

**MINUTES
CARBONDALE PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION
September 9,
2020**

Hollis Sutherland called the virtual meeting of the Carbondale Parks & Recreation Commission to order at 7:05 p.m. on September 9, 2020.

ROLL CALL

The following members were present for roll call:

Members:	Hollis Sutherland, Chair Rose Rossello, Vice Chair Ashley Hejtmanek, Member Genevieve Villamizar, Member Becky Moller, Member Tracy Wilson, Alternate
Absent:	John Williams, Member Kathleen Wanatowicz, 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: Ashley *moved* to approve the minutes from the August 12, 2020 meeting. Tracy *seconded* the motion, and it was *unanimously approved* with noted typographical corrections.

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

Hollis welcomed Kirk Wilson, the incoming Chief of Police, and asked him to introduce himself. Kirk stated that he started working for the Town of Carbondale on June 1st and has been working with the current Chief of Police, Gene Shilling, to understand how the Carbondale Police Department operates. He comes from a long line of Parks & Recreation employees and worked as a lifeguard for many years as a youth. He graduated from Arizona State University, and previously was employed by the Rifle Police Department for 18 years. His wife managed the Rifle Pool for many years, and since she recently got a job with Crystal River Elementary, they were able to move to Carbondale. He loves outdoor recreation and education, and especially loves swimming.

He referred to the power point presentation on Carbondale Police Department Policy attached to the meeting packet, especially as it relates to recent events on the national level. He did point out that Senate Bill 217 (Enhance Law Enforcement Integrity) was signed into law in June. This bill changes how law enforcement officers interact with the community and holds them accountable even if they change departments.

Questions/Comments:

Tracy explained that her father was in law enforcement, and she is very familiar with the police community. She asked whether there have been any unintended consequences by this bill's passage.

Kirk answered that any time an office has an investigatory contact, they are now required by law to document everything about the interaction (there are 40 questions that all must be answered). This process can take

momentum away from officers being present in the community. The bill is also an unfunded mandate, so it is up to each law enforcement department to figure out how to integrate the requirements into department best practices.

Becky wondered if it was possible to change how officers undertake interactions, so they are less likely to be suspicious of questionable behavior.

Tracy expressed her appreciation of the police department's pro-active involvement and pointed out that the value system really matters to the community. She asked if the police department had plans to integrate race relations and the recognition of prejudicial behaviors into their training.

Kirk pointed out that the Carbondale police department has been talking about implicit bias for many years; the State of Colorado is also working on producing curriculum to address this issue. The Carbondale department is very progressive in their overall policies of community interaction, opting for education before enforcement whenever possible. He pointed out that their job is compliance and there is a spectrum of educational strategies that are employed before enforcement. He did caution that the department doesn't get to pick and choose what laws are enforced, but they can choose how the laws are enforced.

Luis indicated that he participated in a ride-along with officers and encouraged anyone that is interested to do the same.

Becky asked about participation in the Citizens Academy and pointed out that there needs to be a conversation about how people want to be policed. She also underscored the fact that many people don't know their rights.

Kirk responded that they are working to develop the Citizens Academy into an online format. He also pointed out that in Colorado the police department has a mandate to intervene. He highlighted the importance of not only supporting the officers with educational opportunities, but it is equally important to hire the right people and work to keep those people.

Rose ended the conversation by thanking Kirk and the entire Carbondale Police Department for supporting the community.

ROARING FORK OUTDOOR VOLUNTEERS UPDATE AND PRESENTATION (JACOB BAKER)

