

Parks, Recreation + Tree Commission

October 2024 Minutes - DRAFT

Monday, October 14, 2024

The Parks, Recreation + Tree (PRT) Commission met at the Powell Community Center (PCC) on Monday, October 14, 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), Sam Komosa (Ward II), Angela Vandegrift (Ward II), Dylon Sease (Ward III), Jacque Gameson (Ward IV), Cindy Long (Ward IV).

Council Liaisons: Councilmember Brian Schmid.

Staff: Penn Almoney, Parks and Recreation Director.

Guest: None.

Not in Attendance: Dustin Wolfe (Ward I) and Councilmember Debbie Kring.

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

Approval of Minutes. The Minutes from the September 9, 2024, Parks, Recreation + Tree Commission Meeting were reviewed. **Jacque** requested two corrections. The first was on page 2 to change spelling to “financial data” under Summer Recreation Camps. The second correction was located on page 4 to change spelling to “a special concern” under Streamway Park.

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

Positive Improvements:

Andersen Park Parking Lot. **Nicole** shared that she biked through the newly graded and repaved parking lots at Andersen Park and the MFAC. She complimented the work. **Penn** noted that the parking spaces and ADA markers were striped correctly to our standard.

Tree Drive. **Penn** shared that all 50 trees from our tree drive were distributed to participants. An additional 26 trees were planted from residents making a grand total of 76 new trees in Mission due to the Tree Drive – exceeding our original goal of 50. **Penn** said in reply to a question from **Cindy** that most residents learned about the program from social media and the city website.

Tree City USA Growth Award.¹ **Jacque** complimented the city for getting the Growth Award in the Tree City USA program. This prestigious award requires more rigorous criteria in addition to being named a Tree City. She shared that only 513 Growth Awards were distributed out of the 3,577 Tree Cities.

Water Works Park. **Penn** shared that canopies and baby changing tables have been installed at Water Works Park. The playground still needs to be resurfaced to fix the gouges in the surface. That work has been rescheduled to an undertermined date due to weather. In response to a question from **Dylon**,

¹ <https://www.arboday.org/programs/treecityusa/growth-award/>

Penn advised that it requires temperatures exceeding 50 degrees and 24 hours of curing for the surface to set. **Dylon** recommended that we plan around a school closure to limit any potential damage during setting.

November Sustainability Liaison:

Angela volunteer to represent the PRT Commission at the November 4 Sustainability Commission meeting.

Mohawk Phase 2 Update:

Penn shared that the playground is making quick progress with a November 1 completion date as the goal. The primary outstanding item is the poured-in-place playground surface that needs to be completed before the first major freeze of the year. Due to the large size of the playground, he said that it will take more time than Water Works to complete. **Penn** anticipates the ribbon cutting ceremony to be announced at next month's PRT Meeting.

Oak Wilt Letter:

Deputy City Administrator Brian Scott sent a letter to several residents of the Milhaven neighborhood informing them that a few trees have been identified to have Oak Wilt.

Jacque asked if she could view these trees. **Penn** directed her to contact Brian Scott. In response to a question from **Sam**, **Penn** indicated that early treatment via chemical injections into the trunk can be effective.

Action Items & Planning:

Tree Protection Ordinance. **Penn** advised that the draft Tree Protection Ordinance has been shared with the city attorneys. There have been no significant changes at this point.

Feasibility Study Follow Up. **Penn** stated that PCC Business Manager Brian LeRette has been reviewing the feasibility study data. City Administrator Laura Smith is reviewing recommendations relating to key indicators and cost measures to present to City Council.

Legacy Park. **Jacque** participated in a celebration tree planting at Legacy Park. She complimented the staff of Parks Maintenance Supervisor Taylor Shaffer. She noted that they were friendly and excellent park stewards.

Maintenance Items:

Water Works Park. **Sarah E.** shared that there is a dead branch to the left of the parking lot that may impede walkers. She noted that there are wrappings at it, which indicate that the landscapers are to return and review the tree.

Tree Trimming. **Jacque** shared that the best time to trim trees is December to February during tree dormancy. This helps keeps insects away from the new tree wounds. **Penn** suggested – to general agreement – that we learn some tree basics at our November meeting.

Legacy Park. **Jacque** asked if we could partner with Welstone – a nearby assisted living facility – about tapping into a water line for irrigation and a water fountain. **Penn** replied that adding a water fountain has significant costs – about \$20,000 for the unit, running new water line, and the installation.

Streamway. Nicole asked if any maintenance was required at Streamway Park ahead of the Spooky Walk on October 18. **Penn** said general cleaning and maintenance work is occurring this week. He added that volunteers are needed for the Spooky Walk on October 18 from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.

In response to a question from **Cindy**, **Penn** said that transit should be better than last year, because we are adding a third bus and the construction on Foxridge Drive is completed.

Master Gardeners:²

Penn shared that Dennis Patton, the founder of the Master Gardeners Program, recently passed away. This is relevant because the PRT Commission is requesting an educational session from the Master Gardeners at a future meeting.³

Cindy believes his replacement has been hired and indicated that she will get this contact for **Penn**. **Katie** said that Allison Hooper is a Master Gardener and may be a great resource to connect us with someone.

Nicole asked if we want to add a “Fall clean up” – much like our annual spring cleanup – and pair it with the general gardening education.

Katie suggested a “mulch and learn” and potential partnership with the Broadmoor Urban Farm – a farm owned by the Shawnee Mission School District and operated by the Plant and Social Science class.⁴

Art in the Park:

Penn shared information on the Sculpture on the Move program by Create Communities Alliance.⁵ The City would pay \$1,000 per art installation per year to participate. Once our application has been accepted, the City would choose its three favorite art pieces. Then an art piece would be selected and installed for two years, after which the City has the option of purchasing outright. It is a program embraced by other area cities such as Riverside, Lee’s Summit, and Kansas City, MO.

Sarah G. asked about liability coverage or any protection if the art gets damaged. **Penn** committed to getting more information.

Sarah E. said that it seems like an affordable way to get public art and it is worth pursuing further.

Jacque motioned to recommend that the City investigate participating in this program, **Sarah G. seconded. Motion passed 9-0.**

The next Meeting has been moved to Monday, November 18 to avoid a conflict with Veterans’ Day.

Adjournment:

Cindy moved to adjourn the meeting; **Sarah E.** seconded the motion. **Motion passed 9-0.**

² <https://www.johnson.k-state.edu/programs/lawn-garden/extension-master-gardeners/>

³ <https://johnsoncountypost.com/2024/03/21/dennis-patton-dies-229834/>

⁴ <https://www.broadmoorurbanfarm.org/>

⁵ <https://www.creativecommunitiesalliance.com/sculpture-on-the-move>

The meeting was adjourned at 6:49 p.m.

Faithfully submitted by Sam Komosa, secretary pro tempore.