

**MINUTES**  
**CARBONDALE PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION**  
**August 12, 2020**

Hollis Sutherland called the virtual meeting of the Carbondale Parks & Recreation Commission to order at 7:05 p.m. on August 12, 2020.

**ROLL CALL**

The following members were present for roll call:

Members:	Hollis Sutherland, Chair Rose Rossello, Vice Chair Ashley Hejtmanek, Member John Williams, Member Genevieve Villamizar, Member Kathleen Wanatowicz, Member (Late)
Absent:	Tracy Wilson, Alternate Becky Moller, 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 July 8, 2020 meeting. 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.

**INTRODUCTION OF TOWN OF CARBONDALE POLICE CHIEF KIRK WILSON**

This item was postponed due to Chief Wilson's inability to attend due to a family matter.

**TOC PARKS & RECREATION COVID 19 REPORT**

Eric updated the Commission members on the status of the Parks & Recreation Department activities under the current Covid protocols:

- The Gateway RV Park will extend its operating season through October 11<sup>th</sup> this year. There were two reasons that prompted this decision. The Camp Hosts had previously requested permission to stay past the normal operating season, and under the current circumstances the RV Park is producing steady income that will be an asset to the budget.
- Due to high demand the John M. Fleet Pool is also extending its season through October 3<sup>rd</sup>. The Pool will maintain its Tuesday through Saturday hours with a modified schedule beginning September 1<sup>st</sup>.
- The Roaring Fork Soccer Club will use several parks this fall to offer skills-based programming.
- Upcoming Special Events include:
  - The Farmer's Market every Wednesday from 10 AM to 3 PM through September 30<sup>th</sup>;
  - Little Blue Preschool is holding its graduation at the Sopris Park Gazebo. In order to make this event happen, the organizers were required to not only file the appropriate paperwork with the Parks & Recreation Department, but they also had to submit a Covid-19 plan to the Town and Garfield County;
  - Dance Initiative is holding a recital at the Thompson House Park on Friday and Saturday night, August 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup>. They were also required to file the appropriate paperwork with the Parks & Recreation

- Department, but they also had to submit a Covid-19 plan to the Town and Garfield County;
- o KDNK is hosting a Frisbee Golf Tournament Fundraiser at Gianinetti Park on September 12;
- o 5 Point Film Festival, which had postponed their event from the spring to October, will now be a virtual event.

Jessi updated the Commission Members on Recreation Center activities under the current Covid protocols:

- The Recreation Center partnered with Carbondale Arts to present an art class. In order to achieve the appropriate social distancing, the class was only available to six kids, which filled quickly. The class was held on the patio of the Recreation Center.
- Under the current Covid mask guidelines, the Recreation Center is requiring all employees and patrons to wear a mask while in the public areas of the building. Even with this new requirement, the reservations for workout equipment is holding steady.
- To replace the overnight hiking trip that is usually offered, another hike to Avalanche Creek will be offered on August 19<sup>th</sup>.
- Will is exploring additional program offerings for the fall.
- Jessi is still distributing shelf-stable meals provided by Food Bank of the Rockies. With the start of the school year, she may move the program to North Face Park to coincide with any after school programs offered by the Recreation Center.

Questions/Comments:

Genevieve asked if there had been any consideration for bringing a large socially-distanced event similar to the Crown Mountain Park drive-in to Carbondale. Eric replied that something similar is not likely to happen this year, but with the purchase of the mobile stage, it is possible to add a screen kit that may make such an event possible.

**GRANTS REPORT: FMLD SPRING ROUND AND GOCO RESILIENT COMMUNITIES FOLLOW-UP**

Eric referred the Commission members to the summary of the GOCO Resiliency Grant brainstorming session held on July 22, 2020. The two projects highlighted during this session were Gianinetti Park upgrades and the Aquatic Facility Implementation Plan. As part of his due diligence, Eric spoke with a GOCO representative to see what opportunities there were for these projects to fit into the mission of the program and the current grant cycle. Based on his conversation with the GOCO representative, a lot of land stewardship projects are being funded and neither of the proposed TOC projects would fulfill the stated mission of the current program. Armed with this information, Eric has revised his strategy for upcoming grant applications and 2021 budget priorities.

One of the other questions Eric also had answered was the process that the TOC might need to go through if there was a decision to relocate the pool behind the Recreation Center. Essentially, the TOC would need to go through a grant modification process in which they would have to prove that the Aquatic Center was the highest priority and best use of the allocated space. Even if there were a favorable decision by the GOCO Board, the TOC might still be required to pay back the GOCO funding for Promenade Park. The payback options could include full, partial, or no reimbursement, but given that it was a 25-year contract for \$200,00.00, the reimbursement cost could be pretty hefty. Eric's biggest concern is that if the TOC was required to reimburse GOCO, it might jeopardize the TOC's ability to compete for future funding. It is Eric's opinion that that risk outweighs any gains to be had by relocating the pool.

