

PARKS, RECREATION + TREE COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

January 8, 2024

DRAFT UNTIL APPROVED

The Parks, Recreation + Tree (PRT) Commission met at the Powell Community Center (PCC) on Monday, January 8, 2024 at 5:30 p.m.

In attendance: Commission Members Nicole Sullivan, Chair; Sam Komosa, Cindy Long, Angela Vandegrift, Jacque Gameson, Kevin Schmidt, Katie Anderson, Dustin Wolfe, Warren Hayes, Council Liaison Mary Ryherd; Sarah Grittmann attended the meeting remotely; Staff: Penn Almoney. Not in attendance: Sarah Emanuels, Council Liaison Lea Loudon

Call to Order

Chair Nicole Sullivan called the meeting to order at 5:34 p.m.

Approval of Minutes

- The minutes were reviewed from the December 11, 2023 PRT Meeting. Corrections were recommended- include the Championship Tree species and address of winning tree; remove “is” on page 2 third bullet.

Sam Komosa moved to accept the Minutes with amendments. **Katie Anderson** seconded the motion.

Motion Passed 9-0.

Positive Improvements

- Penn reported that the New Year New You campaign resulted in 30 new memberships. In addition, there were members that renewed their existing memberships.
- Katie Anderson said that her daughter attended the Winter Waterland event with over 60 people in attendance. She said it was a success and recommended it be brought back next year. She also recommended more chairs.
- Penn reviewed the plan for the playground for the new Water Works Park.
- Penn was praised for having a full page in the Adventure Guide that discussed all the parks.

Sustainability Commission Liaison

- Sam Komosa will attend the February 5 Sustainability Commission meeting representing the PRT Commission.

City Council Update

- The Water Works Park inclusive playground contract was approved along with the PCC Steam Room and North Bathroom projects.
- Mary was especially happy that the All-Abilities playground structure was unanimously supported by Council. This is a sensory-rich “oasis” that creates an environment that enables children to develop physically, socially and emotionally. There is very little segregation based on ability or disability. These spaces create engaging areas that provide the optimal level of challenge and plentiful access points to help creativity thrive and abundant opportunities to

succeed. Inclusive design goes beyond meeting the minimum accessibility requirements to create interactive play that meets a variety of needs and interests. -Dec 2023 CDC Action Item

- Mohawk Park Stage Two will also have an All-Abilities playground with rubber surfacing and shade systems.
- Mary Ryherd reported that the next City Council Meeting will be held on Wednesday, January 10. Every will be in attendance and discuss the frequent power outages in Mission. All are invited to attend.

Tree ID Plaques

- The subcommittee is working on this project with a goal to have them for order and installation by Spring 2024.

Water Works Park UPDATE

- A meeting was held on January 4 with Penn, Brent Morton, Stephanie Boyce, Water One, Stantec designers, engineers and Centric general contractors. They discussed timeline benchmarks for the project. Penn reported that the crucial pieces with the longest lead time were the restrooms and playground and the two-piece parking lot asphalt installation.
- The groundbreaking scheduled for January 9 was postponed due to bad weather and will be rescheduled for later in the month.

Mohawk Park

- Phase 2 is progressing through the City review process in preparation for the Planning Commission's FDP in February.
- The signboard is gone but will be replaced with something similar. Final batten pieces were installed in December. Concrete imprints will be reviewed in 2024.
- A LWCF grant has been applied for Mohawk Park, phase 2.

Action Items + Planning

- A bid was out for inspection services; only one responsive bid was received by Terracon of the four engineer firms solicited, which came in under budget and was approved.
- Penn reported that 12 tables are being recommended for replacement along with the splash pad refresh.

Maintenance Items

- Penn said an upcoming Spring project was the bridge at Broadmoor Park needing updated handrail supports. This is considered a priority to get done by the P+R staff since it is a safety and aesthetic consideration.
- The \$6,000,000 bond for the Mission Family Aquatic Center was just retired. Penn does not feel there are any significant cost maintenance items needed at the MFAC in the immediate future.
- A commission member asked about Streamway Park's grant application. Penn said due to the land being inhabited by Native Americans a historical land survey would need to be conducted to proceed. That in conjunction with the conflict between it currently being owned by KDOT and needing to be designated as recreation land in perpetuity prevented Mission from being considered for LWCF funding.

PRT Nominations + Vote

- Nominations were made for chair and co-chair of the PRT Commission. **Nicole Sullivan** was nominated as chair for 2024. **Sarah Emanuels** was nominated as Vice-chair.

Motion Passed 9-0

Tree City USA Poster Contest

- Jacque reported that a letter had been sent to the 5th grade teachers at Rushton Elementary with the curriculum for the Arbor Day Tree Poster Contest. All have agreed to participate in the poster contest. There will be in-person voting at the Community Center on the ten finalists.

Review Park Maintenance Needs/Goals/Objectives

- Penn asked the Commission what projects should be considered and grants applied for in 2025? The Land & Water Conservation fund comes from the Federal Government and distributed by the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks. The grant money can be used for trails and it must be used for recreation.
- Priorities for 2024 may include:
 1. Mohawk Phase 2 completion
 2. Water Works Park completion
 3. Broadmoor Park - Discussed the Conceptual Design for Broadmoor Park. This may be an option to apply for LWCF for 2025.
 4. Mission City Market - should this be designated as a park, any additional funding or project alignment?
 5. Rock Creek Trail, a portion of which is currently in the design phase. Should we find funding to continue with the design?
 6. Redoing the Tree Plan for 2024; Is there need for a tree ordinance to protect trees in Mission? The Tree Plan should also be on the February and March agendas.
 7. A former PRT member, Kim, contacted a Master Gardener that is willing to visit with the Commission if that's a goal.
 8. Attracting and maintaining staffing. Penn noted that we currently have Tayler as a full-time employee, but we may need another full-time employee to maintain the parks because the part-time employees have been a struggle to find and retain.
 9. Fundraising should be on the February and March agendas.
 10. Capital Improvements and budget review must be completed by the beginning of April.

The next meeting of the PRT Commission will be held on Monday, February 12, 5:30 p.m. -7:30 p.m.

Adjournment

Dustin Wolfe moved to adjourn the meeting; **Sarah Grittmann** seconded.

Motion Passed 9-0.

The meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Faithfully submitted by Cindy Long, secretary pro tempore.