

Parks, Recreation + Tree Commission

April 2024 Minutes

DRAFT UNTIL APPROVED

The Parks, Recreation + Tree (PRT) Commission met at the Powell Community Center (PCC) on Monday, April 8, 2024, at 6:00 p.m.

In attendance: Chair Nicole Sullivan (Ward I), Vice-Chair Sarah Emanuels (Ward III), Commission Members Katie Anderson (Ward I), Dustin Wolfe (Ward I), Sarah Grittmann (Ward II), Sam Komosa (Ward II), Dylon Sease (Ward III), Jacque Gameson (Ward IV), Cindy Long (Ward IV).

Council Liaisons: Debbie Kring and Brian Schmid.

Staff: Penn Almoney.

Angela Vandegrift (Ward II) was not in attendance.

Call To Order:

Chair Nicole Sullivan called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.

Approval of Minutes:

The Minutes from the March 18, 2024, Parks, Recreation + Tree Commission Meeting were reviewed. Spelling corrections for Lauren Reiter-Schmid and Sarah Grittmann's names were recommended. **Katie Anderson** moved to accept the Minutes with amendments. **Sam Komosa** seconded the motion.

Updated Minutes were approved 9-0.

Positive Improvements:

Mission Magazine. Katie noted that the Water Works Groundbreaking photograph - which included her daughter - was in the Mission Magazine. Her daughter was excited to be included. It was also noted that the 2023 Championship Tree was also featured in Mission Magazine.

Citizens with Dementia Group. A University of Kansas citizens with dementia group reached out to Penn to discuss inclusivity in Mission's Parks. Penn and Park Maintenance Supervisor Taylor Schaffer met with the group to discuss general barriers and considerations when designing a park. They recommended gradual slopes to assist those with trouble walking and easy-to-read signage. The group shared that they do not want to be treated differently and that nature and park usage is a benefit to their lives.

Sustainability Commission Liaison. Nicole noted that no action is required and we will table until May.

Tree Plan Questions and Follow-Up. Penn presented the proposed changes to Section 230 and 240 that were recommended at the March meeting. Those changes were: spelling corrections; added language to clarify trail usage outside of park hours; alcohol prohibition in parks; defined agents of Parks and Recreation; added language to indicate both Public Works and Parks and Recreation Directors will independently maintain trees; and updated the Prohibited Tree List.

Cindy Long motioned to approve changes. **Sarah Emanuels** seconded.

Motion passed 9-0.

Water Works Update. Penn updated that recent weather had slowed progress of Water Works Park construction, but crews are still on pace to complete by the August deadline.

Katie shared a citizen concern from a resident near Rushton Elementary and Water Works Park about Rushton potentially locking the North access to the park outside of school hours. Katie noted that she will reach out for further clarification to Shawnee Mission School District. Dylan inquired about a neighbor's concern that was discussed at the March meeting. That concern related to the grade on the east side of the park adjacent to their backyard access. Penn advised that Parks and Recreation staff will meet on site to discuss further.

Mohawk Phase 2 Update. Penn presented to City Council a bid from Sands Construction on Phase 2 for Mohawk Park. He noted that the Parks and Recreation Department is waiting on Mohawk Phase 1 Land Water Conservation Grant reimbursement for \$394,000. There was a citizen that asked if the Horton fence was being removed. That east section, as well as the south western section, of fence will be removed as part of Phase 2. Penn also mentioned the southeast ADA entrance from Phase 1 where Horton meets 67th St. will be removed since there is no sidewalk on the north side of 67th St to cross to. There are ADA crossings from the south and the west from corresponding sidewalks.

Powell Community Center (PCC) North Restrooms Maintenance. Penn provided an update with photographs of the North restroom renovation at PCC. Those updates included epoxy flooring, installed tile and countertops, and paint. Penn noted that staff is pleased with the craftsmanship and targeted completion date of April 12.

Andersen Park Maintenance. Jacque asked about potential maintenance for the Andersen Park metal tennis court sign that has a screw obscuring the Parks and Recreation Department phone

number. She also suggested a handrail for three wooden steps on the east side of the tennis court leading down to shelter.

Other Maintenance. Penn shared that the audio-visual equipment at the PCC was moved to a hallway closet to avoid interrupting events in conference room C.

Tree Drive Update. Penn met with Deputy City Administrator and Sustainability Staff Liaison Justin Carroll to create a framework for a Sustainability-PRT Commission joint Tree Drive. That framework calls for a subcommittee of five commissioners to develop the marketing and planning of the program. Sustainability will volunteer three commissioners while the PRT Commission will volunteer two. **Cindy Long** and **Jacque Gameson** volunteered to be on the Subcommittee.

Penn explained that the joint tree drive may include a tree goal and/or dollar amount modeled after the city's 70th Anniversary push to plant 70 trees. Penn noted that he sees three potential avenues for citizen engagement: (1) residents may purchase discounted trees; (2) residents may enter a raffle to win a free tree for their home or a selected destination; and (3) to tie this tree drive into the Championship and Celebration Tree Program. The PRT and Sustainability Commissions would promote the tree drive through social media, news media, Mission Magazine and at the Mission Market.

Low Mow May has been tabled until 2025. Penn shared that we will table Low Mow May until next year to provide adequate time to solicit feedback from several parties such as marketing and Mission code enforcement personnel.

Arbor Date (2nd and 5th Grade Rushton Elementary). Penn, Katie, Jacque, and Mayor Flora visited the 5th graders at Rushton Elementary on Friday, April 5. The Mayor announced third place, second place, and first place winners of the 2024 Arbor Day Poster Contest. A copy of the winning poster is on the signboards at Andersen Park and Broadmoor Park. Jacque, Katie, the Mayor and Penn will return to Rushton at 11:30am on Friday, April 26 to visit 2nd graders, where they will make tree ornaments and play tree trivia. All Commissioners were invited to attend.

Parks and Facilities Tour. Commissioners discussed a desire to tour parks and other facilities. Dustin suggested that we tour Mohawk Park at our May Commission Meeting so Penn can discuss the completed Phase 1 construction and the upcoming Phase 2 improvements. Katie suggested that we tour the PCC in June or July while summer programming is ongoing.

Replaced Tree at Broadmoor. Penn advised that a Umbrella Pine tree died at Broadmoor Park. While undergoing the warranty process to replace the tree, staff discovered that an unidentified patron planted a tree in its place. Penn politely reminded everyone that the public should not plant items in city parks.

Rock Creek Trail Open House. Dustin asked if the PRT Commission's recommendations will be included at the April 9 open house. Penn said that they would be and invited anyone to attend the April 9 open house from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. at PCC. This open house will outline draft recommendations for the Rock Creek Trail and solicit public feedback.

Upcoming Notes + Meetings:

Review PRT Calendar of Discussion. Nicole advised that the K-State Extension is putting on a Kansas Healthy Yard Expo in Shawnee. She would send details to all Commissioners.

May Meeting to take Place at Mohawk Park. Commissioners agreed to have the May PRT Commission meeting at Mohawk Park. Penn added that he would ensure the change of venue would be publicized so that the public would be aware.

Adjournment:

Jacque Gameson moved to adjourn the meeting, **Cindy Long** seconded the motion.

Motion passed 9-0.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:03 p.m.

Faithfully submitted by Sam Komosa, secretary pro tempore.