



**Minutes**  
**Carbondale Parks & Recreation Commission**  
**Regular Meeting**  
**Wednesday, September 13, 2023**

Hollis Sutherland called the meeting of the Carbondale Parks & Recreation Commission to order at 7:05 PM at the Carbondale Town Hall Trustee Chambers.

**The following members were present for Roll Call:**

Members:

Hollis Sutherland	Chair
Rose Rossello	Vice-Chair
Leslie Keery	Member
Susan Rhea	Member
John Williams	Member
Ashley Hejtmanek	Member
Drew Sorenson	Member
Eli Cohen	Youth Member
Brian Soby (Late)	Alternate

Town Staff Present:

Eric Brendlinger	Parks & Recreation Department Director
Margaret Donnelly	Recreation Center Manager
Luis Yllanes	Board of Trustees Liaison
Kae McDonald	Boards and Commissions Clerk

Guests and Attendees:

Rachel Brenneman	Manifest Communication
Traci Schalow	Manifest Communication
Dan Bullock	682 Euclid Avenue
Niki Delson	1056 Village Road, Carbondale
Ron Kokich	1056 Village Road, Carbondale

**1. Roll Call**

**2. Consent Agenda**

Move to approve the August 9, 2023, meeting minutes with correction of typographical errors and striking "...but it seemed very expensive." from the second sentence, third paragraph on page 4.

*Moved by:* Rose Rossello

*Seconded by:* Eli Cohen

**Carried**

**3. Items from Citizens Present Not on the Agenda**

Ron Kokich, 1056 Village Road, explained that he visited the Carbondale Nature Park last week with his dog and observed that the far end was flooded when it normally is dry. He related that it has been reported that beavers have been building dams and that the Town was preparing to trap and remove them. He acknowledged that the Town is working to make the Nature Park better, but wondered why the beavers needed to be removed since it is nature in action.

Eric replied that it was a life safety issue for the neighbor at the north end of the park, pointing out that the beaver(s) have blocked three culverts – two of which are within the boundaries of the Nature Park-- but the third is located at the adjoining neighbor's road making it difficult for the wheelchair-bound elderly gentleman to navigate safely.

Hollis asked if there was a timeline for the action.

Eric replied that it is a joint action between the Parks and Recreation and Public Works Department, and the beavers will be removed whenever they are trapped. He noted that there is also the consideration that the beaver dams are affecting downstream water rights.

Drew commented that beaver baffles are commonly used on small streams in Vermont and wondered if that might be a solution. He wasn't sure how it might affect water flow, however.

**4. Welcome to Youth Parks & Recreation Commission Member and Re-appointed Members**

Hollis welcomed Eli, noting he is the newly appointed Youth Member. She added that she, Rose, and Ashley were also reappointed at Tuesday's Board of Trustees meeting. She encouraged Eli to contact her if he needed help prioritizing meeting topics.

Eli commented that he was glad to be there and assured the commission members that he would have time to devote to the Commission's business.

Rose advised Eli to read the meeting agenda prior to the meeting and choose one topic to research. She also encouraged him to review the previous meeting minutes to refresh his memory of actions taken.

## 5. **Manifest Communications Dog Park Signage Presentation for Hendricks, Glassier and Nature Park Off-leash Dog Areas**

Eric commented that he has appreciated working with Manifest Communication because they listened to the needs of the Commission and without a lot of direction were able to transform the correct message with visualization. He noted that the Police Department and the Parks Supervisor have reviewed the signage, as well. He added that the kiosk style and color will also need to be finalized at this meeting.

Rachel introduced herself and the graphic designer, Traci Schalow. She added that a third member of the team, Rose Salseto, is their Spanish advisor. She explained that they took the approved content and, with a few liberties, have infused creativity into it to come up with the current signage version.

Traci commented that they wanted to present a detailed version of the Nature Park that functions as educational, as well as informative, signage. She noted that that level of detail won't be necessary for Hendricks or Glassier Parks and the park location map can be proportionately larger for those signs.

Susan suggested confirming that the font size is legible at a specified distance. She also suggested adding a legend, and color coding the parks according to leash laws.

Drew pointed out that the only color-coding should be for off-leash parks because otherwise it is too confusing.

Rachel suggested making the inset larger to add Staircase Parks.

