

**MINUTES  
CARBONDALE PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION  
August 11, 2021**

Hollis Sutherland called the in-person/virtual meeting of the Carbondale Parks & Recreation Commission to order at 7:05 p.m. at Carbondale Town Hall on August 11, 2021.

**ROLL CALL**

The following members were present for roll call:

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

**CONSENT AGENDA**

**Motion Passed:** Tracy *moved* to approve the minutes from the July 13, 2021, meeting. Rose *seconded* the motion, and it was *unanimously approved*.

**ITEMS FROM CITIZENS PRESENT NOT ON THE AGENDA**

Becky questioned whether the planned vote on commission member applications by written ballot was legal.

Hollis countered that she and Eric researched protocols including the Town's code and *Robert's Rules of Order* and met with the Town Manager. Based on their research, a written vote by an advisory commission is not illegal.

Becky pointed out that written ballots had never been used before and based on her conversations with others (including county attorneys) it isn't legal and may have to be done over. She questioned why the Town Attorney was not consulted.

**INTERVIEWS FOR OPEN PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION POSITIONS**

Hollis introduced the prospective Parks & Recreation Commission applicants.

Leslie Keery

Leslie Keery opted to go first and proceeded to introduce herself by saying that she currently works at Roaring Fork High School, has been teaching art for 20 years and she loves to volunteer. She noted that her passions include teaching, gardening, hiking, floating down the river and playing tennis. She reiterated how much she likes to help people. Leslie pointed out that she is letting some of her responsibilities at the high school and would like to fill her time with another activity—she thinks that participating on the Parks & Recreation Commission would be fulfilling. Leslie added that she read through the Master Plan and commented that it was very informative.

Hollis asked what types of experience Leslie might bring to the Commission.

Leslie commented that working on the budget might not be in her wheelhouse, but she is comfortable with community outreach, brainstorming and she has developed curriculum for 20 years. She added that as an art teacher she is comfortable "looking outside the box."

Rose asked what specific expectations Leslie might have of the Commission.

Leslie replied that she wants to meet new people and be more supportive of the community that makes up Carbondale. She added that she doesn't have a specific agenda for the Commission, but just wants to help.

Rose followed up by asking what personal or professional benefits Leslie could bring to the Commission.

Leslie responded that she loves what she does, and she is here because it makes her happy to help.

Ashley asked if there were any conflicts that might prevent Leslie from attending meetings.

Leslie replied that outside of Parent/Teacher Conference or an unexpected school event, she is available.

Kathleen asked if Leslie was open to email, phone calls, or extra meetings outside the established once-a-month Commission meeting.

Leslie responded in the affirmative but noted that she isn't the best phone person and would prefer to meet in person.

Tracy asked whether Leslie would be willing to be the point person for other groups that might mesh with her background.

Leslie again responded in the affirmative and noted that she is good at and enjoys organizing and fund raising. She added that she loves special events.

Tracy followed up by asking how Leslie heard about the opening.

Leslie replied that a friend had told her about it because she knew I would need something to fill my time with.

#### Becky Moller

Becky noted that she has been on the Parks & Recreation Commission for 13 years and everyone in attendance should be familiar with her. At Hollis' prompting, Becky added that she has a degree in Environmental Science, has just received her Master of Business Administration, and has worked as a Paralegal since 2005.

Hollis asked what has kept Becky motivated.

Becky responded that she wants to make sure the Commission is completing the best projects possible while also not putting the Commission at risk. She noted her desire to ensure the Commission stays open and transparent for the community and to make the community the best it can be.

Rose asked Becky how she best benefits the TOC.

Becky replied that she gets frustrated when a project doesn't turn out as expected, or when the work on a project isn't done ahead of time. She reiterated that she really wants to make Carbondale the best community it can be.

Ashley asked what inspired Becky to apply.

Becky reiterated that it is the same desire—to make Carbondale the best community it can be and to consider what it will look like ten and twenty years down the road. She added that another frustration is adding amenities when the TOC can't maintain what they already have. She would like the Parks & Recreation Department to be fiscally responsible.

Tracy asked Becky if she would be willing to be a member of other groups. She added that she knows Becky has served on a lot of project committees that have taken a lot of work. Tracy commented that Becky helped her learn to respect critical feedback and respects Becky's willingness to say what needs to be said, regardless of how uncomfortable it might make those around her feel. Tracy also asked what Becky's biggest challenge is.

