

**MINUTES
CARBONDALE PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION
May 10, 2023**

Hollis Sutherland called the meeting of the Carbondale Parks & Recreation Commission to order at 7:02 p.m. at Carbondale Town Hall on May 10, 2023.

ROLL CALL

The following members were present for roll call:

Members:	Hollis Sutherland, Chair Rose Rossello, Vice-Chair Susan Rhea, Member Drew Sorenson, Member Ashley Hejtmanek, Member Leslie Keery, Member John Williams, Member Brian Soby, Alternate Misha Logan, Youth Member
Town Staff Present:	Eric Brendlinger, Parks and Recreation Director Margaret Donnelly, Recreation Center and Programs Manager Kae McDonald, Boards & Commission Clerk
Guests:	Lisa DiNardo, Bee Friendly Carbondale Coalition Heddy Dempsey, Treasurer, Roaring Fork Pickleball Association Stacey Dickerson, Board Member, Roaring Fork Pickleball Association Joe Markham, Member, Roaring Fork Pickleball Association

CONSENT AGENDA

Motion Passed: Susan Rhea *moved* to approve the minutes from the April 12, 2023, meeting. Drew Sorenson *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.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF SERVICE OF MISHA LOGAN AND INTRODUCTION OF YOUTH CANDIDATES

Hollis acknowledged the service of Misha as the youth commissioner for the past two years. She appreciated his perspective and commitment to the Commission.

Eric noted his appreciation for Misha's work in promoting the position among his peers and pointed out that they have received two applications.

Rose commented that she admired Misha for getting involved at his very first meeting.

Misha replied that he has learned a lot and appreciated the opportunity. He added that he will be attending Pitzer College in California.

Hollis stated that she is looking forward to meeting the two applicants.

BEE FRIENDLY LANDSCAPING/ENVIRONMENTAL BOARD INITIATIVE RESOLUTION LANGUAGE REVIEW REQUESTING COMMISSIONERS SUPPORT

Lisa DiNardo explained that she was prompted to develop the resolution included in the meeting packet based on the Town's proposal to utilize herbicides to control noxious weeds and subsequent letters to the editor published in the *Sopris Sun*. She summarized her background, noting that she is an arborist with a background in Public

Horticulture and she is part of the Bee Friendly Carbondale coalition sponsored by the Town of Carbondale's Environmental Board and the People and Pollinators Action Network. She explained that her goal is to find an integrated approach for the Town to support pollinators, noting that nine other Colorado communities have already adopted resolutions or proclamations like that in the meeting packet, and she is seeking support from the Parks & Recreation Commission along with a possible volunteer to assist in editing a version that reflects Carbondale's values.

Eric clarified that the agenda lists the document as a resolution, but the attachment reads as a proclamation. He noted the distinctions between a resolution:

“A resolution is a formal expression of opinion or intention made, usually after voting, by the Town Council.”

and a proclamation:

“A proclamation is an official declaration issued by the Town Council to make something known, a public and official announcement.”

and confirmed that Lisa would prefer to pursue adoption of a resolution.

Susan noted that there is already the Dandelion Day proclamation and commented that she thought the Town was already operating under a weed management plan that promoted organic methods over chemical use.

Hollis asked Lisa how she saw the resolution being managed.

Lisa replied that it would be a slow integration, on the scale of three-to-five years, moving towards the adoption of alternative methods. She stressed that the Parks Department and Board of Trustees would need to be involved and fully understand the process.

Rose asked if there is additional funding or grants to support the initiative.

Lisa replied that the People and Pollinators Action Network does have funding – the next grant round is scheduled for the fall – and the money could go towards the development of a sample plot.

Ashley commented that the language in the resolution needs to be reviewed and she wanted to make sure the Environmental Board's initiatives were being honored.

Lisa agreed that the language needs to be edited for specificity to Carbondale and that she had been advised to present the proposal to all the landscape-related Town boards. She noted that she has already introduced the topic to the Environmental Board and will be meeting with them again this month and she will be meeting with the Tree Board, as well.

Eric added that the Town Arborist has put together a memo relating to this topic, and it will be included as part of the July meeting agenda.

