

**MINUTES**  
**CARBONDALE PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION**  
**September 11,**  
**2019**

Becky Moller called the Carbondale Parks & Recreation Commission meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. on September 11, 2019, in the Town Hall meeting room.

**ROLL CALL**

The following members were present for roll call:

Members:	Becky Moller, Chair John Williams, Member Hollis Sutherland, Member Rose Rosello, Member Ashley Allis, Member Todd Chamberlin, Member Tracy Wilson, Vice Chair
Absent:	Genevieve Villamizar, Alternate (LATE) Camy Britt, Alternate
Town Staff Present:	Eric Brendlinger, Parks & Recreation Director Jessi Rochel, Parks & Recreation Manager Margaret Donnelly, Aquatics Manager/Health & Wellness Coordinator Kae McDonald, Boards & Commission Clerk Luis Yllanes, Board of Trustees Liaison

**CONSENT AGENDA**

**Motion Passed:** Rose *moved* to approve the minutes from the August 14, 2019 meeting. Todd *seconded* the motion, and it was *unanimously approved*.

**HOUSEKEEPING**

Eric brought up the fact that Parks & Recreation management will be at a conference during the upcoming October 9, 2019, commission meeting and asked if the meeting could be rescheduled for Wednesday, October 16, 2019, instead. After a brief discussion, all agreed to the new meeting date for October.

Rose brought up the fact that while at Sopris Park, she noticed that the paint had worn off some of the playground equipment and asked if Eric could bring that to the attention of staff.

**PERSONS PRESENT NOT ON THE AGENDA**

There was no one present, not on the agenda, who wished to address the Commission.

**AQUATICS/WELLNESS COORDINATOR: END OF SEASON POOL REPORT**

Margaret Donnelly provided a recap on pool attendance numbers and staffing. Listing the following numbers in comparison with 2018:

General Admissions by Category	2018	2019
Lap and Open Swim Patrons	7,024	6,341
Day Camps	554	1,288
Swimming Lessons	2,062	2,152
Mountain Fair	34	32
TOTAL ADMISSIONS	9,674	9,813
PROJECTED BUDGET		\$54,000
TOTAL REVENUES	\$62,888	\$57,480

Margaret further explained that, due to scheduling conflicts and lifeguard to patron ratios, they had had to turn away four day camps. One of the other challenges was scheduling lifeguards—although there were the same number of lifeguards on staff this year as in 2018, the number of shifts many of the lifeguards could cover was less than that of the previous year. However, because the hours the pool was open had also been reduced, there was an actual savings of almost \$7,000.00 in part-time pay compared to 2018. Margaret also explained that she had tracked usage numbers going back to 2013, and 2019 had the second highest visitor-ship of those years, and that an average of 6,000 was good for general admissions. With the higher-than-budgeted revenues, they can get a head start on budget items for 2020. She is also working on buttoning-up the pool. The lip on the liner is coming up, so she is trying to get that fixed because they can't put the cover on the pool until it is.

Margaret also informed the Commission on other programming changes that will be upcoming at the Recreation Center. Fitness Zumba (both Aqua and Regular) will be going away, but Margaret is hopeful she can find a replacement to teach land Zumba at some point in the future. With the addition of two new classes--Circuits and Conditioning and Body Pump—the morning, noon, and evening class schedule will be full Monday through Thursday. Farm RX will continue with programming this Fall; Carbondale is the only recreation center in Garfield County that offers this class. A cooking class for students—Fork and Pan, will be offered again this fall during Early Release Wednesdays. There will be two four-week sessions.

Questions/Comments:

Eric: Margaret is running a tight ship, and maximizing the short season. The numbers she presented are impressive.

Rose: Were you able to hire enough staff?

Margaret: I chose not to hire two people because their references didn't check out. In the end, I chose to sit on stand as a lifeguard, but then my other responsibilities suffered.

Eric: It would be nice to supplement that number, and be fully-staffed, so the full-time (Recreation Department) staff don't have to lifeguard.

Margaret: A final plug for upcoming events to put on your calendars—Oktoberfest, the Turkey Trot, and the Full Moon Winter Tri is January 11, 2020!

#### **APPROVAL OF PICKLEBALL COURTS NAMING REQUEST**

Jeff and Cilla Dickinson attended the meeting as representatives of the Roaring Fork Pickleball Association. Eric indicated that they had to follow the naming procedure, which included a 45-day public comment period. There was no opposition to the new name of the Pickleball Courts at North Face Park. The new name will now need consent from the Parks and Recreation Commission, after which it will be forwarded to the Board of Trustees for formal adoption.

**Motion Passed:** Todd *moved* to approve the name of the Pickleball Courts at North Face Park as the "Young-Calaway Pickleball Courts ... Alpine Bank." Hollis *seconded* the motion, and it was *unanimously approved*.