Becky responded that she is working on holding people accountable in a more diplomatic way. She added that she is learning facilitation and mediation but noted that she can't always control her passion. She emphasized that she does try to listen to all sides, but she doesn't let how other people think of her affect how she reacts. Becky noted that the main reason she would like to continue as a Parks & Recreation Commission member is to get the pool project completed.

#### Susan Rhea

Susan Rhea began by noting that her primary interest for applying to the Parks & Recreation Commission was for the pool and older adult programming. She commented that she read through the Master Plan, and it doesn't really address the needs of older adults. She is interested in being a liaison for Senior Matters, the Crystal Lodge, and any other older adult organizations that interact with the Parks & Recreation Commission. She added that she was a member of the Golden Parks & Recreation Commission when they built their pool and she has overseen several housing projects of her own, so she understands cost overruns. She pointed out that it will take a lot of work to get the pool accepted by the community.

Hollis asked Susan why she thought the community wouldn't accept the pool and what Susan thought needed to happen to change that.

Susan responded that the pool construction budget will be larger than anyone expects, and she wasn't sure the pool usage would justify the cost. She pointed out that the architectural plans may need to be scaled back.

Hollis asked Susan if she had experience with fundraising and what Golden did to raise the funds needed to build their pool.

Susan replied that they pursued a GoCo grant, but otherwise it was a community effort. She noted that the community approved a \$00.01 sales tax which funded the community center construction.

Rose asked Susan if she had any specific expectations as part of the Commission.

Susan replied that she was looking forward to being the older adult liaison and promoting their needs. She would like to see the BOT support more outreach.

Rose followed up by asking Susan what personal or professional experience she had that would benefit the Commission.

Susan replied that she was really committed to the community—she loves it here. She indicated that she thought it was important to figure out how to integrate retirees into the community and that it needs to be a cross-generational effort.

Ashley asked Susan if she had any limitations on attending meetings.

Susan noted that she won't be traveling as much in the coming months, but if she is she generally has wi-fi access and would join meetings virtually.

Tracy asked Susan if she would be willing to be a contact person for other groups besides older adults.

Susan responded that she is active with the 100 Club and the Colorado Mountain Club. She is open to working with younger adults and other activities involving the arts, music, or theater.

Kathleen asked Susan if she would be available for other meetings besides the regularly scheduled Commission meeting.

Susan responded in the affirmative.

#### John Williams

John began by noting that he has been on the current Parks & Recreation Commission for three years and was also a member in the 1990s. He noted that he has always been involved in park and recreation activities including

playing tennis. He is involved with CAFCI, Senior Matters, and the Carbondale Historical Society. He owns several dogs and has helped with both dog parks. He pointed to his experience as a liaison with the pickleball players.

John added that his primary goal is to help produce and maintain the best park system and recreation programs that the TOC can. John indicated that he is a “people person” and is good at public outreach. He noted that his years of experience teaching tennis and as a carpenter have helped his problem-solving skills. He added that he was the tennis pro at the former Sunlight Racquet Club and was instrumental in organizing the USTA for the Roaring Fork Valley. He is interested in helping get the new pool and explained that he has had fun teaching swimming lessons. He pointed out that both museums in town are located within TOC parks.

Rose asked what personal/professional benefits John would bring to the Commission.

John responded that he likes to deal with people and wants to develop programming that works well. He added that recreation is part of his identity.

Kathleen commented that since John has participated in meetings outside the regularly scheduled Commission meeting in the past, she is sure he will participate in the future.

#### Misha Logan

Hollis commented that she has never seen a high school Junior with a resume.

Misha commented that he created it to look for a job this summer.

Hollis asked Misha what interested him in the Parks & Recreation Commission.

Misha replied that he wants to explore whether it is something he might be interested in pursuing as a career. He noted that he also read the Master Plan and it seems beneficial to the community. He added that he lives in town and runs and plays soccer, so he uses the soccer fields and trails throughout the community.

Ashley asked Misha whether he had a sense of what career he would like to pursue.

Misha responded that he was interested in architecture but noted that being on a volunteer board would be a good way to give back.

Tracy commented that it was great that he is involved in soccer and pointed out that there are a lot of organizations he could be the point person for such as Aspen Valley Ski Club and Roaring Fork Outdoor Volunteers.