Hollis asked the commission members for a show of support for the proposal; all those present were in support of Lisa pursuing the resolution. She noted that the Parks & Recreation Commission have discussed this topic many times with the Weed Management Board and have always sought ways to avoid using chemical means to eradicate weeds, but that is juxtaposed by the fact that the Parks Department is responsible for large tracts of land. She is glad to see knowledgeable people step forward to assist.

John asked if she would be participating at Dandelion Day.

Lisa replied that will have a space at the Eagle Crest Nursery booth to educate people about PPAN and she will be hosting a workshop at 1:00 pm in the Environmental Board learning tent.

ROARING FORK PICKLEBALL ASSOCIATION/APPROVING EXPANSION IN PROPOSED AREA

Heddy noted that Trevor had forwarded a letter containing a summary of the information requested at last month's meeting. She noted that she, Joe and Stacey were available to answer any additional questions, and they were seeking a decision on the expansion request so the Roaring Fork Pickleball Association can move forward with fundraising.

Joe stepped forward and introduced himself, noting that he had been a resident of Carbondale for 42 years and served on the Parks & Recreation Commission in the past. He explained that he teaches the Pickleball 101 class, and all 64 slots have been filled with an additional 12 to 15 people on the waiting list; he anticipated that many of the participants would become members of the RFPA, bringing the membership of that organization to nearly 500. He added that he is also teaching pickleball to the 8th Grade as part of their physical education curriculum. He noted that pickleball is a great social activity and he has met people from all over the United States playing at the North Face courts. Joe pointed out that in terms of economic impact, they often spend upwards of \$2,000.00 for a weekend tournament or at the very least meals, shopping and/or other entertainment if they travel to play pickleball for the day.

Susan commented that during a recent visit to Palisade she observed people playing at those pickleball courts for well over four hours non-stop and the noise was a big issue. She asked Eric if there had been any noise complaints and recommended the RFPA consider adding sound baffling to at least one or two sides of the court.

Eric replied that there haven't been any noise complaints, but the School District is building new employee housing opposite the parking lot, and it may be a long-term concern. He added that he has reviewed the acoustiblok videos and it does work to reduce the noise, but he wondered if enclosing the courts would be deleterious to the visual impact of playing pickleball.

Heddy noted that she asked a friend that lives near the courts about any issues and her request was that play stops at dusk and no lights are installed at the courts.

Eric commented that the Parks Department got quotes for lighting other parts of the park because it was in the 10-year Master Plan, but the plan has lost steam due to concerns about extending the daily time frame of North Park's use. He listed soccer, little league, bike polo, lacrosse and futsal that potentially use the same space being requested for the new pickleball courts, but pointed out there is still open space in other locations that these activities can use. Eric also pointed out that there will be a dedicated futsal court at the Carbondale Marketplace development, which relieves the demand for that space at North Face. He noted that pickleball is in high demand and reminded the commission members that their responsibility is to consider the demand and best use of the space. Eric continued by noting that although pickleball courts are part of the Crown Mountain Master Plan it will be a few years before they are built and although River Valley Ranch is converting some courts for pickleball play those courts would be used primarily for property owners in that development.

Heddy added that although she was originally a tennis player because there wasn't as much tennis activity in town, she has pivoted to pickleball.

Susan wondered if it would be beneficial to spread out courts to other parks in town.

Heddy replied that although Aspen Glen and Equestrian Way may be adding a few courts, these courts wouldn't be for public use. She reminded the Commission that RFPA is run by volunteers and added that as an organization, it is easier to manage play, lessons, ladders, skills, and tournaments if the courts are all in one place.

Stacey added that while it would be okay to add courts in other locations, North Face is where people congregate and thereby create the pickleball community.

Susan pointed out that it is a big deal to give up that space and wondered if it was used enough by other groups that it would create a hardship for them.

Hollis replied that she didn't think there has been a demonstration of hardship by other users and listed reasons to consider the additional courts:

- It continues to be a growing sport and RFPA will top 500 members this year.
- It is an economic driver.
- The organization is composed of dedicated members and when the Parks & Recreation Commission waffled over the original request for courts, the RFPA went directly to the Board of Trustees for a decision after which the BOT directed the Commission to find space.
- The adjacent land is underutilized and adding courts would also provide an opportunity to revisit the Memorandum of Understanding that is currently in place.

