

**MINUTES
CARBONDALE PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION
May 13, 2020**

Hollis Sutherland called the virtual meeting of the Carbondale Parks & Recreation Commission to order at 7:05 p.m. on May 13, 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 John Williams, Member Becky Moller, Member Tracy Wilson, Alternate
Absent:	Genevieve Villamizar, Member
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: Rose *moved* to approve the minutes from the March 11, 2020 meeting with one correction. Ashley *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 attended the meeting to receive her acknowledgement Hollis read an acknowledgement of service for Camy Britt:

“The staff of the Parks & Recreation Department of the Town of Carbondale and the Parks & Recreation Commission members would like to thank Camy Britt for her 5 years of volunteer service to the commission.”

All of the Parks & Recreation Commission members wished Camy a happy birthday!

TOC PARKS & RECREATION COVID 19 REPORT/QUARTERLY P & R DEPARTMENT REPORT

Eric gave the Commission an update on the current Covid-19 action plan for the Parks & Recreation facilities throughout the Town. The community garden is open because it falls under the essential business category. Red Hill has been open, as have the dog parks. Social distancing rules apply at all of the locations.

Under the current Safer-At-Home guidelines, the TOC Parks & Recreation Department submitted a plan to the Garfield County Public Health Department to re-open the tennis and pickleball courts, and the bike park. The current plan for the tennis and pickleball courts only allows singles or drills; doubles is only allowed if the participants live together. There is to be no shared equipment, and the players can only touch their ball. Social distancing must be practiced at all times, and there is to be no congregating at the benches. The bike park has also been opened because it is big enough to allow for adequate social distancing. The current rules have been posted everywhere.

The skate park, along with the Gateway RV Park, the Rec Center, park playground areas, and the pool are still closed. Unfortunately, the skate park has seen a lot of activity despite the closure, and the police have had to patrol the area as often as time allows. All of the bathrooms in the parks remain locked, but the Town has placed additional port-a-potties in the parks and is having them serviced more often.

The Carbondale Parks & Recreation Department has been coordinating with the other recreation departments in the Roaring Fork valley, so that amenities are being opened at the same time and with similar rules. It has been somewhat challenging to do so, because the three counties involved are at different phases of re-opening. He has also been participating in a weekly survey through the National Parks & Recreation Association and reviewing the information from other parts of the country.

Because the Rec Center has been closed, the Carbondale Emergency Task Force has been seeking a location for the homeless to shower. To that end, the Gateway RV Park bathrooms will be open from 12 noon to 2 pm on Wednesdays for that purpose. Strict social distancing will be required, and the bathrooms will be cleaned between each shower. Because the Carbondale Homeless Alliance monthly dinners are on hold, the Parks & Recreation staff are working to get the word out to the area's homeless.

Jessi added that they are taking advantage of the closure to do things at the Rec Center that normally couldn't be done. This includes bringing the showers up to ADA compliance and repainting the lines in the gym for basketball and pickleball. She also pointed out the at-home workouts have been and will continue to be offered until the facility opens; this has also allowed the Rec Center to continue to pay the fitness instructors.

Tracy indicated that climbing walls will likely be opened even later than Rec Centers. She has several links to information she volunteered to share with Jessi.

AQUATICS FACILITY MASTER PLAN: SURVEY LAUNCH & PUBLIC OUTREACH TIMELINE CHANGES

Eric updated the Commission on the current status of the Aquatics Facility Master Plan. The survey is live, but because the two contact events—Mountain Fair and the 4th of July—have been cancelled, the plan is to augment the current survey with a second survey. The current survey is seeking opinions about the pool and gathering demographic information. The second survey will take that data and drill down on specifics of the amenities that are most popular as juxtaposed with the construction budget and operational costs. It is even more important to have citizens participate in the surveys, and Eric asked the Commission members to pass the survey information along to everyone they know. A link to the survey is posted on the Carbondale Recreation Center Aquatics webpage under "Aquatics Facility Master Plan," and is available in both Spanish and English. There is an option to receive a free pass to the Rec Center or Pool once the survey has been completed.

Design Workshop is also enhancing the public marketing campaign. They will be engaging in a "Every Door" direct mailing campaign which will target all post office box and street mailing addresses in the 81623 zip code, and all public service announcements regarding the Master Plan will be produced in both Spanish and English.

NEW PLAYGROUND REPORT. FMLD GRANT GIANINETTI PLAYGROUND. GOCO GRANT YOUTH ART PARK ON RIO GRANDE TRAIL. TRIANGLE PLAYGROUND UPDATE AND ORCHARD PARK DESIGN APPROVAL

Eric provided status reports on a variety of topics relating to some of the parks and playground equipment throughout town. The FMLD grant for Gianinetti Park was accepted and they are developing a plan on how to best apply the funding at this park. They will be adding some new play elements, removing some elements, painting the elements that will remain, and bring the playground area up to ADA compliance. Work at this park is planned for this upcoming fall.

The GOCO grant for the Youth Art Park that was submitted with RFTA and Carbondale Arts was also awarded. The MOU will be presented for approval at the upcoming BOT meeting on May 19, 2020.

