributed the ballot language with a solicitation for pro/con statements to be included in the TABOR notice.

Hollis pointed out that commission members are free to write Letters to the Editor but emphasized the importance of not identifying as part of the Parks & Recreation Commission.

Luis added that the Board of Trustees can pass a resolution of support. He added that support can be publicized, but it must be done without TOC resources. He thought it would be beneficial to do some outreach at the March First Friday because the ballots drop in mid-March and a big push will be needed during that month.

John noted that he has heard some pushback against spending money on a pool rather than affordable housing and suggested an education campaign to explain the differing funding sources and why a pool is needed.

Hollis agreed that it is important for everyone to be clear on the funding source distinctions in the lead-up to the vote.

Susan agreed and emphasized the need to stay on budget and as environmentally friendly as possible.

Hollis pointed out that uses for the second floor of the proposed pool house have yet to be defined and it is possible it could be used as employee housing.

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 a lot of projects are planned for Spring 2022. He also pointed out that the quarterly report is also included and encouraged its review, as well. Projects of note include:
 - Gateway RV radio Wi-Fi and completion of Phase IV electrical upgrade
 - Both the Red Hill Signage and Hendrick Playground Replacement RFP responses are due on February 25th
 - The 2022 Weed Management Plan will be presented to the Board of Trustees on February 22nd.

Susan asked if there was a fire plan for the Gateway RV Park.

Eric replied that there was a well-based water storage tank, but currently firefighters would need to tap into island spigots to put a fire out.

Brian suggested all that is needed is to install a 5" hose bib on the water storage tank so the firefighters could tap into it.

Rose asked if it would be possible to review the proposals for the Hendricks playground equipment replacements.

Eric replied that the proposals will be digital so he can send them out for commission member comments.

Rose asked if there was any possibility for an exercise park.

Eric replied that there might be room at the Youth Art Park. He announced that two parks have officially been added to the Town of Carbondale Parks inventory including the Ramey/Harvey Park and the 4th Street Plaza—with the 4th Street Plaza under the Town's ownership improvements to create a permanent special events location can now be made.

John reported that there is a suggestion to name the 4th Street Plaza Park after Chris Chacos.

Susan asked if it was possible to re-position the port-a-potty at Gianinetti Park, so the door faces the sidewalk instead of the street. She also asked if it could be placed on a concrete pad to improve accessibility. She noted that the park is located along a popular walking route for older adults.

Jessi Rochel, Recreation Center & Recreation Programs Manager:

- The most recent blood drive was successful and the next one is scheduled for Wednesday, March 2nd
- The Puzzles & Pie event—a competitive jigsaw puzzle—will take place on Sunday, February 27 at the Recreation Center
- A trip to the Aspen Art Museum for older adults is being offered for Friday, February 18th
- A Senior Program Use Survey is posted at the Rec Center and is also available online
- The Chris Klug Foundation for organ donation will be at the Recreation Center on Monday, February 14th
- Youth Basketball continues through February, Broomball and youth ice hockey are finishing. Baseball registration will open in March and swimming lesson registration will be available in May
- The ice is holding up at both rinks and there have been several rentals
- Jessi participated in the Narcan orientation through High Rockies Harm Reduction (highrockiesharmreduction.com) and reported it to be very informative

Luis Yllanes, Board of Trustees Liaison:

- Luis reported that with the donation of the 4th Street Plaza Park and the vacant land across from Town Hall, the Board of Trustees will engage consultants to review possible uses for the parking lot and space around Thunder River Theatre Company. He assured the commission members that there will be a robust community outreach before any final decisions are made concerning the space.

ADJOURNMENT

The February 9, 2022, adjourned at 9:05 pm. The next regularly scheduled meeting is scheduled for March 9, 2022, at 7:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Kae McDonald