Brian wondered if it might be more expedient to change the rules where there are a lot of scofflaws.

Hollis noted that this is the first iteration for branding and the format will be duplicated at other parks throughout the community. She encouraged confirming the status of leash laws at the two river trail parks.

Susan asked if blue was important for all park signs.

Rachel summarized that the dog park maps will be the same color, called attention to the black bubble and will adjust the font size as needed.

Hollis suggested designating "People-only" parks.

Eli suggested highlighting the Nature Park parking.

Rose suggested clarifying the electric fence board.

Leslie pointed out that cursive is no longer taught in school and suggested swapping that out for print lettering.

Ashley commented that the blue coloring is confusing and reduces the visibility of the pond, barn, and solar array, and suggested using green or yellow instead. She also wanted to confirm that it is "Glassier Park" and not "Glassier Dog Park."

Drew noted that the identification of the swimming hole washes out and suggested using a graphic instead. He also noted that the old cabin at the park isn't depicted, and wondered if there was any historical significance of the feature.

John replied that there isn't any available information on it, surmising that it may be related to the Gianinetti's. He thought it should be fenced to protect the resource.

Susan commented that there are many park users that go for the birds and other wildlife and preferred to see the pond less well advertised.

Drew pointed out that there were unmarked paths that traverse the center of the park and wondered if those were sanctioned paths. He added that some bird species need unfragmented habitat and speculated how best to manage the competing interests, suggesting at the minimum to add a dog pot or bag station along the trails.

Hollis thought the renegade paths developed during times the established paths are wet.

Eric thought the pattern of behavior that leads to renegade trails will be hard to change. He added that if there is a large area without paths, people tend to not pick up after their dogs and having a variety of trails helps with that. He thought it might be helpful to develop a strategy to manage any new social trails.

Traci directed the commission members' attention to the Rules map, pointing out their use of illustrations to convey the intent of each rule.

Hollis wondered if there was a way show a human taking off a leash for the "Dogs can be unleashed once inside the park" rule.

Rachel pointed out how large the human depiction was, noting that it would make the sign busier.

Susan pointed out that the third bullet point in the upper right corner had a lot of words that were already stated elsewhere on the sign.

Eric clarified that they segregated the various directives and on the left side were those that were "Please Do Not," and on the right side were those that were "Calls to Action."

Drew pointed out that most people are preoccupied with getting their dogs safely into the park and often don't have the attention span to read everything. He wondered if there was a way to call out the most important directives so they can be read quickly.

Rachel thought eliminating the "thumbs up" and "thumbs down" might cut down on the sign's clutter.

Hollis commented that she liked the "thumbs up" and "thumbs down" graphics and suggested the graphics be reordered according to those criteria.

Rachel directed the Commission's attention to the smaller signs, noting that they will be posted at both gates entering Hendricks Dog Park, and adding that the larger signs will be mounted on a kiosk in the center of the park. She pointed out that because there are fewer features at Hendrick and Glassier Parks, the inset will be proportionally larger.

Eric noted that the dog on a leash was an important visual and asked that it be enlarged and take a more prominent place on the sign.

Rose thought it was important to clearly denote the boundary between Glassier Park and the school district property.

Drew suggested matching the wording in the black bubble and the inset title.

Leslie encouraged the use of images and to reduce the number of words. She liked reordering the rules into "Do's" and "Don'ts."

Eric stated that he was considering the six-panel kiosk for the Nature Park – thereby providing a panel each for the “Friends of the Dog Park” and announcements – and using the smaller kiosks at Hendrick and Glassier Parks. He added that most of the other kiosks in town were green.

Dan Bullock, 682 Euclid Avenue and a member of the Tree Board, asked the Commission to consider adding a second QR code that would link to a separate website that would provide information on the trees and plants in each park.

## **6. Crystal River Restoration Project Update**

Eric reported that Redoubt Restoration is doing a great job on the Crystal River Restoration Project and will finish the in-river and upland work by the September 30<sup>th</sup> deadline. He noted that there will be a few items left to complete next spring including the riparian native planting and installing interpretive signage. Eric added that he also met with members of the Roaring Fork Audubon Society and showed them how the plans had been adapted to accommodate their concerns and where they altered the plans to save more native plants. He explained that they were also able to meet with several grantors onsite. Eric stated that with the completion of the project, a 2015 Master Plan goal will be satisfied by providing ADA access to the Crystal River. He also reported that the spill area has been tested and no more mitigation is needed.

