

Parks, Recreation + Tree Commission

May 2024 Minutes

Monday, May 13, 2024

The Parks, Recreation + Tree (PRT) Commission met at Mohawk Park on Monday, May 13, 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), Sarah Grittmann (Ward II), Dylon Sease (Ward III), Jacque Gameson (Ward IV), Cindy Long (Ward IV).

Council Liaison: Brian Schmid.

Staff: Penn Almoney.

Guest: Cathy Boyer-Shesol, Sustainability Commission

Council Liaison Debbie Kring and Commissioners Dustin Wolfe (Ward I), Angela Vandegrift (Ward II), Sam Komosa (Ward II) were not in attendance.

Call To Order:

Chair Nicole Sullivan called the meeting to order at 6:08 p.m.

Approval of Minutes:

The Minutes from the April 08, 2024, Parks, Recreation + Tree Commission Meeting were reviewed. Sarah G. proposed an edit regarding name spelling corrections; at page 1 there should be a swap from Angela to Sarah. Penn asked for any other edits and there were none. Cindy said they were excellent. **Cindy Long** moved to accept the Minutes with amendments. **Sarah Grittmann** seconded the motion.

Updated Minutes were approved 7-0.

Positive Improvements:

OK Kids Event. Jacque checked in 75 families and over 120 kids at the registration desk in two hours. She would love to have it back in Streamway next time. Penn noted there were about 350 attendees this year. Katie suggested at this event and future events having a hashtag or QR code for submitting photos.

Arbor Day Event – Rushton 2nd Graders. Jacque noted that there was a great event with the Rushton 2nd graders and a good banner photo was taken. The poster was left with them to go to the new building. We committed to planting 2 trees at Water Works next year since we couldn't

plant one this year. Penn noted that there will be 54 others planted. Nicole thanked Jacque for her coordination on the event and would like to see it publicized.

Community Center Flowers. Penn reported that we have planted the flowers at the Community Center.

Beverly Park Adoption. Down Syndrome Innovations has adopted this park and helped plant flowers and prune trees recently at Beverly Park.

Pearl Harbor Memorial Park Adoption. Redwood Group has adopted this park and will be out to work on it later this month.

Business Manager Position. Penn reported that Mission is close to submitting an offer for this position. It was first posted in August 2023 with an offer extended in December 2023 only to have the candidate back out, which necessitated a reposting in February 2024.

Sustainability Commission Liaison. Nicole noted that we need someone to attend the next meeting on 06/03/24. Nicole will attend on our behalf. Cathy reported that their meeting recently had a [video viewing](#) about the KC Communities for All Ages work (cities in our region that are expending effort to be more age friendly). There is a sustainability score card subcommittee, especially around new development which helps the Planning Commission and City Council review project sustainability benchmarks. Josh Thede can visit to explain the specifics if the PRT is interested.

Tree Drive Subcommittee. Two PRT members are on this subcommittee, Cindy and Jacque, who both attended the recent meeting. Nicole asked for anything that they need to report. Cindy reported that it was more of a “where are we now and where do we want to go” type of meeting. Penn will meet this week with Bridging the Gap regarding bulk pricing on a variety of tree species, to see if there are any grants to support that effort, and to find out what Mission’s total investment might be. 50 trees planted in 2024 is the agreed upon goal.

In terms of marketing it, the PRT thought about taking the giving trees from the Community Center to the Mission Market so you could pull one off and donate funds, sign up for a reserved tree and plant it yourself, or sign up for a tree raffle. Soliciting businesses was also recommended. We talked about themes ("Branch Out," "Seed Money," etc.). The subcommittee recommended a write-up in the Mission Magazine and Penn did secure that for the upcoming magazine issue. Cindy reported that there will be a table at the Mission Market to promote it with a tri-fold brochure with information. Fundraising was discussed along with the information on one page

on the missionks.org website. Jacque commented that, “reflecting on Mission having a cattle drive that came through here years ago that failed due to the cows getting out, we can tie that into a tree drive marketing campaign.” Nicole noted that Bridging the Gap is great to follow online, and Jacque seconded and noted that they teach a lot there. They do volunteer days at various parks as well. Cathy commented that our Mission 75th anniversary is in two years and there may be something we can tie in with that. Penn noted that we don't want to water down this effort, and we want to strike a good balance so there is still an appetite for this type of effort in two years.

Water Works Update. Water Works has been largely untouched in the last three weeks; the gas line needed upgrading and it took time to determine how to tie in. That took away the scheduling buffer. The gas line part has been resolved this week so Centric can move forward with concrete and asphalt installation. Sarah E. asked if there will be any fresh road paving done near this park, and Penn said that they will repair anything that they have damaged. Jacque asked if the gas line is in the park or at the street; it was at the street. The northern stretch has had some trees planted and Centric moved some others in an effort to keep as much existing tree coverage as possible. Sarah E. asked if there was an update about access to the park from 52nd; Penn reported that there will be 24/7 access from 52nd on a throughway. Dylan asked if that was part of the original plan and Penn stated it was, but it wasn't clear in the original construction documents.

Mohawk Phase 2 Update. Penn shared that the owner/architect contract meeting was today. Sands Construction are looking to mobilize the first part of June with construction starting in the 3rd week of June here at Mohawk. There was a Movies in the Park set for Mohawk on June 14th which may have to move; the final decision on that is forthcoming. The playground equipment is all at Public Works; that installation is separate from the contract signed with Sands Construction. Sands will need to coordinate the two timelines of installation. Sands anticipates being done by the end of September with the entirety of Phase 2. Mission will be losing two trees close to the pavilion in the new playground location. The sport court will be aligned with the easternmost parking spots, approximately. Nicole asked if soccer will be able to continue here, and Penn noted that the soccer season ends in early June so NEU Soccer will be fine for spring. The fall soccer season will be played in Broadmoor Park to accommodate turf growth.

