

Columbia Recreation Commission
Special Agenda
9/10/2020
Zoom Meeting 5:30pm

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86474851721?pwd=eTVPSFY5c1l1REpzRk1GNWtJMmliUT09>

Attendees: Jeff Buskey, Kelly DeForest, Heather Pekarovic, Cindy Postemski, Tony Tigeleiro, Marc Volza

Call to Order 5:32

Audience of Citizens

- None

Approval of Minutes 5-7-2020

- Motion to approve Kelly D Second Cindy P

Old Business

- Rec. Park Master Plan update (softball field, road, pickleball/basketball courts, playground addition)

Softball field

- Scoreboard installed
- Grass growing
- Two teams practicing (travel)
- Exploring irrigation options due to drainage under the field

Roadway

- Guard rail up est 60% completed
- Lower lot conversion starting; middle roadway will be blocked during the conversion
- Courts paved-3 week wait before paint/sealer depending on weather. Once dry hoops, lines and nets up followed by fencing

Playground

- addition installed
- mulch delivered awaiting spreading
- additional playground equipment en route (rockwall portion)
- Jeff B asked if slide ended up being cochlear implant friendly. Slide installed is cochlear implant friendly and is stainless steel. Cindy P and Kelly D voiced concern about heat, potential burns from the slide. Cindy P asked about an overhang. Marc to visit and test slide during hot sunny day and inquire about an overhang if slide is hot.

New business

Rec Directors report

Beach recap

- Marc V estimated 3 days of the summer approx. 5-6 cars were turned away; otherwise they were able to accommodate using the lawn as overflow/waiting space.
- People did call ahead
- Social media complaints included being asked to be on lawn when large sections of beach were unoccupied. Often beach was at capacity, but groups huddled together so visually there were large sections of beach area available. Staff stayed consistent in sticking to number of people over amount of open space as group sizes varied day to day and am to pm
- Ideas to tweak this next year if needed involve sectioning beach off. Hope is social distancing is not required next summer.
- Cindy P voiced she thought her visit to the beach went well.

Request for a skate park

- Luca Cordone and Cameron Belanger submitted a skate park request to Rec Dept per Marc V. Avg cost \$45/sq ft per their request. Stated skating is a COVID friendly activity and many go to area towns to skate due to lack of a park in Columbia. Request was read aloud on the Zoom call by Marc V
- Jeff B voiced concern about space/location and town may not be large enough to support since there are parks located in Mansfield and Hebron
- Cindy P stated request has happened in the past and was not supported
- Jeff B asked about liability which Marc V would have to research
- Marc V discussed cost and that many towns save money by converting old pools since \$45/sq ft may be prohibitive
- Jeff B asked if committee felt there was other interest
- Tony T stated he felt there would be other interest and that skating is popular in that age group
- Marc V discussed that there would be a response sent by the Recreation Department

Summer programming recap

- Beach
- Swim lessons with COVID restrictions
- Positive feedback from families
- Summer Sizzler road race went well. Max enrollment reached at 100 people due to pandemic restrictions. No complaints. Local businesses sponsored. Will repeat in future years
- Brue John concert went well with social distancing followed

Fall programming review

- Basketball update: fluid; things may change depending on climate. Yoga Fit Fusion all classes back in person as of next week Sanitizing
- Little league travel softball and baseball using Rec fields and Porter field in use as well through end of October
- 10/4/20 Dog show rec park
- 10/23/20 Pumpkin carving
- 10/9 10/10 Paint nights
- Nov CPR/AED course
- CWSA not running
- Rec Dept-Soccer Clinics 1 hr and 15min conditioning Skills/drills t-shirt with sign up

Dec programming

- House Holiday decorating contest
- Adult basketball unknown at this time
- Coed Volleyball
- Youth Basketball-initial league meeting on hold. Back up plan will be 3 on 3 vs clinics/skills drills depending on current pandemic climate and what is deemed safest for all
- Tony T suggested March Madness type of option to increase enrollment in that age group and allowing play over a shorter time to limit contact/exposure time
- Jeff B voiced concern over one gender taking over another gender depending on age level. Marc suggested 3 on 3 or rotating schedule to minimize/address that issue (if co-ed play needed due to numbers)

Open Discussion

- Marc V stated next mtg scheduled for Nov 5th 2020
- Cindy P asked about budget; maintenance facility cut, public works doing some labor estimated approx 100K cut but unsure exact amount

- Marc V asked about in person vs Zoom vs hybrid mtg for November
- Jeff B stated why don't we discuss in November based on current pandemic climate

Discussion Adjournment

- Motion to adjourn 1805 Jeff B
- Tony T second
- Discussion Adjournment
- Mtg adjourned