Questions/Comments:

John: What is the expected completion date?

Jeff: The pour is expected to happen in mid-September. It will then cure over the winter, and the final surfacing will take place next spring.

#### **CARBONDALE ARTS REQUEST TO PARTNER FOR 2020 GOCO MINI-GRANT**

Amy Kimberly, Executive Director of Carbondale Arts, presented a request to the Parks & Recreation Commission to partner for a 2020 GOCO mini-grant to fund the development of the third and final park along the Rio Grande Artway—the Youth Art Park. She has been coordinating with the 7<sup>th</sup> grade Middle School kids to develop the concepts for the park. The park is proposed to include charging stations and possibly a small climbing wall (similar

to that found at the Salida Town Park). The location is proposed just across the bike path from Town Hall. The Rio Grande Artway thus far has been a successful creative place-making project, with both De-Rail Park and the Latino Folk Garden attracting a lot of community interest; pedestrian counts since 2015 have shown an increase of 50,000 people using the section of trail between Snowmass Drive and Highway 133.

Amy has spent a good deal of time communicating with GOCO, and as far as she knows, no one else from Carbondale is putting forward another proposal for the mini-grant round. Maintenance of the park would be similar to that of the other two parks—Carbondale Arts would sign a Memorandum of Understanding with the Town that maintenance of the park would be the responsibility of Carbondale Arts. Land & Shelter would produce the final design, and Amy is optimistic that she can include Roaring Fork High School's shop department in constructing some of the park elements. Colorado Health Foundation helped fund the Latino Folk Garden; GOCO looks much more favorably at applications that include a community funding component.

#### Questions/Comments:

Eric: Have you secured another grant yet?

Amy: Not yet, but there is a lot of money available for public health grants. We are hopeful the match is secure before we apply.

Ashley: You are asking us to support the partnership. How much money is budgeted?

Amy: We are seeking up to \$40,000.

Hollis: If you are applying for a 2020 grant, which grant cycle are you aiming for?

Eric: There is one mini-grant and one regular grant awarded per grant cycle.

Becky: Haven't we used the mini-grant for the Pickleball Courts?

Eric: That was an FMLD grant, which also has a mini-grant and traditional grant.

Hollis: When did we submit the FMLD grant?

Eric: The Pickleball grant was for the Fall cycle.

Ashley: Is Parks & Rec submitting anything to GOCO?

Eric: No.

Tracy: Thank you for your work on the Artway! It is nice to see, and I have definitely noticed an increase in people using the parks.

Tracy: Are you well-equipped to submit the application on time?

Amy: Yes.

Becky: Just for clarification, what are we committing to?

Eric: The mini-grant requires a 25% match. GOCO is a fairly competitive grant. Supporting this project as an extension of the Creative District Plan is part of the language in the 2015 Master Plan.

Amy: The Parks & Recreation Department have been incredible in supporting Carbondale Arts.

Rose: I just want to reiterate what Tracy said. I have seen a lot of families at the park, having dinner this summer. I am a little nervous about the climbing wall. I would also love to see a rotating exhibit of artwork.

Amy: The climbing wall in Salida is not big; I am talking about 6 feet by 6 feet. It was just nice to see an active component, and I think it would complement the climbing boulder outside the recreation center.

Tracy: I have managed climbing walls for years, and I don't have any real concerns.

Ashley: From a practical perspective on the charging stations, they will need energy inspections, so it would be good to partner with the Town.

Amy: Yes, and we will have to partner with RFTA too.

Luis: It is ironic, having a graffiti wall.

Amy: We call it an "Art Wall" as opposed to graffiti, mostly in deference to the Town. It could be a few kids creating art for a year, but we haven't nailed down that concept down yet. It certainly won't be random.

Tracy: I have seen them called a Zen, or Buddha Board.

Becky: Do we have consensus on this?

**Motion Passed:** Todd *moved* to support the proposed Carbondale Arts Youth Art Park GOCO mini-grant application. John *seconded* the motion, and it was *unanimously approved*.

#### **TOWN OF CARBONDALE INTEGRATED WEED MANAGEMENT PLAN**

Eric and Gwen Garcelon presented the draft of the Carbondale Integrated Weed Management Plan. Eric highlighted the history, stating that it began in 1990 when the State of Colorado Noxious Weed Act was adopted in which municipalities were directed to develop a noxious weed management plan; it is now known as the Colorado Noxious Weed Act. The first draft of Carbondale's plan was introduced to the Board of Trustees in 2010, which mirrored that of Garfield County's; it was never adopted primarily because of the language in the document. It has been a lot of work and includes the involvement of the Environmental Board as well as interested citizens who were very adamant about not using herbicides and pesticides on Town property. The

document sort-of sat in a black hole until Gwen got involved when a Citizen Weed Task Force was organized. Gwen provided additional background, indicating that the Weed Task Force has invested a lot of time in the last year going through the original document. Once the document was vetted, it went to Town of Carbondale Staff for review. Although it has been a long process, it produced a high-quality document because of the intensive vetting. The document also speaks to the overall environmental ethic of the townspeople in terms of non-chemical weed eradication, but it also works within the state regulations. There is, however, a lot more in the process that makes chemical intervention far less necessary.