The Triangle Park playground renovation is two to three weeks out from completion.

Eric presented the Orchard Park Design and playground equipment elements for discussion and approval; it has already been approved by the River Valley Ranch HOA Board. The playground and equipment is designed by KOMPAN—they

also worked on the Ross Montessori playground. Eric referred to the design included in the packet, and pointed out that the thought process behind the new design was to bring all of the play elements into one footprint so that it can be better managed. Elements that will be modified or replaced include:

- The small play structure will be replaced with an element designed for Preschool ages 2 to 5;
- The double swing set will be ADA compliant—the wood used in this element will not need to be treated or repainted over its use life;
- The teeter-totter can accommodate one or two riders on either side—it is designed for ages 5 through 12;
- The large arch element will be replaced;
- The spin element will be a carousel with seats—it is also designed for ages 5 through 12.

Questions/Comments:

John asked about how safe the carousel with seats was. Eric replied that the carousel will have governors on it, so it won't go above a designated RPM.

Tracy praised the fact that the wood will not need to be stained, and asked if this brand was installed at any of the other parks. She also liked the classic aspect of the elements. Eric replied that there were not—it is beautiful, but expensive.

Hollis said that the plans looked good and all of the elements fit comfortably in the footprint. She asked if there was room for more elements. Eric indicated that there are plans for a picnic-area shade sometime in the future.

Kathleen agreed that the plans were acceptable. She hoped that in future planning will include the criteria of "Is it fun? Is it safe?"

Rose commented that the new equipment at Triangle Park looks incredible, and praised the installation.

John also thought that the plans looked good, and felt like the plans fit in well with the cabin.

Motion Passed: John *moved* to approve the Triangle Park playground plans as drawn. Tracy *seconded* the motion, and it was *unanimously approved*.

MEM PROJECT –NATURE PARK UPDATE

Genevieve was not able to attend the Commission meeting. Eric informed the Commission members that although Genevieve did get her schoolwork completed, she wasn't able to get the deliverables packaged for a presentation and she has asked for an extension in order to do so. Eric did include all of the raw data from the dog park questionnaire in the packet, and felt like the comments provided good perspectives on how and when the dog park is used.

Questions/Comments:

Rose asked if Genevieve graduated, and whether she had plans to move forward on her own interests at the park.

Becky asked Eric about how the information will be used. Eric replied that the compilation of the questionnaire results could be helpful for grant applications and planning purposes.

John asked whether a new survey would be published if a Master Plan process is initiated for the dog park. Eric replied that yes, a new survey would be crafted to help guide any master planning process that might happen in the future.

Kathleen asked if there were any specific items that came out of the questionnaire/Genevieve's project. Eric replied that the formation of the "Friends of the Dog Park" group was a good result. He is hopeful that the group maintains its momentum.

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 has been completed. They are currently in the design phase of the trailhead kiosk, and have been in conversation with the BLM about removing the old trailhead;
- Red Hill Road Realignment will begin on May 18th. The road will be closed for four to six weeks, and there are alternative parking locations for commuters;
- RVR Triangle Park playground installation will be complete within 60 days;

- Nuche Park parking and signage has been postponed until later in the fall;
- Partition options for the women's restroom at Gianinetti Park are being reviewed;
- Staff is being utilized to paint Sopris Park Playground equipment as time allows;
- FMLD Gianinetti Park playground renovation grant was awarded;
- FMLD Colorado Meadows Park playground renovation grant due in August;
- Phase 2 Electrical upgrades at the Gateway RV Park are completed;
- Electrical upgrades at the Gus Darien Arena are awaiting final hook-up and inspection;
- The Aquatic Facility Master Plan is underway;
- Work on the Pickleball courts has resumed;
- The batting cage has been purchased by the Little League and is on-site. Fundraising is in progress for the installation, although it is not clear when they will be allowed to do so given the current situation.

Jessi Rochel, Recreation Center & Recreation Programs Manager:

- The next Blood Drive is scheduled for May 20;
- Demeters Garden is open;
- Beginning June 8th Food Bank of the Rockies plans to distribute shelf-stable meals to those 18 years and younger twice a week;
- It is likely that the Rec Center will be reimbursed for the Silver Sneakers virtual classes;
- Jessie has completed a number of prescription and grocery store runs for vulnerable seniors;
- The Farmers Market will be happening with several caveats: no musicians and limited artisans, hot foods will be packaged to go, the picnic tables will be removed to limit socializing, there will be an option to order ahead to limit lines.

Hollis Sutherland, Parks & Recreation Commission Chair:

- Hollis encouraged Commission members to fill out the Eighth Street Connectivity Survey (SurveyMonkey.com and search for Eighth Street Carbondale).

Rose Rossello, Parks & Recreation Commission Vice-Chair:

- Rose asked the Commission if it would be possible to use large flowers from a past Mountain Fair as a permanent addition to the Sopris Park gazebo. The Commission was open to further discussion and asked Rose to obtain more information on costs and design.

ADJOURNMENT

The May 13, 2020, regular meeting adjourned at 8:40 pm. The next regularly scheduled meeting is set for June 10, 2020, at 7:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Kae McDonald