

MINUTES
CARBONDALE PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION
July 8, 2020

Hollis Sutherland called the virtual meeting of the Carbondale Parks & Recreation Commission to order at 7:05 p.m. on July 8, 2020, in the Town Hall meeting room.

ROLL CALL

The following members were present for roll call:

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

CONSENT AGENDA

Motion Passed: John *moved* to approve the minutes from the June 10, 2020 meeting. Rose *seconded* the motion, and it was *unanimously approved* with Becky Moller abstaining due to her absence at that meeting.

ITEMS FROM CITIZENS PRESENT NOT ON THE AGENDA

There were no items from citizens present but not on the agenda.

TOC PARKS & RECREATION COVID 19 REPORT

Eric gave the Commission an update on the current Covid-19 action plan for the Parks & Recreation facilities throughout the Town. The State of Colorado is currently in the “Safer at home and in the vast, great outdoors” phase, and many of the Park & Recreation facilities have been allowed to re-open with specific guidelines:

- The Recreation Center continues to operate on a reservation-only modified schedule. The facility is averaging 50 to 55 users per week. A showers-only option has been added on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 2:00 to 3:30 for those in need;
- The John M. Fleet pool opened on June 23rd and is also operating on a reservation-only modified schedule. There were 67 lap lanes and 28 household zones reserved the first week, and 80 lap lanes and 35 household zones reserved the second week. In order to not be put into the position of turning people away, the pool was closed on the 4th of July.
- Gateway RV Park is open to self-contained units; the bathhouse and showers remain closed. The park is averaging 65 to 80% occupancy.
- Except for the Farmers Market, all special events on Town property were cancelled for July including the 4th of July Parade and Pool Party. Social distancing and masks are required at the Farmers Market for all vendors and customers.
 - The Mt. Sopris Music Fest was presented virtually.
 - Carbondale Arts is currently working on Mountain Fair programming that satisfies current Covid-19 guidelines. Anticipated events include a virtual drum circle on Friday evening, a roving “Confluence Jamboree”, artisans at the Christmas Tree Lot, a Farmers Market at Sopris Park, and a family scavenger hunt. The number of participants at each event will be dictated by the current health department

guidelines and registration for events is anticipated. Carbondale Arts will work on messaging to emphasize that this event is tailored for locals to discourage a lot of out-of-town visitors.

- Staff is currently considering how to offer Our Town/One Table that satisfies the Covid-19 guidelines.
- The Ranch Roping Event has submitted a plan for a small event at the Rodeo Grounds in mid-September.
- Will Tempest has led three youth hikes, with four more scheduled into August. Youth tennis and skateboard lessons have started and will also continue into August. The Roaring Fork Soccer League is conducting U6 and U8 practices on Saturdays at Miners Park.
- The town parks are all open with posted rules and regulations. The Young-Calaway Alpine Bank Pickleball courts are now open, and the TOC is abiding by the MOU between the Roaring Fork Pickleball Association and the Parks & Recreation Department. The TOC is also planning on leasing the lot at the corner of 5th and Main to provide additional outdoor seating for take-away dining.

Questions/Comments:

Hollis asked if there was a plan to limit the number of people that might be attracted to the roving “Confluence Jamboree”.

John suggested advertising the estimated time the musicians will pass through designated points, as well as engaging a police car to follow along to help with crowd numbers.

Kathleen asked what role the Parks & Recreation Department will play in the planned Mountain Fair. Eric replied that other than making sure the park areas are ready, the department won't play a big role.

ENVIRONMENTAL BOARD & TREE BOARD LABELING PLAN PROGRESS REPORT

Eric reported that Colin Quinn, the Chair of the Environmental Board is ready to implement a plan to label 10 to 12 trees in Sopris Park. He is investigating the costs to link the labels to an on-line story map that will provide educational information on the trees. This is a pilot project, and if it is well-received, it may be expanded to other TOC parks. The labels will be designed to limit any maintenance issues.