Eric introduced Jacob Baker, the Community Relations representative for Roaring Fork Outdoors Volunteers (RFOV). Jacob joined RFOV in March of 2020, and his experience with the organization showed him that while RFOV was good at forming ad hoc relationships, the organization was not very good at maintaining long-term relationships; one of his goals is to change that. His intention for this evening's meeting is to update the Parks & Recreation Commission about RFOV's current activities. Although the organization was founded in 1995 with the mission to build trails, it has evolved as a way to achieve greater community involvement and encourages participation from people of all ages and all walks of life. Covid-19 and the recent wildfires affected the timelines and how RFOV organized their projects, but they were able to assist Roaring Fork Mountain Bike Association with several trails along Prince Creek and on The Crown, and worked on Red Hill trails, as well. Upcoming projects include Crown Mountain Park on September 15th, trails around CMC Spring Valley, and the valley-wide clean-up day scheduled for Wednesday, September 30th. RFOV is coordinating with the Carbondale Parks & Recreation Department to organize project at the Nature Park for this event. Between May and September 3rd, a total of 443.5 volunteer hours have accumulated for Carbondale-specific projects, and a grand total of 2,670 volunteer hours have been donated valley-wide.

Part of RFOV's mission is to engage the community, and they have developed a "Young Steward's" program to balance digital learning with outdoor education. The program promotes observation, analysis, and action.

Jacob also explained that although it is often assumed that the "O" in RFOV is synonymous with wilderness, the "O" really stands for anywhere that is not indoors. To that end, RFOV is building a connector trail between the Basalt Vista community behind Basalt High School to the Light Hill Connector Trail. They are also working to expand the perception of who accessibility trails serve with the Ponderosa Trail demonstration project in Basalt.

The final program Jacob introduced was the Glenwood Canyon Restoration Alliance. This idea evolved in order to support restoration efforts in the Lake Christine burn scar, which is an ongoing and dynamic effort. The Glenwood Canyon Restoration Alliance will serve as an umbrella partnership to provide transparency for three fundraising efforts. Restoration of the Grizzly Creek burn scar will begin in the Spring of 2021. Jacob also noted that additional information for

the events and programs he discussed are available on their website.

Questions/Comments:

Hollis asked for clarification on whether Jacob was soliciting specific actions on the part of the Town of Carbondale or the Parks and Recreation Department/Commission, specifically whether the Parks and Recreation Department should be added as an interested party for the Trails and Ways program. Jacob replied that he isn't seeking any specific commitments but welcomed any ideas on trails that might be good candidates for this program. Eric added that this program is in line with the Master Plan.

Tracy asked how commission members could help. Jacob replied that it would be helpful to have commission members identify trails or projects that would be good candidates for their programs, and to advocate on RFOV's part when they apply for grants or engage in fundraising efforts. Eric added that he will keep in touch with Jacob and thought that the upcoming valley-wide clean-up day would be a good project for the Friends of the Nature Park.

AQUATICS FACILITY MASTER PLAN UPDATE: CONCEPTUAL PLANS. MASTER PLAN CHECK-IN (JESSICA GARROW AND DARLA CALLOWAY)

Eric introduced Jessica Garrow, the Project Manager, and Darla Calloway, the Principal-In-Charge, to update the commission members on the Aquatics Facility Master Plan. Jessica started by summarizing the survey results (a more detailed summary was provided in the meeting packet), which had to be substituted for in-person engagements due to Covid-19 protocols. Over 1200 people participated, which was well above the anticipated number of 800 and both an adult and child survey was offered, as well as a Spanish version. The survey was weighted to equalize the varying number of adult, child, and Spanish responses received. Overall, the community views the aquatics facility as an important amenity and five items were most frequently cited as important including:

- Lap Lanes;
- Kid-oriented areas;
- Hot Tub;
- Family-friendly focus;
- Adult hours.

In terms of infrastructure, improvements to the building was most important to a majority of those surveyed. Programming requested included swimming lessons, lap swim, and multi-generational activities during open swim. Many of those surveyed would like to extend the season if the facility remains as an outdoor pool, and most would like to see extended hours. Although there were many who were in favor of moving the pool behind the recreation center, concerns about financing and availability of enough land were noted in the comments. For planning purposes, the current pool location was used with a design that provides pockets for flexible uses and a hot tub location.

