

Parks, Recreation + Tree Commission

July 2024 Minutes

DRAFT

Monday, July 8, 2024

The Parks, Recreation + Tree (PRT) Commission met at the Powell Community Center (PCC) on Monday, July 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: Councilmembers Debbie Kring and Brian Schmid.

Staff: Penn Almoney, Parks + Recreation Director and

Guest: Brian LeRette, PCC Business Manager.

Not in Attendance: Angela Vandegrift (Ward II).

Call To Order:

Chair Nicole Sullivan called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Penn introduced Brian LeRette- the new PCC Business Manager and noted that his primary focus will be with PCC membership and operations. Brian has been a resident of Mission since 2017 and began last week. He had to exit the meeting shortly after his introduction. This prompted Dustin to request an update from Penn on the Parks + Recreation full-time staff organization and primary duties.

Approval of Minutes:

The Minutes from the June 10, 2024, Parks, Recreation + Tree Commission Meeting were reviewed. Jacque requested language added on page 5 clarifying that Nicole “asked” about the included vendors at the Mission Summer Family Picnic.

Sarah E. motioned to approve the amended minutes; **Jacque** seconded.

Amended Minutes were approved 9-0.

Tree Drive. During review of the June minutes, Cindy sought clarification on Bridging the Gap’s role with the Tree Drive, sparking an extended discussion. Penn confirmed that not only has Bridging the Gap committed to the sale of 50 trees for \$4,100.00, but will also educate participating citizens on the proper planting and care of their trees. Councilmember Kring asked about tree donation requirements. Penn explained that tree donations are coordinated through him and whoever plants the tree generally warranties and cares for it in the short-term.

The PRT Commission will promote the Tree Drive at a table at Mission Market table on July 18.

Positive Improvements:

Tree ID Plaques. Jacque shared that the new tree identification plaques at Andersen Park look great.

2024 Backyard Campout. Penn said that the 2024 campout from June 21 to 22 had a decent turn out, but noted that participation was trending down.

Water Works. Sarah E commended the progress at Water Works Park despite the constant rain. Some discussion on whether the park will be completed in time for the Rushton Elementary opening.

Mohawk Park. Cindy noted that work is underway and that it looks like a completely different park.

Park and Facility Usage Metrics. Penn previewed daily traffic metrics for the parks over the first six months of 2024. This data was derived from sensors located at city parks that count users as they pass the sensor. Metrics of note include Mohawk Park as Mission’s most popular park with a majority of traffic occurring over the lunch hour. By contrast, the majority of Streamway Park’s total traffic was after 5:00 p.m. Dustin recommended that we advocate for additional sensors at various locations along the Rock Creek Trail.

The PCC is averaging 5,600+ users per week which is a 12% year over year increase. Penn excitedly noted a 20% increase on Thursdays and a 25% increase on Saturdays – both are considered “off days” when compared to the typically well-attended Mondays and Wednesdays. Additionally, PCC is experiencing a large net gain in memberships – that is, patrons who sign up for a PCC membership vastly outnumber those who cancel their memberships.

Katie asked if PCC usage changes during Summer Camp hours. Penn agreed anecdotally and noted that Brian is going to track program and rental usages so we can better service patrons during future summers.

Sustainability Commission Liaison for Quarter 3. Nicole requested that a volunteer attend the August or September meetings of the Sustainability Commission.

In an email following adjournment, Nicole advised that Sarah E. will attend the Sustainability Commission Meeting for August 5.

Water Works Park Update. Penn announced that the tentative ribbon cutting is set for Tuesday, August 6 at 4:00 p.m. with Taste of Aloha shaved ice refreshments provided from 3:45 p.m.-4:45 p.m.. All PRT Commissioners are invited to attend.

Penn provided an update on various construction items. The playground is complete, though we are waiting for the poured-in-place rubber and a few play feature spheres. Solar charging table is on site and usable. Landscaping will need to be fixed after recent rainfall related damage. Asphalt will be poured the week of July 19. Restrooms will be delivered the week of July 26. Some outstanding electrical work may spill into the week of August 5.

Nicole inquired about the walkway design that connects the park, Ruston Elementary, and 52nd street. Penn replied that the current plan is a straight path much like the old pathway, although it is 4-5 feet. There will be a gate to Rushton Elementary that will be locked up at the end of the day, but patrons will still have access from 52nd street.

The PRT Commission's next meeting will be Monday, August 12 at 6 p.m. at Water Works Park, where commissioners will tour the park.

Mohawk Park Phase 2 Update. Penn provided an update on various Mohawk Park Phase 2 items. Asphalt has been removed, the base layer of concrete is currently being laid, and grading the green space has commenced to achieve a consistently flatter surface. The expected completion date is still slated for the end of September.

Acton Items & Planning.

After the PCC closure, there are a few capital improvements on the horizon, such as a \$30,000.00 resurfacing of the parking lot at Andersen Park. Penn noted that the gravel footpath that Katie asked about in June is not included, advising that they will need to landscape the surrounding area.

Planning - Broadmoor Playground vs. Bathroom. Penn advised that City Administrator, Laura Smith, has requested the PRT Commission's opinion on whether the bathroom or playground should be replaced first at Broadmoor Park. Discussion continued on the best return on investment. The Parks + Recreation 2024-2028 Capital Improvement Plan had the Broadmoor Park baseball/softball field dugout and fence scheduled for replacement in 2026, bathroom replacement in 2026 and playground replacement in 2027.

Due to recent improvements, Penn said that the bathroom potentially has many more years of use remaining, while the playground is 25 years old. Penn also shared that a new playground promotes more park usage and immediately raises the overall accessibility of the park. While commissioners generally agreed that a new playground is beneficial, many were concerned that the park would lose the pavilion for a period of time since the playground would likely relocate to the pavilion's current location in accordance with the Parks Master Plan. In terms of prioritization, the PRT recommended the playground be replaced before the bathrooms.

In response to a question from Councilmember Kring, Penn confirmed that the bioswale next to the current pavilion would remain and shared that it had become overgrown, requiring significant semiannual maintenance.

Maintenance Items – PCC August closure. PCC will be closed for two weeks from August 19 to 31 for annual maintenance. Items of note that will be addressed are track resurfacing, repainting conference rooms, new cardio equipment and south bathrooms renovations.

Tree Keepers Training every Thursday September 12 - October 10, 6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. and Saturday October 12, 8:30 a.m. to Noon. Penn shared that the PCC is hosting Tree Keepers Training – a weekly program that teaches “why trees are important, how to prune, how to plant, and everything in between.” Penn and Park Maintenance Supervisor, Taylor Shaffer, will attend. The PRT Commission will cover the cost for any commissioners to attend, if interested. Those who attend can return for free at any future Tree Keeper Training event. As a past attendee, Jacque glowingly recommended other commissioners to attend, stating that the pruning information alone is worth the experience.

Mission Summer Family Picnic. Saturday July 13, 6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. Penn reminded commissioners that the picnic is this Saturday and Jenny Smith is still looking for volunteers – specifically for face painting. Dustin recommended that we switch from face painting to stick-on tattoos that won't require as much artistic skill. Katie will be managing a separate table for the

Rushton Elementary PTA. Jacque will volunteer and Cindy will volunteer if it doesn't require mobility.

Streamway Park Plan. Nicole said that the Streamway Park review will be tabled until September.

Adjournment:

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

Motion passed 9-0 .

The meeting was adjourned at 7:05 p.m.

Faithfully submitted by Sam Komosa, secretary pro tempore.