CRYSTAL RIVER RESTORATION & WEAVER DITCH ENHANCEMENT PROJECT UPDATE: GRANTS REPORT

Eric updated the Commission on the status of grants awarded for the Crystal River Restoration & Weaver Ditch Enhancement Project. A \$50,000.00 grant was recently awarded by Pitkin County Healthy Rivers to the TOC to complete the final planning and interpretive design of the Riverfront Park Restoration Project. This is in addition to a \$30,000.00 Fishing is Fun grant that is earmarked for ADA accessibility and outdoor classroom design. This project satisfies the 2015 Master Plan to provide universal access to local rivers. Once the project is at 100% funding for design, there are many granting opportunities for the actual construction of the project. This is also a demonstration project on how to efficiently move water into ditches without damaging the river and surrounding environment. Given the many project partners and potential funding sources, this project is moving up in the Parks & Recreation Department priority list.

Questions/Comments:

Becky asked if there has been any concession for parking at the park. Eric replied that the parking is still limited, but there is a good pedestrian crossing nearby. He also pointed out that it is in walking distance of five schools.

John asked if there was an estimated completion date. Eric replied that a completion date isn't targeted yet. He estimated design and permitting through Fall of 2020, followed by fundraising through the Spring of 2021, with construction to take place sometime between the Spring of 2021 and Winter of 2022.

PARKS TOUR REVIEW FOR BUDGET PRIORITY EXERCISE

Eric informed the Commission members that in response to disruptions caused by the Covid-19 pandemic, Great Outdoors Colorado (GOCO) has changed the grant process for 2021. Called the Resilient Communities Program, GOCO will fund one-time, immediate needs or opportunities that are shovel-ready and can demonstrate improvements to the local community. There will be four cycles this year, and there is no limit on the number of applications that can be submitted. GOCO will be looking at how each grant fulfills their five core values: Resource Conservation, Outdoor Stewardship, Equitable Access, Youth Connections, and Community Vitality.

Eric requested the assistance of the Commission members in brainstorming projects that might fulfill the requirements of the Resilient Communities Program. To that end, Eric will email the draft Capital Improvement Plan and the GOCO Grant requirements with an anticipated discussion at August's meeting.

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):

- The Red Hill kiosk design work has been completed. Responses for an RFP to build the trailhead amenities is due on July 24th;
- Red Hill Road should be completed by the end of July;
- RVR Triangle Park improvements are close to completion;
- There are no training opportunities for chemical weed mitigation due to Covid-19 restrictions, so the Parks crew is eradicating problem weeds by hand;
- Gianinetti Park improvements are anticipated for completion in the fall;
- There was a good survey response to the Aquatics Master Plan survey, with a healthy response from the LatinX community. A presentation is anticipated at the September meeting;
- The mobile stage will be ready to pick up in August dependent upon Covid-19 restrictions;
- Genevieve's MEM report will be presented at the September or October meeting.

Jessi Rochel, Recreation Center & Recreation Programs Manager:

- The Recreation Center has remained open, with staff's goal to continue to keep the facility open and patrons safe. A shower option is offered on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons for those in need;
- The next Blood Drive is scheduled for Wednesday, June 15 and a spot must be reserved;
- Beginning June 8th, Recreation Center staff began distributing shelf-stable meals provided by Food Bank of the Rockies to those 18 years and younger on Tuesdays and Thursday from 12:30 to 1:30 pm. There have been mixed results;
- Youth programming has been well received, and nine kids have enrolled in the Skateboard lessons beginning this week;
- Depending upon Covid-19 restrictions, the Recreation Center is considering adding Friday Field Trips in the upcoming weeks.

Kathleen Wanatowicz, Parks & Recreation Commission Member:

- Kathleen asked the other Commission members if they would like to have a brainstorming session on possible GOCO grant projects. Becky reminded the Commission that if there are three or more, one person needs to report back to the Commission on what was discussed. Kathleen will send out some possible dates and times.

ADJOURNMENT

The July 8, 2020, regular meeting adjourned at 9:00 pm. The next regularly scheduled meeting is set for August 12, 2020, at 7:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Kae McDonald