Gwen also highlighted the use of logs that are in Section 3.03; the logs will be used by the Parks and Recreation Department to keep track of how each parcel under their purview is being managed. She questioned whether the logs should be identified specifically as being used by Parks & Recreation, or whether other departments might manage them in the future. Hollis pointed out that Town Staff are better equipped to decide that, and that the use of the logs would be ingrained in the management of Town Property. Eric also pointed out that they would be used as a historic document that can be reviewed as staff changes. Gwen asked Eric to discuss the logs and how they are working. Eric responded that Parks and Recreation Staff decided that they needed them. Each park requires a different management technique, and there have been some successes. The bike park is probably the most challenging in how we manage the weeds, and the logs provide documentation on what has been tried and how well it worked. We are getting closer to figuring out what works best, and that in itself is a success of the logs. Gwen interjected that that's the point of the integrated weed management plan, it is a long-term management strategy and if it is carefully tracked and archived, it can work. And it focuses on healthy soil, so it is something exciting, and will develop into something we can be proud of and helpful to other municipalities. Eric pointed out that it also exposes our weakness', in that it tracks what needs to be done compared to what is actually being accomplished. Gwen continued that the incredible opportunity in this plan is the public education that is detailed in it. But, there is no time or staff to do the work detailed in the plan. She wanted the Commission to think about what the public education plan could look like, and what are the opportunities there. Let's get creative. When the plan is adopted, we plan to have a press conference and invite the community. That would be an easy enough thing to do to kick this off.

#### Questions/Comments:

Hollis: I would like to see us specifically address the education piece. Carbondale, in fact all of Garfield County, has the backing of the Colorado Extension Service and the Garfield County Vegetation Management Department, and they are available for education, plant identification, and recommendations for the best practices of certain plants. It is a great resource. They are also willing to provide support when the Plan comes before the Board of Trustees.

Tracy: We could also have a table at First Friday to launch this.

Luis: Hollis, your idea for the education component is so critical. There is also an app to identify noxious weeds, so there are ways to help them identify what they should be looking for and where the problem areas might be.

Becky: I am going to be a little nitpicky. On Page 6, Paragraph 5, Item 1.04, I would like to see language similar to Page 9, Paragraph 2.01. Prefer there is concordance between the two sections. Also on Page 9, it reads that there must be approval before using chemicals, when before it didn't require Board of Trustee's approval.

Hollis: I think the wording just needs clarification.

Eric: We do, and we want that, in a timely manner. The final decision is with the Board whether we can use chemicals or not. This is a way to get them to look at what was done this season, how it worked, and what we are planning for next season before the weeds start growing.

Becky: It really is just a matter of clarifying the language. For example, they would need approval in the Fall for an application the following Spring, so there isn't any confusion about the timing of the approval.

Hollis: Would it make sense to say as presented during the dormant season.

Becky: Or at least well in advance to the growing season. One final comment: on Page 11. I don't think we need to have a list of beneficial uses of weeds in the Weed Management Plan, just my personal opinion.

Genevieve: I think education and establishing culture is important, especially when you are telling people to do something, or not to do something. Their first question is why, and it is a big part of the culture in Carbondale. I love seeing it in there.

Hollis: If it is a List A plant, you can't have it. If it is a List B plant, you can have it, but you must control it.

Gwen: This paragraph is about a new paradigm of co-existing with weeds in a different way. It helps people to start thinking in new ways about weeds. That is part of the spirit of this plan, why they are there in the first place, and better management of the soil. They could also be potentially helpful in the future--we may need these plants in the future.

Susan Christman: I have had a chance to review the Weed Management Plan. California takes a completely different approach; the Pesticide Management Plan I worked on was a different paradigm. I am thrilled to see this document. One piece of the puzzle I am curious about is in the instance of when chemicals are used. Is

there an opportunity to post notices on the site ahead of time? Second, could there be a registry for notification if someone wants to know when and where chemicals are being used. It helps placate the public if they see someone spraying, and it is part of both the education and public health aspect of the plan.

