

MINUTES
CARBONDALE PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION
March 11, 2020

Hollis Sutherland called the Carbondale Parks & Recreation Commission meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. on March 11, 2020, in the Town Hall meeting room.

ROLL CALL

The following members were present for roll call:

Members:	Hollis Sutherland, Chair Rose Rosello, Vice Chair Ashley Hejtmanek, Member Kathleen Wanatowicz, Member Genevieve Villamizar, Member
Absent:	Becky Moller, Member John Williams, Member Tracy Wilson, Alternate
Town Staff Present:	Eric Brendlinger, Parks & Recreation Director Jessi Rochel, Recreation Center & Recreation Programs Manager Luis Yllanes, Board of Trustees Representative Kae McDonald, Boards & Commission Clerk

CONSENT AGENDA

Motion Passed: Ashley *moved* to approve the minutes from the February 12, 2020 meeting with noted typographical corrections. Genevieve *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.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF SERVICE ON PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION FOR CAMY BRITT

Camy Britt was not in attendance, therefore this action was tabled until she is able to attend.

AQUATICS FACILITY MASTER PLAN NEXT STEPS

Eric presented an update on the Aquatics Facility Master Plan, which includes a memo in the meeting packet from Design Workshop. The working group has met twice since the beginning of the project to provide oversight and direction to the project. They are working through the SWOT analysis and preparing for the community engagement process. The first event is planned for the April First Friday "Spring into Wellness," and there will be a booth downtown and at the Recreation Center. The First Friday event will include three (3) key activities for community members:

- A Visual Preference Survey that provides community members an opportunity to identify the key features they would like to see in a new facility;
- A Data String Diagram that asks participants to prioritize the types of programming and amenities they would like to see at the pool
- A "Chip Exercise," that will enable participants to identify preferences for a pool location as well as seasonality.

Eric pointed out that there are currently two locations being considered for the pool—its current location and behind the Recreation Center. He also indicated that funding might be able to provide an "extended" outdoor pool with a retractable roof, but the costs for an indoor pool may be prohibitive. He also directed the Commission members to read through the interviews with the Town Manager, Finance Director, Pool Manager, and the Parks & Recreation Director because they provide a good sense of what is available in terms of financing and construction/maintenance costs.

The survey will be launched April 1st and will be available through April 24th. There will be ads distributed to alert the public about its availability.

Questions/Comments:

Hollis asked for clarification on the difference between a Bond and a Certificate of Participation. Eric explained that a Bond means that the citizens vote to allow the town to go into debt and pay back over time, essentially “Bonding” the revenue stream. Kathleen added that a Certificate of Participation follows a similar funding mechanism, but it isn’t voted on and the town’s assets are essentially being held as collateral. She went on to say that the Certificates are held by the Federal Reserve and are tax-free.

Hollis added that one of her concerns is that based on a possible lifespan of 40 years for the pool, the Master Plan process really needs to take into consideration what citizens want and how the pool will serve their needs, and to make people realize what they will be getting with a construction budget of four-to-six million dollars.

Ashley pointed out that there can be flexibility in the design for future “add-ons.”

Eric also pointed out that it is part of a robust Master Plan process to educate the public on the costs involved.

Genevieve asked if it would be helpful to run an article in the Sopris Sun.

Kathleen added that there would be a fact sheet distributed as part of the launch. She also asked if the information attached to the packet could be added to the pool webpage.

Eric asked for Commission members preference on the two locations being considered—the pool’s current location or behind the recreation center. He did indicate that the recreation center location might be more expensive:

- Genevieve said she has mixed feelings about either location;
- Kathleen wants to support Margaret and her preference. Ideally, the desired location should achieve full programming goals without exceeding the established budget;
- Rose prefers the location behind the recreation center because it would streamline operations. She also proffered the idea of adding an additional workout room or second floor to the recreation center;
- Ashley indicated that both locations would be fine—her criteria would be based on whether children can get there without being driven. The other criteria she thinks is important is efficiency in construction and programming, and the Town’s responsibility in providing specific types of programming to community members;
- Luis is also leaning towards the recreation center because the Town wouldn’t lose the use of the current pool while building the new pool. He also suggested that there might be a naming opportunity for additional funding;
- Hollis said she is torn between the two locations. She has some concern about expanding the recreation center and the possible conflict with surrounding neighbors;
- Kathleen would like to wait for community feedback, because there will be more information to drill down on location preferences.

SENIOR (AKA CARBONDALE AGE-FRIENDLY) DAY PROPOSAL UPDATE: CAFCI SENIOR MATTERS. PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT

Niki Delson provided an update on the planned Carbondale Age-Friendly Day; all of the details are provided in the meeting packet. There are currently two days planned on May 20, 2020 and September 11, 2020. The first event will include various venues around Carbondale featuring art, music, food, physical fitness opportunities, social activities, and stories, lectures, and movies. The second event will be similar in format, but reflect lessons learned from the May event. Currently, project partners include the Carbondale Parks & Recreation Department, Senior Matters, Colorado Mountain College, and Carbondale Age-Friendly Community Initiative. Additional partners may include Carbondale Library, Carbondale Arts, Chamber of Commerce, the Fire Department, Clean Energy Economy for the Region, and select Health Care Providers. CAFCI has submitted a grant application to Garfield County Senior Services for \$3,000 to help cover the cost of the event; Niki pointed out that if they don’t get the financial assistance, CAFCI has reserve funds from their November event that could help cover costs.