Darla explained how they took the survey results and translated them into an actual design by using a two-day virtual charrette. Topics that they took into consideration included how to organize the sketch plans and whether this was the highest and best use for the space. Through the charrette and continued group communications, they came up with nine thematic principles important in the design:

- Increase capacity
- Multi-use
- Downtown Orientation
- Phasing
- Extension of Sopris Park
- Shade Opportunities
- Generational and Programming Diversity
- Sustainability
- Improved Connections

The site concept plan included in the packet satisfies these nine principles. Important features include the building facing Main Street, A three-lane, 25-meter lap pool that is a separate water body from the entertainment pool/diving board, a lawn area with a picnic area and additional shade, and the extension into Sopris Park via a splash pad area that wouldn't require a lifeguard. This concept plan would:

- Double the capacity;
- Orient the pool towards Main Street;
- Improve connections between activities;

- Provide a setting for generational and programming diversity;
- A two-story building could provide multiple uses;
- The design could be phased in as funding allows;
- There is greater potential for shade opportunities;
- The setting would provide for a 20 to 30 percent energy reduction (although an extended season would add to the energy use).

Questions/Comments:

Rose asked how each element would be phased in the construction of the facility. Darla answered that the building and pools would be built first, but that the upper floor of the building could be left unfinished until a tenant or use could be decided upon. The splash pad could also be added later.

Rose also wondered whether the splash pad would see most of its use during Mountain Fair, especially if it was open at the same time as the pool. She also suggested moving the bathrooms closer to the entertainment pool. Hollis responded that that question had been asked before, and the primary motivation for having the lap pool closer to the building was in order to keep that pool open for a longer season. She also pointed out that Margaret preferred the proposed layout because it helps reduce the length of time the lifeguards have to deal with sun in their eyes.

Ashley suggested moving the splash pad to make it more visible to law enforcement as they are driving past the area.

Tracy suggested engaging members of Carbondale Arts to contribute design elements such as the splash pad bottom. She also asked that there the plan include enough bike racks.

Rose suggested considering year-round elements for families whose children don't ski. She also suggested eliminating the diving board in favor of small slides in the splash pad.

NOMINATIONS FOR 2020 BOARD CHAIRPERSON AND VICE CHAIR

Eric reminded the commission members that nominations for the 2020/2021 Chair and Vice-Chair were due. Rose commented that she has enjoyed her position as Vice-Chair and would like to continue in that capacity. Hollis also expressed an interest in keeping her position as Chair for another year. Ashley nominated Hollis to continue in her role as Chair, and Rose to continue in her role as Vice-Chair.

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):

- Red Hill is open;
- Plans are in place to dismantle and rebuild the playground at Orchard Park this fall;
- Upgrades to Gianinetti Park are in place and will begin shortly;
- The mobile stage will be delivered in late September;
- The weed management plan assessment is underway and will continue through October.

Jessi Rochel, Recreation Center & Recreation Programs Manager:

- The Bloodmobile ran into technical difficulties, and the Blood Drive has been rescheduled for Monday, September 14th;
- The Rec Center is partnering with Carbondale Arts to offer several children's art classes. The classes are currently being held outside under the covered patio but will move into the lobby in October. The classes are free, and have filled very quickly;
- Will is continuing to teach tennis lessons at North Face Park;
- Rec Center hours were extended beginning in September and the facility is now open from 7:30 AM to 4:00 PM. There are six reservation time slots of 60 minutes available;
- Beginning in October, the fitness classes will be moved inside, and the facility will be open for 3 ½ hours on Saturdays.

Luis Yllanes, Board of Trustee Representative:

- Very excited to have Red Hill open;
- The Board of Trustees are looking forward to the Aquatics Master Plan update.

Rose Rossello, Parks & Recreation Commission Vice-Chair:

- Asked if an agenda item for the next meeting could include an overview of why the Parks & Recreation Commission exists, what the mission is, position descriptions and expectations, and a discussion of term limits.

ADJOURNMENT

The September 9, 2020, regular meeting adjourned at 9:05 pm. The next regularly scheduled meeting is set for October 14, 2020, at 7:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Kae McDonald