Stacey pointed out that many of the RFPA are property and business owners in Carbondale and contribute heavily to the local tax base. She noted that many support the community in a variety of ways.

Hollis agreed and explained that the Commission's job is to support the community in recreational pursuits.

Eric noted his support of the project, as well, and agreed with Hollis that the proposed courts serve the greater purpose.

Rose referred to last month's discussion and asked if there would be any funds set aside for long-term maintenance, shade structures or bathrooms.

Heddy replied that RFPA does maintain a reserve for improvements considered in concert with the Parks & Recreation Department, which has been working well. She noted that RFPA purchases their own supplies, and they are appreciative of the temporary nets the Recreation Department purchased for use on the tennis courts.

Eric reminded the commission members that the MOU spells out responsibilities for each party, but because this is Town-owned property the Town is responsible for maintenance. He explained that an updated MOU might take advantage of the template developed for Red Hill in that RFPA would be responsible for establishing a maintenance endowment and to always designate the availability of one court for public play.

Brian asked whether the request was for the land only, or if maintenance costs would be included in the request as well. He pointed out that specific requests for additional information were made at last month's meeting and the information included in the packet doesn't fully respond to those requests. He was not supportive of the project until that was clarified.

Heddy replied that the request before the Commission is to earmark the proposed location for new courts and they can't begin a fundraising effort until that is approved.

Drew commented that it is difficult to consider the request when the costs of maintenance aren't known, and the MOU language hasn't been updated yet.

Heddy responded that RFPA is certainly willing to discuss an update to the MOU, noting that if RFPA is responsible for added maintenance costs that would be passed along to the members as part of their dues. She explained that they had talked to the contractor that built the existing courts and his opinion was that the up-front costs are the most expensive and the courts show no sign of needing resurfacing yet. She reiterated that RFPA has been proactive in maintaining the courts.

Stacey added that an updated MOU wouldn't require a substantial change to the current agreement.

Eric pointed out that there is an existing, positive relationship with RFPA, and the MOU has been working well.

Hollis added that, to date, there has never been an MOU in place at a project's inception.

Ashley explained that it might be considered in a Master Plan "bubble."

Brian repeated his lack of support for the project until a maintenance agreement is in place.

Rose moved to approve the Roaring Fork Pickleball Association expansion in the proposed area with the

understanding that once funds are raised, they will revisit the Memorandum of Understanding prior to ground being broken. Susan seconded the motion.

Discussion

John reiterated the need to understand who will be financially responsible for court resurfacing and installing another bathroom.

Heddy replied that RFPA is committed to reviewing the MOU. She stated that because the bathrooms will be used by more than just the pickleball population, adding another bathroom should be the Town's responsibility. She noted that representatives of RFPA are willing to come back to discuss the terms of repairs and expenses. She also pointed out that RFPA uses the Recreation Center for their winter program, and they have had to turn people away during their times of play. She added that they have always been respectful and accommodating of other Recreation Center programming and have always cleaned up after themselves.

Motion Passed: Rose *moved* to approve the Roaring Fork Pickleball Association expansion in the proposed area with the understanding that once funds are raised, they will revisit the Memorandum of Understanding prior to ground being broken. Susan *seconded* the motion, and it was *passed by a majority*.

Yes: Hollis, Rose, Leslie, Ashley, Susan
Abstaining: John, Drew

Eric stated that the next steps will be to develop the MOU once there is a clear understanding of the proposed facility, but he can engage in discussions with the RFPA to develop a memo to go before the Board of Trustees.

Leslie commented that because there are pickleball lines painted on the tennis courts at North Face Park, those courts can no longer be sanctioned for United States Tennis Association competition.

John added that prior to pickleball there was a big tennis community in Carbondale, but they got overwhelmed by the pickleball players.

Hollis suggested considering adding some guidelines or etiquette signage.

AQUATICS FACILITY UPDATE/DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION FORMS/PRELIMINARY SCHEDULE/AQUATICS COORDINATOR NEWS

Eric noted that there was a schedule developed by the design and construction consultants included in the meeting packet. He acknowledged that the schedule as currently laid out will eliminate the 2024 pool season, but that by not attempting construction during the winter it will save money. Eric added that upcoming deliverables will include program development and conceptual design and pricing and by late summer the schematic design pricing effort will provide a clear vision for actual construction costs.