Niki asked the Parks & Recreation Commission for a liaison to facilitate communication. Tracy had volunteered, but may not be available. John had also volunteered, but is absent from the meeting. Kathleen is interested in working with CAFCI, but specifically on housing issues. Genevieve indicated that she may be interested, as well.

Motion Passed: Rose *moved* to support Carbondale Age-Friendly Days, and to name John Williams as the primary liaison for the event. Kathleen *seconded* the motion, and it was *unanimously approved*.

CRYSTAL RIVER RESTORATION & WEAVER DITCH EFFICIENCY PROJECT: NEXT STEPS DHM FUNDRAISING REPORT

Eric provided an update on the Crystal River Restoration and Weaver Ditch Efficiency Project. The design is currently at 60% of funding, and several grants are being submitted to cover the remaining costs including a SkiCo Environmental Foundation grant. Among others, a Fishing is Fun grant has been submitted to cover ADA requirements. The TOC will be the fiscal agent and is committed to completing the design work; there are many grants available to fund the construction. Eric encouraged the Commission members to read through the provided packet because it has a wealth of information concerning wetlands, weeds, access to the river, and plans to keep the area natural but also accessible. Eric will notify Commission members if letters of support are needed for any of the grant applications.

MEM PROJECT-NATURE PARK UPDATE

Genevieve provided an update on her MEM project. She is currently completing the research on the regenerative plan; she has completed the research on the history of the park and is in the process of writing it up. She is compiling all of the baseline information the flora and fauna of the park, and is working on a (purely theoretical) carbon sequestration analysis and the role municipal land might play as a carbon sink.

Two-hundred and nine questionnaires were received. Genevieve is compiling the qualitative data, and she will also create a .pdf of the raw data to distribute to Commission members, post on the website, and attach as an appendix to her project write-up. Eric added that there was a lot of passion and ideas provided in the questionnaires.

REPORT & UPDATES: STAFF AND COMMISSION MEMBERS

Eric Brendlinger, Parks & Recreation Director:

30/60/90 Staff Work Plan and Outstanding Project Status Report (it is the last page of the packet):

- Red Hill signage is in production;
- Public meetings for the Red Hill Road Realignment have been scheduled for March 18 and March 19;
- RVR Triangle Park playground equipment demo has started and new equipment ordered;
- Doggie Pots stations at installed at Thompson House and Centennial Park;
- RVR Park Weed Management: can/will they adopt the Town weed plan;
- Nuche Park parking and signage will be funded in 2020;
- Partition options for the women's restroom at Gianinetti Park are being reviewed;
- Sopris Park Playground equipment painting is dependent on warmer weather;
- FMLD Gianinetti Park playground renovation grant was submitted with award notification in April;
- FMLD Colorado Meadows Park playground renovation grant due in August;
- Phase 2 Electrical upgrades at the Gateway RV Park are in progress with completion anticipated prior to May 2020 opening;
- Electrical upgrades at the Gus Darien Arena are in progress;
- The Aquatic Facility Master Plan is underway.

Jessi Rochel, Recreation Center & Recreation Programs Manager:

- The Late Spring and Summer Brochure will available on April 2;
- The next Blood Drive is scheduled for March 25;
- The Fashion Show set-up has begun, but it is unclear whether the show will be cancelled or postponed given the current Garfield County Public Health guidelines on Covid-19;
- Hiring for the summer season has begun.

Luis Yllanes, Board of Trustees Representative:

- The Police Chief Candidate Meet and Greet is scheduled for Thursday evening (March 12) at the Launch Pad;
- The TOC has been in discussions with the USFS about the proposed construction to replace the current office space. They have agreed to a non-binding review with the TOC Planning and Zoning Commission and may try to design the building so it more closely aligns with the Historic Commercial Core.

Hollis Sutherland, Parks & Recreation Commission Chair:

- Hollis asked about the April meeting—the Beerworks Bingo Night is scheduled for the same night and time as the regularly scheduled Commission meeting. She asked if the Commission members were willing to meet an hour earlier, so everyone could participate in Bingo Night.

Genevieve Villamizar, Parks & Recreation Member:

- There is a National Geographic Bio Blitz program that provides citizen science opportunities for youth. They can use their phones to take photos and document the flora and fauna of a specific area and submit the data online to help build a model of that area's biodiversity.

ADJOURNMENT

The March 11, 2020, regular meeting adjourned at 8:45 pm. The next regularly scheduled meeting is set for April 8, 2020, at 6:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Kae McDonald