

MINUTES
CARBONDALE PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION
June 9, 2021

Hollis Sutherland called the virtual meeting of the Carbondale Parks & Recreation Commission to order at 6:05 p.m. at Carbondale Town Hall on June 9, 2021.

ROLL CALL

The following members were present for roll call:

Members: Hollis Sutherland, Chair
Rose Rossello, Vice Chair
John Williams, Member
Celeste Fullerton, Youth Member

Town Staff Present: Eric Brendlinger, Parks & Recreation Department Director
Jessi Rochel, Recreation Center & Recreation Programs Manager
Kae McDonald, Boards & Commission Clerk

CONSENT AGENDA

Motion Passed: Rose *moved* to approve the minutes from the May 12, 2021, meeting. John *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.

PARKS 7 RECREATION COMMISSIONERS INTERVIEW QUESTIONS DRAFT FOR REVIEW

Hollis noted that the draft interview questions included in the packet were part of formalizing the prospective commission member interview process. She explained that Eric had sketched out the questions and she had added her perspective--the goal is to find balance in the interview process. She pointed out that the interview questions would be provided to prospective commission members prior to the interview so they are prepared--the point is not to scare people away, but understand what skills, interests, and perspectives they have so they can be an asset to the commission. She would like to have a decision rendered at this meeting so that prospective members can be interviewed in July and August and approved by the BOT prior to September's meeting. Hollis encouraged the group to spread the word so there can be new members seated on the Parks & Recreation Commission.

Questions/Comments:

Rose commented that she thought the length and complexity of the questions might scare people away from applying.

Eric noted that the answers could be sent to the commission in written form if the candidate preferred.

Hollis added that an introductory paragraph could be added that explains what the Parks & Recreation Commission does and while skills are not necessary to be seated on the commission, the questions serve to find out what interests the applicant has.

Celeste pointed out that Questions 3 and 4 seemed repetitive and she liked the idea of an introductory paragraph.

Hollis and Eric were agreeable to combining Questions 3 and 4. Hollis noted that the questions will be emailed to the candidate with additional explanations.

Motion Passed: Rose *moved* to approve the interview questions with the approved edits and the addition of an introductory paragraph and email explanation. Celeste *seconded* the motion, and it was *unanimously approved*.

PARKS TOUR—PRESENT PROJECTS. FUTURE PROJECTS. BUDGETING PRIORITIES

Before the group headed out on the parks tour, Eric asked the commission members that while visiting the parks to provide input regarding dogs in the park areas specifically with regards to signage--is it appropriate and sufficient? He is planning a multi-pronged approach with education, mapping, and enforcement. He also asked the commission members to consider the commercial use of public park spaces—commercial use was allowed during Covid and while some vendors obtained permits, others did not. Eric noted that the TOC doesn't have comprehensive rules and regulations concerning this topic and in the next few months, he will complete a benchmark process and bring forward a set of rules and regulations for the Parks & Recreation Commission to review and refer to the BOT. He also asked the commission members to refer to the 30/60/90-day project update included in the packet for those parks that aren't visited during the park tour.

Jail and Cabin History Park:

- John pointed out that the Carbondale Historical Society is creating a simulated Dinkel Building with a video room. He noted that the cabin has been washed, bleached, re-chinked, and re-oiled.
- After a brief discussion, the commission members thought the best location for the Byway sign would be at the edge of the parking area.

DeMeter's Garden and Bonnie Fischer Park:

- Eric explained that the area had been encroached upon by neighboring property owners and renters and was causing damage to the landscaping and impeded ingress/egress. He has sent out notices to the adjacent property owners asking that all items be removed from the TOC right-of-way and that there is no overnight parking allowed.
- The master plan for this park is a formal parking area with striping denoted parking spaces. Five signs will be posted at DeMeter's Garden and seven signs will be posted along public access. The signs at DeMeter's Garden will be installed on 4" by 4" cedar posts and the seven signs along the public access will be installed on T-posts. Although the signs won't be bilingual, the universal sign of a circle with a slash through it should convey the appropriate message.
- The large rocks salvaged from a former garden bed will be transported to the Gateway RV Park to create a border defining the green space.