Misha pointed out that he is a member of the high school's Energy Club and has experience creating surveys. He expressed a willingness to work with sports' clubs and reach out to other groups, if needed.

Ashley asked if he would have any challenges in attending meetings.

Misha responded that he does play sports but didn't think there would be a conflict.

Rose asked if he thought he could be an active participant in meetings, or if he thought he was more of a “listener.”

Misha replied that he is more comfortable being a “listener” but if he is prepared, he could be an active contributor.

Kathleen asked what Misha's favorite park or recreational amenity was.

Misha responded that he plays soccer at Triangle Park and plays pickleball. He added that he also uses the trails for running.

Eric asked if he had chosen his capstone project yet.

Misha responded that he hadn't but participating on the Commission might spark some ideas.

Hollis reminded the commission members that they are voting for three of the four candidates and Misha is the youth candidate. She added that Brian prefers to remain as the alternate. She acknowledged that the commission hasn't used a written ballot before, and it was a valid question whether it is proper. However, the TOC Manager reinforced the fact that this is an advisory commission that recommends action to the BOT. It will be up to the BOT to decide how to handle the issue.

After a short break during which Jessie tallied the ballots, Jessie read the results:

Leslie = 5 votes  
Becky = 4 votes  
John = 5 votes  
Susan = 4 votes  
Misha = 6 votes.

Hollis noted that the list will be forwarded to the BOT as a recommendation; because there is a tie it will be placed on the August 24th meeting as an agenda item.

#### **VOTE ON CHAIR AND VICE-CHAIR FOR 2021-22**

**Motion Passed:** Ashley *moved* to nominate Hollis as Chair and Rose as Vice-Chair of the Carbondale Parks & Recreation Commission. Kathleen *seconded* the motion, and it was *unanimously approved*.

#### **DRAFT PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT BUDGET GOALS 2022**

Eric noted that it is budget season and the Parks tour in June sequenced well so commission members could visualize the needs of the various parks for the upcoming budget. He noted that the packet item is a written draft based on last month's excel spreadsheet and that line items may change throughout the process. He noted that after Covid, the numbers are very different from historical precedent and on the revenue side, the budget is very challenging because there are still unknowns in terms of membership levels.

Eric pointed out that this will be the fifth year in the current 10-year plan and the draft budget identified maintenance needs and grants available to fund those needs. He added that the FMLD grants are no longer available for the playground upgrades, so the best option is to work with manufacturer grants. By working with the manufacturers, it will bring the cost down by 50% but it also limits the choices. He added that the Parks & Recreation Department is the fiscal manager for the Carbondale Arts GoCo grant for the Youth Art Park mini-grant. He added that with the deadline for completion set as March 12, 2022, he needs to manage progress.

Eric commented that the RFP for the Aquatic Facility bonding agents went out yesterday. He noted that because there are only a few qualified applicants in the area, there is a tight response time. He also added that he is reviewing how and when to participate in the GoCo grant process.

Eric pointed out that the Crystal River Restoration Project is 100% designed and 100% permitted and it is ready to move forward. He added that grants are being written for all aspects of the project and that a second Fishing is Fun grant of \$50,000 has been awarded to the project along with a \$55,000 grant through AVLT. He commented that federal funding is available for the project, but it would have to go through the National Environmental Policy Act process to access those funds and that would change the timing of the project. He went on to say that although the GoCo grant for this project was rejected, they received good feedback, which was that they needed more "skin in the game." The biggest challenge for this project is the project area falls within a Bald Eagle closure area--the timing of the closure and the optimal time to work on the project coincide.

Eric noted that the final portion of the 50 AMP pedestal project at the Gateway RV Park will be completed during the next budget cycle. He added that the Master Plan listed ambitious goals for the RV Park and the completion of most of the projects has been on a piecemeal basis. The next project is an upgrade to the wi-fi system; radio wifi technology will allow the RV Park to be covered with 1G/1G bandwidth with a lone of site infrastructure from the wastewater treatment plant across the river. The goal is to complete this process this year, but it might carry over into next year.

Brian asked what the RV Park currently used for wi-fi and what overall carrying capacity of the wi-fi system will be.

Eric responded that it was dial-up and generally not great.

Brian commented that over 50 amps would produce diminishing returns.

