

# Parks, Recreation + Tree Commission

## August 2024 Minutes

### DRAFT

Monday, August 12, 2024

The Parks, Recreation + Tree (PRT) Commission met at the newly renovated Water Works Park on Monday, August 12, 2024, at 6:00 p.m.

**In attendance:** Chair Nicole Sullivan (Ward I), Vice-Chair Sarah Emanuels (Ward III). Commission Members Dustin Wolfe (Ward I), Sarah Grittmann (Ward II), Sam Komosa (Ward II), Angela Vandegrift (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 and Recreation Director.

**Guest:** Kim Donaway.

**Not in Attendance:** Katie Anderson (Ward I).

**Call To Order.** Chair Nicole Sullivan called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.

**Approval of Minutes.** The Minutes from the July 8, 2024, Parks, Recreation + Tree Commission Meeting were reviewed.

Jacque noted that at the Water Works Park ribbon cutting, the City of Mission provided Taste of Aloha. The July Minutes incorrectly stated that patrons would have to pay for Taste of Aloha.

**Sarah G.** motioned to approve the amended minutes; **Cindy** seconded. **Amended Minutes were approved 9-0**

### **Positive Improvements:**

**Water Works Park Opening.** Commissioners acknowledged the successful ribbon cutting for Water Works Park on August 6. Penn shared that over 100 patrons attended the event.

**Sustainability Commission Liaison for Quarter 3.** Sarah E. attended the latest Sustainability Commission meeting. She reported that they continued discussion about the Tree Drive, sharing that Terri Baugh from the Sustainability Commission will be at Mission Market with fliers over the next three weeks. They also discussed the language of the Tree Ordinance, the Go Green 2024 Environmental Fair, and Green Auto Tech - a recycling business going in near Target.

**Go Green Environmental Fair 9/14 9AM-12PM at PCC.**<sup>1</sup> Nicole noted that volunteers are needed to work a PRT table. If Commissioners are available, they are to coordinate with Penn. Nicole noted it is a fun event that has great information on sustainability elements for a myriad of focuses, i.e. homes.

**Tree Drive Update.** As Sarah E. shared, the Sustainability Commission has printed fliers for the Tree Drive. These will be handed out at Mission Market and other community activities. Penn will share the flier with the PRT Commission when available. Penn also shared that in addition to the five-gallon trees on sale for \$70, three-gallon trees will be offered for \$35 in four varieties. These new developments will be included on the new flier.

Cindy inquired about the initial community interest. Penn shared that we've had 26 trees planted by residents, but no purchases at this time. Three residents have requested additional information on purchasing a tree.

In response to a question from Dustin, Penn stated that apartment complexes and Homeowners Associations (HOAs) can participate.

**25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary at PCC Celebration.** The celebration for the 25th anniversary of the Powell Community Center will take place the week of September 9 through 13. Each day will contain a five giveaways every 30 minutes from 5:30-8PM. There will also be teaser fitness classes in Gym 1 each evening at 6PM along with free access to the PCC amenities with tour card/information form submission.

The week will culminate with an official celebration on Friday, September 13 from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. The celebration will include 13 rotating stations, games, crafts, scavenger hunt, divein movie, cupcakes, and free giveaways (t-shirts, lanyards, cinch bags, swag, etc).

Commissioners agreed that it would be a great opportunity to advertise for the Tree Drive.

**Tree Ordinance.** Penn shared that we are getting feedback from City Council on the potential City Tree Ordinance. He noted there was a request to beef up the nuisance provision for private property (e.g. If a tree is dead or dying, what can the City do to enforce removal and replacement?).

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.missionks.org/event/go-green-environmental-fair-3/>

One element the city is researching is some type of rubric to compel a business or homeowner to replace any tree that was removed with similar canopy coverage.

Kim Donaway, today's guest, said that she wants the City to be cognizant of the amount of ground space required to plant these replacement trees.

Dylon asked about the potential permitting process. Penn replied that they are currently reviewing this and said there might be parameters under the ordinance where a permit would be required.

Kim Donaway – an owner of properties in several nearby cities – shared that other than Fairway's tree ordinance (relating to a 12 foot easement) no other cities require permitting for trees. She counseled the City to be flexible in implementation of this rule as it could be too onerous on homeowners. Councilmember Kring agreed that the first draft presented to City Council was far too strict.

Once language is set, Penn will bring it to the PRT Commission.