## **7. Aquatics Facility Design and Construction Update -- Timeline and Capital Campaign Information**

Eric pointed out that a revised timeline was included in the meeting packet, explaining that there has been a delay in finalizing the conceptual design and thereby delaying the schematics. He noted that they have been working on pricing out electrification needs and the corresponding equipment requirements because the original conceptual design didn't reflect the Town's goals and they have had to take a hard look at what they want to be built and finding the equipment to match. He added that the whole team is working towards determining what an energy efficient pool will cost and there should be some resolution when they meet on September 26<sup>th</sup>. Eric explained that the cost of the pool will likely be between \$2 and \$2.5 million dollars over the bonded amount, and they have hired a Capital Campaign manager to oversee fundraising. He noted that the Town is also considering the cost of hiring a grant writer in the 2024 budget cycle. Eric reported that, with assistance, he is delving into a variety of grant opportunities from both new and traditional sources. He added that the Capital Campaign funding goals are static and will adjust depending upon any grants awarded.

Hollis thanked Susan for spending time researching alternate energy sources. She wondered if the planned pool party on September 24<sup>th</sup> will include a fundraising component.

Luis reported that Carbondale's Public Arts Commission anticipated this project satisfying the requirement for the 1% Fund. He encouraged collaboration between CPAC and the Parks & Recreation Commission.

Eric explained that 1% of the project cost must be devoted to public art and that the design team was aware of that commitment. He added that the Capital Campaign wouldn't be organized in time for the pool party, but they anticipated using it as a public education piece.

## 8. Reports & Updates: Staff & Commission Members

### **Eric Brendlinger, Parks & Recreation Director**

- Potato Days is expanding, and a Contra Dance will be hosted at the Rec Center on First Friday night; the event will include catered food and libations. Traditional Potato Day activities will take place on Saturday, and the Sopris Gymkhana will take place on Sunday. The Carbondale Chamber is hosting a new event “Ride the Ranches” on Sunday and it will begin and end at Coffman Ranch. They have been soliciting sponsors with the goal of not only breaking even but adding to next year’s start-up fund. Potato Days is a fundraiser for the Carbondale Historical Society.

### **Margaret Donnelly, Recreation Center Manager**

- Our Town, One Table hosted 110 tables
- Margaret attended the first annual Wellness Fair at Sopris Lodge
- The recent Senior Trip was to the Aspen Art Museum; eight people went on the trip
- The August Sports Camp Program had 12 attendees
- Adult Pickleball League finished next week and had 22 registrants
- Fall Youth programs: Youth climbing began last week and the September Youth Arts Class began last week
- Adult softball was extended for two weeks, finishing next week
- Youth pickleball has started
- Adult volleyball will begin the week after softball season ends
- Dinky Dunkers will begin in October
- They are developing a Potato Day Cornhole Tournament
- Turkey Trot planning is underway with high hopes that registrants stay in the 400+ range
- The end of the season Pool Party will be Sunday, September 24th

### **Luis Yllanes, Board of Trustees Liaison**

- Nothing new to report

### **Parks & Recreation Commissioners**

Susan reported that she attended Tuesday’s Board of Trustees meeting and expressed her frustration that necessary infrastructure items like the Gianinetti Park bathroom replacements are seemingly being postponed in deference to the pool project. She emphasized the importance of accessible bathrooms for every park user.

Hollis replied that she is a proponent of developing a foundation, so they have the necessary funding to pursue these projects. She added that Eric is exploring alternatives, but the project is more complicated than it appears. Hollis also noted that with the alteration of the boards and commissions schedule, the Commission technically is without leadership.

Susan moved to nominate Hollis for another term as Chair and Rose for another term as Vice-Chair. Ashley seconded the nomination.

Eric noted that the nomination will be considered at the October meeting.

Susan agreed to run October's meeting since both Hollis and Rose will be absent.

**9. Adjournment**

The September 13, 2023, meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission adjourned at 9:09 p.m. The next regular meeting of the Commission is scheduled for Wednesday, October 11<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm in Room 1 at Town Hall.

Respectfully submitted,

Kae McDonald

Boards & Commissions Clerk, Town of Carbondale

Draft