John Burger: I have a business--Alpha *Natural*, Inc. ([www.alphanaturalconsulting.com](http://www.alphanaturalconsulting.com), 970-984-2467). I worked for the Town of Carbondale in 1999 as a pesticide-free applicator. I am here in support of Susan Christman. I am very interested and support anyone who wants to use something other than chemicals.

Hollis: Is there a place where we can add a Notification Plan?

Susan: On Page 16, in Section 4.04: Education and Awareness. If you can revise it to add public notification.

Tracy: Can we add a page to the website?

Eric: We can post notices on site when we are using an alternative method. It is a great idea to have a registry for when we do use herbicides, so that people that want to know have an opportunity to get on that list. It won't be too much a burden. We can put a bullet point in the plan to identify the notification methods.

**Motion Passed:** Todd *moved* to adopt the Town of Carbondale Integrated Weed Management Plan with edits and forward it to the Board of Trustee's for their consideration. Hollis *seconded* the motion, and it was *unanimously approved*.

### **THANK YOU TO TODD CHAMBERLIN FOR HIS SERVICE. NOMINATIONS FOR 2020 BOARD CHAIRPERSON AND VICE CHAIR**

The Parks and Recreation Commission officially extended a huge thanks to Todd for his 10 years of service on the commission. Eric added that nominations for chairperson and vice chair will be on October's meeting agenda. Tracy indicated that, while she is still committed to staying on the Parks & Recreation Commission, she would rather not continue in her role as Vice Chair. Becky expressed interest in retaining her role as Chairperson. Hollis expressed an interest in running for the Chairperson position. Rose expressed an interest in becoming more involved, either as Chairperson or Vice Chair. Genevieve also presented her revised application for full member status on the Parks and Recreation Commission.

**Motion Passed:** Todd *moved* to accept Genevieve Villamizar as a full member on the Parks and Recreation Commission. Rose *seconded* the motion, and it was *unanimously approved*.

### **REPORT & UPDATES**

Eric Brendlinger, Parks & Recreation Director:

- The playground replacement project at Miner's Park will begin October 1 with the demolition of the current play features;
- The construction of the pickleball courts is in progress. Members of the Roaring Fork Pickleball Association are playing an active role in the construction;
- There is some interest in the Aquatics Master Plan. Proposals are due September 27;
- A manufacturer/installer for the Red Hill Trails signs has been selected; it is Arrow Signs and Design. The contract was finalized at the September 10, 2019, meeting of the Board of Trustees;
- Now that the Department of the Interior is allowing E-bikes on BLM Lands, the Red Hill SRMA regulations will need to be adjusted to mirror that of the BLM;
- The Parks and Recreation Department is recruiting for the Special Events Task Force. There is one meeting in October and one meeting in November to outline 2020 events.

Jessi Rochel, Recreation Center and Program Manager:

- The Fall/Winter Brochure is available online, and will be in the September 19 edition of the Sopris Sun;
- Jessi attended the Back-To-School event last night to promote the CRCC and Fall programming;
- The CRCC will be partnering with CSU Extension and AmeriCorps to continue the STEM Program. She is not charging for her program, so the Rec Center is not charging her for the use of the space. It will run on Thursdays from 3:30 to 5 pm from October through Spring Break;
- The Pickleball Tournament will be held at North Face Park September 21 and 22;
- The CRCC is still accepting sponsors for Potato Days. It will be held on Saturday, October 5;
- Celtic/Octoberfest will be held on Friday and Saturday, October 11 and 12;
- There will be two senior trips to Paonia coming up on September 20 and September 28;
- The next Blood Drive will be held on Wednesday, October 9;
- Working with ACCESS Afterschool again this year. It will be on Tuesdays and a sports medley of some sort every week;
- The Gateway RV Park closes on September 30;

- Partnering with The Rosybelles Mobile Maker Bus for Preschool/Early Release Programming.

Eric introduced Genevieve for a final piece of business not on the agenda. Genevieve indicated that the Carbondale Garden Squad was trying to find incentives to help maintain participation, specifically items that might not cost money. She is asking for passes to the CRCC as incentives for repeat participation. Eric indicated that the Parks and Recreation Department has developed a policy for donation requests that was discussed at a past Parks & Recreation Commission meeting. It was forwarded to the Board of Trustees, with their preferred action at that time to be a legal review; which is where it still is. Eric wanted some input from the Commission whether or not they want to continue to pursue finalization of the donation policy. There was discussion over what constitutes non-profit and not-for-profit, and how local organizations fit into those categories. Eric felt that legal counsel was essential to help delineate certain definitions before the policy was put back on the agenda. After some discussion, it was suggested that Genevieve apply for 20 day passes to reward volunteers for their work.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

The September 11, 2019, regular meeting adjourned at 9:15 pm. The next regularly scheduled meeting is set for October 16 at 7:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Kae McDonald