Jacque recommended an article on the City of Overland Park's website about developing the Urban Forest Plan in Overland Park. She suggested others read it as there was plenty of useful information about sustaining urban canopy coverage.<sup>2</sup>

**Mohawk Phase 2 Update.** Penn shared that he is meeting with the contractor and designer every other week. Nearly all of the trees are installed as of now, with ten trees remaining to be planted. The west field has been graded and grass is being planted. The trail is complete and the sports court is poured. New asphalt has been installed on Horton street to allow parallel parking. Striping for the sports courts and parallel parking will occur within the next two weeks. Phase 2 is slated to be completed in the first part of October. The biggest variable for the completion date is the estimated installation timeline of four to six weeks for the new playground.

**Acton Items + Planning.** Penn reported that all of the Parks and Recreation fall capital improvement plans fall under the spending limit of \$30,000. Improvements include \$11,000 for a new trailer and Andersen Park Parking Lot resurfacing. Penn shared that we will table the painting of the PCC until a holistic design for the entire facility is developed.

**Broadmoor Park.** Dylon requested feedback from the PRT Commission's July discussion from where City Administrator Laura Smith asked for feedback on if the playground should be renovated before the bathroom. The City agreed with the PRT Commission's feedback to renovate the playground first.

#### **Maintenance Items:**

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<sup>2</sup> <https://www.opkansas.org/newsroom/lay-the-roots-of-the-urban-forest-plan/>

**Broadmoor Park.** Penn noted that the bridge fence needs to be rebuilt and has solicited three bids of \$11,000, \$17,000, and \$24,000.

Dylon noted concern relating to sun exposure making the black handrail hot. Penn said that black is the standard implemented on the Rock Creek trail and the PCC fence and that he can look at different colors.

**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 deep cleaning, track resurfacing, new cardio equipment, repainting conference rooms, and south bathroom renovation.

**Biking + Streamway Park.** Councilmember Kring asked if bikes are allowed on the sidewalk. Penn noted that only bicycles that are rated under 20 miles per hour may be operated on park trails/sidewalks. Dustin said that Streamway could be an opportunity for creating a bike friendly park. Penn agreed that would be an interesting way to implement bicycling infrastructure without sacrificing park space. Nicole noted that we will devote 30 minutes to Streamway at our September meeting.

**Rock Creek Trail.** Penn reported that we have one bid out for trail repair as some sections of asphalt near Hy-Vee need to be replaced due to gaps. The bids will determine how much surface can be repaired.

Penn also shared that the fence from Target to the Johnson county building has successfully been refurbished. Staff pressure washed, sanded, primed, sealed with a new layer of paint.

**Other.** Jacque inquired about all parks including a sign board posting location for community updates. Penn said that this has been intended at each park. He specifically pointed to one located on the backside of the bathroom at Water Works Park and another at Mohawk Park.

**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 noted that commissioners have yet to sign up and encouraged participation. Jacque – who attended the course in the past – said attendees will learn how to identify trees, identify diseases, treat diseases, prune, and plant. Sarah E. requested that Penn share with the Sustainability Commission since they inquired about it when she attended their last meeting,

### **Review of 2024's Goals, Objectives, & Budget:**

Jacque noted that 2024's Goals, Objectives, and Budget were well thought out and complemented Nicole for presenting to council.

**City Wide Trail Connection.** Penn shared that we received a grant to study how to connect the trail over the city in hopes of providing more implementation data.

**Staffing.** Penn shared that we have three part time employees working under Park Maintenance Supervisor Taylor Shaffer with a fourth onboarding on September 9. Penn also shared that Taylor is crafting a memo to present feasibility on the need for a full time hire - which was emphasized in the 2024 Goals.

**Public Art Installation.** Jacque recommended that the City speak to her niece, Whitney Williamson, who is on the Johnson County Public Arts Committee and the Olathe Art Committee. Cindy recommended that we invite her to a future meeting for a public art presentation.

Penn noted a local program where the City pays a \$1,000 annual fee per location to select a piece to be installed for a year. He shared that both Water Works and Mohawk Parks have locations designed for public art.

Councilmember Kring recommended including artwork by Rushton students in Water Works Park.

**Research community opportunities for partnerships to establish and maintain landscaping and gardens.** Dustin noted that the PRT Commission hadn't discussed opportunities for gardening much this year. Penn recalled that we originally discussed inviting the Master Gardeners (a local group by K-State Extension) to come speak to us.

Dustin inquired if we had researched locations, budgeting, or recommendations from local groups and stakeholders. Penn said that there are several locations in the newly renovated Water Works and Mohawk Parks. He noted Dustin's questions as an agenda item at future meetings.

Nicole asked for information on how native plants are implemented in parks. Penn responded that landscape architects identify the plants and the locations to the contractors for landscaping and planting.

## **Adjournment:**

**Sarah G moved to adjourn the meeting, Angela seconded the motion.**

**Motion passed 9-0.**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:04 p.m. Penn then led the Commissioners on a tour of Water Works Park.

Faithfully submitted by Sam Komosa, secretary pro tempore.