Action Items + Planning:

Penn reported that the Council agenda was light last month; the cardio weight equipment for the PCC had two pieces substituted (they weren't being utilized) and then replaced with full-body cardio equipment. The new lease had a cost increase of \$13,000 largely due to interest rate increases which will be spread over three years.

Third party inspection services for Mohawk were also part of the action items. More items will come before City Council next month. The upstairs track bids have come in at or under budget, and other bids have come in over budget (PCC hallway, south bathrooms and Rock Creek fence).

Jacque asked if Sign Pro has any updates regarding the tree ID signs for Andersen Park; Penn has not yet followed up with them on the tree ID plaques. Jacque will follow up with Sign Pro.

Discussion Items:

Maintenance Items. PCC S Bathroom, Rock Creek Fence, PCC Track, Andersen Slide

PCC S Bathroom- bids are higher than Mission initially budgeted.

PCC Track- bid is \$13k under budgeted amounts.

Rock Creek Fence- This was not a capital improvement project but rose through the ranks because of citizen and City staff feedback. Penn reported that staff have spoken to three contractors and got a range of potential bids back from \$23k-\$70k. It is roughly 1,500 linear feet of 4ft tall steel fencing. Penn will present it to the Council when there are three bids in hand. Staff will likely have to delay a project to accommodate this funding need.

Andersen Park - There are three slides as part of the existing playground. One is an open top spiral and two are closed-top spirals. The open one is cracked beyond repair and needs replacement. Penn reported the cost at \$26k. It was installed in 1999. This is scheduled for replacement two years from now. Penn proposes taking out that slide, putting in a short-term climbing element for maybe \$2-3k, and then handle full replacement in two years. Three years ago, portions of the other two slides were replaced. Penn also suggested a decorative piece with a steering wheel or tic-tac-toe as a block instead. Most PRT members agreed with the interim climbing option.

WiFi Vendor Solutions. Penn reported that the City has Google Fiber in Andersen and Broadmoor Parks. Staff were planning installing the same at Mohawk, but T-Mobile proposed a contract for Mohawk (5 year term, upfront cost of \$3,000, which would provide 5G service at Mohawk). There would be a monthly cost of \$31 for the service. Mission would be saving about \$1,100 over the five year time by going with T-Mobile. There is more control and security with 5G and would be able to get better reporting, but the upfront cost is a factor. Sarah G. asked how many parks that would cover and Penn clarified it would be for just Mohawk. Penn might reach out to them about Water Works if PRT recommended this option and explore opportunities for discounts. Nicole asked if the city has had any service issues with Google Fiber and Penn reported that they have been error-free. Unanimous agreement to try out T-Mobile and allow for comparison with

Google Fiber. Sarah G. noted that it might open us up to future partnerships or other options, Penn agreed and has considered security cameras as well. For T-Mobile, the security cameras plug directly in to their equipment in a seamless way. Google Fiber would probably have to use WiFi enabled cameras. Penn to move forward with T-Mobile.

Mission Market Tree Drive and Tree Program Education (July 18). Discussed above. Penn added that July 18 is the penciled-in PRT date at Mission Market. Penn asked Kate D. if PRT could get earlier in the season and right now this is the only spot available.

Backyard Campout (June 21). Friday, June 21, 6PM – Saturday, June 22, 9AM | Andersen Pk
This has been scheduled again for Andersen Park. It was well-attended pre-Covid, less well-attended since Covid hit. Please spread the word.

Mission Summer Family Picnic. Mission Summer Family Picnic is coming up on July 13. Next month staff will begin soliciting volunteers. The laser light show had good feedback and will proceed this year again with additional power support.

Trail Connectivity. Penn noted that this was the update from previous committee meetings. This is coming before Council before long. It is a bike/ped plan along with the Rock Creek corridor overhaul. Connectivity and roads have frequently been the priorities for citizens to get addressed and that has been heard and prioritized. Jacque noted that we do have \$500k coming from the sale of Beverly Park to assist with that. Penn noted that Beverly Park will be held until right before everything is ready to go and there is a contingency in place giving Mission first right to repurchase the land should the project fall through. Jacque noted that it is delightful to see Andersen Park from Martway Street right now since the previous buildings were demolished. Nicole noted that there will be an apartment complex there eventually, but they won't be breaking ground next spring. Beverly Park will be programmed and utilized until then.

Parks Tour. Commissioners proceeded on a walking tour of Mohawk Park. Discussion included Phase 2 work, bench design and installation, tree species diversity, tree maintenance needs, grass planting, and more.

Upcoming Notes + Meetings:

- Wed, May 15: 7PM City Council Mtg
- Wed, June 5: 6:30PM Community Dev Cmte
- Mon, June 17: 6-7PM PRT

Assignments for Next Meeting:

- Review PRT Calendar of Discussion

Meeting Adjournment:

Cindy Long moved to adjourn the meeting, **Sarah Emmanuel** seconded the motion.

Motion passed 7-0.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:55 p.m.; (the Parks Tour progressed from there until approximately 7:30 p.m.).

Faithfully submitted by Katie Anderson, secretary pro tempore.