Given the additional information on both the GOCO Resiliency Grant, Eric is looking at a more holistic approach for future GOCO Grants by including both the project planning and implementation in one package. He is expecting the funding cap to go up and is looking at grant submissions for the Spring 2021 round. He is extending this modified approach to the upcoming FMLD grant by applying for additional funding to round out the play elements and ADA-compatible elements to Gianinetti Park; upgrades to the Colorado Meadows Park will be postponed until 2021.

Questions/Comments:

Hollis supplied the numbers from the recent Aquatics Master Plan survey that addressed the pool location: 50% wanted to relocate the pool, 25% wanted to keep it in the same location, and 25% needed additional information before deciding. However, when the survey drilled down into the comments it was less clear. There is currently a small working group looking at options for the pool in its current location.

Rose asked when the work at Gianinetti Park would take place. Eric responded that with the recent award of the FMLD grant, they would commence work on the park's play elements soon and they would have one year to complete it.

## **DRAFT 2021 DEPARTMENT BUDGET GOALS**

Eric opened this topic by stating that the draft 2021 TOC Department Budget Goals are due on Friday. He wanted to apprise the Commission members of overall Department goals for the coming year.

### Parks & Recreation Administration:

- Apply for Colorado Meadows Park play elements during Spring 2021 FMLD Grant Round;
- Apply for Colorado Meadows ADA-compliant elements during Fall 2021 FMLD Grant Round;
- Consider a project for the 2021 GOCO LPOR Grant Cycle;
- Manage Fishing is Fun Grant for the Crystal River Restoration project at Riverfront Park; funding for this project has been awarded and it will be released in 2021;
- Consider RESTORE grant application for the implementation of the Crystal River Restoration Project. This grant is due October 5, 2020;
- Complete the Gateway RV Park electrification project. It will cost \$35,000 to complete upgrades to the remaining sites.

### Parks Department:

- Utilize the Conservation Trust Fund to purchase ten bear-proof trash cans;
- Continue Red Hill trails maintenance;
- Complete the installation of border at the Miner's Park sand volleyball courts;
- Install bike racks at North Face Park;
- Purchase a push mower and two weed-eaters;
- Complete the White Hill fence project.

### Recreation Department:

- Install the batting cage at the ballpark;
- Explore additional Recreation programming compatible with the current Covid protocols. Examples include an archery program at the Nature Park, purchase a stage screen for drive-in movies, or purchase equipment to better prepare a winter fat bike course.

### Recreation Center:

- Increased marketing (includes continuing with the Spanish language radio station);
- Reorganize the minimum number threshold for fitness class offerings;
- Develop winter fitness challenges;
- HVAC System repairs and upgrades (replace box filter, staff training on the cloud-based platform);
- Retrofit front door for ADA compliance;
- Complete climbing wall inspection.

### John M. Fleet Swimming Pool:

- Repair/replace 2<sup>nd</sup> main pool heater;
- Purchase two additional picnic tables;
- Purchase one additional large umbrella;
- Replace faucet, toilet, and shower hardware in bathrooms.

### Recreation Programming:

- The goal is to keep self-produced events within budget;
- Community requests also fall under this line item;
- Margaret continues to be involved with the Garfield County Healthy Community Coalition as a board member and is continuing her involvement with the local HEAL committee with collaborations between Roaring Fork Food Alliance, Cooking Matters, Garfield County public Health, and the CSU extension programs. The goal is to once again host free Cooking Matters Family Cooking Classes.

## **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):

- Roaring Fork Outdoor Volunteers will be hosting a work session on Sunday, August 16<sup>th</sup> at Red Hill to build the connector trail from the lower parking lot to the upper parking lot/trailhead;
- The slide has been installed and sod laid at the RVR Triangle Park;
- Plans are in place to dismantle and rebuild the playground at Orchard Park this fall;
- A member of the Environmental Board that lives in RVR is going to approach the RVR Board about incorporating the TOC Weed Management Plan;
- Nuche Park improvements are anticipated for completion in the fall;
- The mobile stage will be delivered in late September;
- Genevieve's MEM report will be presented at the September or October meeting.

Jessi Rochel, Recreation Center & Recreation Programs Manager:

- Nothing new to report that wasn't reported on previously in the meeting.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

The August 12, 2020, regular meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm. The next regularly scheduled meeting is set for September 9, 2020, at 7:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Kae McDonald