Eric responded that the TOC is contracting with Ting, and they will be able to select the service level desired.

Kathleen asked if this information is different than that presented at last month's meeting and commented that she thought this had been discussed several times.

Hollis noted that the written draft will be presented to the budget committee.

Eric added that this is the document that will be presented to the BOT, as well.

Tracy noted the budget line item for the Jump Doctors for the scheduled bike park rebuild in the spring and asked if the annual maintenance contract will cost around \$20,000?

Eric responded that it could potentially be that much and that it will cost money to maintain the bike park.

Tracy commented that knowing what the area bike park amenities are, it might be advised to reach out to them before the bike park is rebuilt. She thought it might be important to take stock of the current bike park users, as well.

Becky asked if there was anyone on the current Bike, Pedestrian, and Trails Commission that would be interested in participating in the process. She asked if the BPTC has a budget that could contribute towards the rebuild and/or maintenance costs.

Tracy commented that the budget for the mobile stage seems high.

Eric replied that he would like to add a Public Address system because that is a highly desired amenity. He noted that it would be a rental add-on, so the purchase cost would be recouped over time.

Becky asked where the line item for the Aquatic Facility bond consultants was listed.

Eric replied that it wasn't listed but that he would know more after the upcoming budget meeting.

Rose commented that rather than redoing two different playgrounds, her thought would be to complete one great park rather than two mediocre parks.

Eric replied that there is only one playground rebuild in the 2022 budget and the other playground will be in the 2023 budget.

Rose emphasized her desire for a "WOW" park in town.

Kathleen commented that there is so much to do in the area, it diminishes the need for that kind of park.

Hollis asked why the irrigation system rebuild falls under the Parks & Recreation budget.

Eric responded that it facilitates park irrigation as well as the green strip along Highway 133. Eric also noted that results from the test plots under the Weed Management Plan will be incorporated into next year's report. He informed the commission members that he may have found a systemic herbicide that is advertised as organic, and they plan to experiment with the product. He also reported that the natural land manager's proprietary application did work on some of the problem weeds, and he plans to look at those costs for next year.

Brian asked what was in the herbicide that set it apart from others that aren't organic.

Eric wasn't sure—the product is Echo Mite Pro—they will have to test it and see if it works.

Hollis asked if Celtic or Oktoberfest will be added to the schedule again.

Eric replied that given the staff workload and budget, those two events are unlikely to be sponsored by the Recreation Department again.

Jessi added that those events don't fit the current Recreation Department mission and instead they are sponsoring the triathlon.

### **AQUATICS FACILITY MASTER PLAN—NEXT STEPS: RFP TIMING**

As Eric pointed out in the previous discussion topic, the RFP for the Aquatic Facility bonding agents went out yesterday. He noted that because there are only a few qualified applicants in the area, there is a tight response time. He also added that he is reviewing how and when to participate in the GoCo grant process.

### **REPORT & UPDATES: STAFF AND COMMISSION MEMBERS**

Eric Brendlinger, Parks & Recreation Department Director:

- The 30/60/90-Day project spreadsheet summarize progress for ongoing projects
- Eric included the Quarterly Director's Report for the commission members to review

Jessi Rochel, Recreation Center & Recreation Programs Manager:

- The pool will be going to a modified schedule beginning Monday, August 16<sup>th</sup>. Margaret has sufficient staff to keep the pool open through Sunday, October 3<sup>rd</sup>
- Our Town, One Table is scheduled for this coming Sunday, August 15<sup>th</sup>. Jessi encouraged those that haven't reserved a table to contact Jamie
- The Blood Drive is scheduled for Wednesday, August 18<sup>th</sup>

Tracy asked if there is any climbing programming. Jessi responded that they are planning to offer new climbing classes in the fall, but they are waiting to see what happens with Covid protocols.

Luis Yllanes, Board of Trustees Liaison:

- Luis thanked Jessi for the continued pool updates.

Hollis Sutherland, Parks & Recreation Commission Chair:

- Hollis reminded the commission members that they had recognized Parks & Recreation Department Staff in March and announced that they would like to do something to recognize and thank commission members—possibly in September.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

The August 11, 2021, regular meeting adjourned at 9:05 pm. The next regularly scheduled meeting is scheduled for September 8, 2021, at 7:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Kae McDonald