North Face Park:

- Eric showed the commission members where the batting cage is being installed on the western edge of the ball field; the batting cage will be open for public use. He noted that it had been built using volunteer labor and the TOC supplied the artificial turf and a small amount of money.
- Eric noted that the Pickleball Association is interested in funding lights at the courts; the Parks & Recreation Department would like to piggyback lighting for the skateboard park and tennis courts at the same time. He did note that the Pickleball Association still owes \$55,000.00 for the court construction—they are under agreement to complete this payment by December, and Eric won't consider the lighting project until after the courts have been completely paid for.
- Eric showed the commission members the weed mitigation effort on the non-ridable surfaces at the bike park. He pointed out that efforts have included layers of weed barrier with pea gravel placed on top, but the weeds are growing on top of the weed barrier. He showed the commission members another technique using surplus plastic tiles. He noted that in the test plots at the Nature Park, the Avenger seems to slow the weed growth down, but it isn't killing the weeds and re-applications are time-consuming and expensive. He added that the weed mitigation is a challenging maintenance process and RFOV student groups, and those performing community service will hand pull some of the weeds, but because the area is watered to keep the dust down and maintain a rideable surface the weeds keep getting ahead of the maintenance. Eric explained that many bike parks have transitions to asphalt bike tracks with a concrete landing zone and they may have to consider that option if they can't get ahead of the weeds.
- Eric also pointed out an area that John Buerger has treated the weeds using a broadcast spray of Alpha Naturals.

Hendricks Playground:

- Eric showed the commission members the new fall attenuation surface at the Hendricks playground. It is engineered wood fibers in a nine-inch layer that is ADA-compliant.
- He pointed out the swings and if they are lowered too far, the fall attenuation material gets scooped out

and it becomes a safety hazard.

- Eric noted that he met with a playground manufacturer that examined the play features in the park—most of the features are beyond their use life and the plastic is degrading creating gaps at the joints that can't be repaired.
- Eric estimated that the cost to replace the play features would be similar in scope and cost to Miners Park—approximately \$80,000.00 for a complete overhaul (plus a similar amount to cover the cost of installation). He added that the FMLD grants are no longer a go-to source of funding. An alternative would be to investigate the playground manufacturers surplus programs—there is a “Move-It” grant that the TOC would qualify for in 2022. The Move-It grant is a 100% matching grant, cutting the replacement cost by 50%. There are two play features that would need to be replaced by similar features and Eric would like to add an ADA-compliant swing.

Ramey-Harvey Park:

- The commission members thought the park would be a unique addition to our park inventory. They liked the passive nature of the park, the shade possibilities, the labyrinth, and the landscaping. They did not see a continuation of the use of the fountain due to the potential water use and evaporation in this drought. Electricity for the irrigation is coming off a private line from the house to the west so this would need to be figured out, and they were happy that the irrigation is run off the Hendricks subdivision pump and from the ditch water. There was discussion about a sound garden, brought up by a citizen, but the commission felt this was not an appropriate location for musical instruments. Another idea from a citizen was the potential for outdoor exercise equipment, creating a small active section of this park, geared to the elderly.
- The commissioners were concerned about the level of maintenance necessary to keep the park in the present condition. The Town uses chemical-based herbicides as a last resort on noxious weeds that have not succumbed to our non-chemical control methods. Eric asked the owners of the park if the previous weed control included the applications of chemical herbicides? Areas of concern would be the labyrinth and some of the flower beds.
- One other concern is the present use of the park for the Crystal Meadows residents to smoke cigarettes, because they cannot smoke on their property. TOC park rules state that there is no smoking in any of our parks. This would also need to be discussed.
- The consensus was positive because we do not have a passive park like this in our inventory.
- Russell Sissom, our Parks Supervisor, looked at the park and could not find a separate control box for the irrigation, so he had a question if this irrigation system is part of the houses system. He determined that weekly maintenance would be conducted with a push mower and a weed whacked by two people for a duration of 1.5 hours with mobilization. Our existing mow schedule places this cut on Wednesday when we hit other parks close by to streamline mobilization. Presently we are down a few employees so this would not fit into that preferred schedule since the time and route is already full.

REPORT & UPDATES: STAFF AND COMMISSION MEMBERS

Eric asked the commission members to review the 30/60/90-day project summary included in the meeting packet.

ADJOURNMENT

The June 9, 2021, regular meeting adjourned at 8:25 pm. The next regularly scheduled meeting is scheduled for July 14, 2021, at 7:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Kae McDonald