Eric also announced that they have hired an Aquatics and Wellness Coordinator; her first day will be Monday, May 15th and the pool's first day is scheduled for Monday, June 5th.

CAFCI REPORT/BIPED MAPS FOR WECYCLE INSTALLATIONS

Susan explained that Senior Matters and Carbondale Age-Friendly Community Initiative have combined to become Age Friendly Carbondale – they will continue to maintain separate accounting reports, however. She noted that upcoming activities include:

- A survey was launched to gather data about accidents and near misses along Highway 133.
- Five people will be using the OLAT tool to conduct parks assessments.
- Coffman Ranch conducted a tour, and the group will be assisting in accessibility and trails development.

Eric noted that a map showing the WeCycle locations is included in the meeting packet. He invited anyone interested to attend the May 16th Board of Trustees Work Session for a presentation by WeCycle.

REPORT & UPDATES: STAFF AND COMMISSION MEMBERS

Eric Brendlinger, Parks and Recreation Director:

- Dandelion Day is scheduled for this coming Saturday, May 13th.
- Picnic Shade Shelter rentals have accelerated.
- Dirt Sculpt is working on the bike tracks at North Face Park.
- Roaring Fork Outdoor Volunteers and Aspen Valley Land Trust are sponsoring work on the Blue Ribbon and Mushroom Rock trails. The work is focused on reclaiming the bandit trails causing a lot of braiding and erosion and to install cairns to mark the preferred trail route.
- Hendrick Playground replacement is scheduled to begin on May 22nd.

Rose reported that some of the signs at Red Hill are peeling.

Eric acknowledged the problem and noted that they will be replaced with better quality signs.

Susan noted that the 2023 budget included a line item for the Gianinetti bathroom replacement, but that project isn't listed on the 30/60/90-day spreadsheet.

Eric replied that he is engaged in a significant amount of research because there is a big range in styles and pricing, so the project hasn't moved past that point yet.

Margaret Donnelly, Recreation Programs and Facility Manager:

- Five Points took place at the end of April and was considered a success.
- The Senior Trip to Beaconfest wasn't well attended; unless the destination is combined with another activity, it is unlikely they will plan that trip again.
- Art Fun for April and May filled.
- The Recreation Center provided staff for Carbondale's Waste Day. Recreation Center staff participated in CIRSA training; Jamie Wall is now a certified flagger. Jamie has also taken over Parks reservations. The Recreation Center is advertising for a variety of positions.
- First Friday's Family Block Party was well attended.
- The Recreation Center hosted a Quincenera last Saturday with 350 attendees; they have gotten several inquiries for future events.
- The Gateway RV Park has opened for the season.
- Swimming Pool Updates:
 - Current pool: the heaters and motor have been installed; three burst pipes have been repaired.
 - New Pool: Soil samples have been taken.
 - The Aquatics Coordinator will start Monday; the pool will be filled over the weekend with a planned start on Tuesday. The new coordinator will have two weeks to complete returning and new hire training, develop programming and prepare the pool.
 - The pool's planned opening will be Monday, June 5th.
 - Tri For the Sun is planned for Saturday, June 10th.
- Women's Pickleball Ladder Leagues are scheduled for May and June.
- The Senior Trip this month will be a tour of valley plant nurseries.
- Adult volleyball has finished until next fall.
- Bonedale Bike Week is from May 14th through the 20th; the Recreation Center will participate by sponsoring the kids bike rodeo on Monday, May 15th and the Pump Track Trials on Wednesday, May 16th. Volunteers would be appreciated for both events.
- The Wild West Rodeo Series and the Farmer's Market will both begin prior to next month's meeting.

Commissioner Comments:

John suggested considering an earlier start time, possibly 6 or 6:30 pm.

Rose noted that if the Hendricks Park playground project is completed prior to next month's meeting, they may add a celebration at the park beginning at 5 pm.

ADJOURNMENT

The May 10, 2023, meeting adjourned at 8:59 pm. The next regular meeting is the Parks Tour scheduled for June 14, 2023; please note that this meeting will begin at 6:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Kae McDonald