

City of Wheat Ridge Parks & Recreation Commission

Wednesday, June 21st, 2023
6:30 PM

Wheat Ridge Recreation Center Conference Room
OR

Join via Zoom:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82346022916>

MINUTES

Commissioners Present: Andy Rasmussen, Kathy Koniz, Christine Samaniuk, Pat Cervera, Ralph Habben, Mark Doody

Commissioners Absent: Cambria Rollo, Karen Stanley, John Route

Guests: None

Staff Present: Karen O'Donnell – Parks & Rec Director

1. Determination of Quorum & Call to Order

- a. Meeting was called to order at 6:31 PM

2. Introductions – Guests

- a. **Mark Doody** – new District III Commissioner

3. Approval of Minutes

a. May Minutes

- i. Commissioner Cervera motioned to approve minutes with Commissioner Rasmussen's addition of his comment during the Leave No Trace presentation. Seconded by Commissioner Rasmussen. Minutes approved.

4. Unfinished Business

- a. **Memorial Bench at Fruitdale Park** – the family has reached out to Kelsey, who provided information about the bench process, and they have chosen to move forward with it. Karen is unsure where in the process it currently is.
- b. **Update on Town Center Park** – There is a plan to get rid of the park. Karen will update when she has more information on that.

5. New Business

a. Park Tour

- i. Commissioner Rasmussen provided an overview of what the Park tour included and what has been seen and experienced in past years.
- ii. Karen inquired if there was anything the Commissioners wanted to see specifically on the tour, as there is not enough time to see and experience everything. Commissioner Habben would like another presentation set-up, like the previous year's Bee presentation. Karen will see if the Garden Coordinator, Yy Dennis, will be available to present. Include the Clear Creek Crossing art piece on the tour.
- iii. Karen will send out an email for meal order from Panera.

iv. 5:30 start time was approved and will meet at the entrance of the Rec Center

6. Upcoming City Council Meeting - Parks & Recreation Items

- a. **June 26th** – Parks & Recreation Month Proclamation for the month of July
- b. **July 2nd** – Contract award to GameTime – Metropolitan Football Stadium District Funds (MFSD Funds)

7. Staff Updates

- a. **Broncos Stadium Redistribution Funds** – will be installing 2 playgrounds in Anderson Park with the \$500,000 funds that the City received. One will be a large nature themed playground near the Nature Play Area, located on the southeast side in the rear of the park. This playground contract will have to be approved by City Council and is on the agenda July 2nd. The other playground will be replacing the current playground, which has reached the end of its lifespan. The city currently owns the rail rider component, which is like a zipline, just did not have the funds to install it during the Anderson Park construction but will also be installing some additional components and due to pricing being under \$75,000, that does not have to council.
- b. **Leave No Trace Spotlight Event** – The event was successful. There was a Trivia Night at New Image Brewery that was very well attended. A lot of the attendance was staff. There were some educational opportunities available. And roughly 40 volunteers for the stewardship event on Saturday, which was exactly what they were looking for.
- c. **Aquatics Update** – Pool at Rec Center is still closed due to lifeguard shortage. The police department posted on their social media about the shortage that drew a lot of attention, including news sources that wanted to do a story on the topic. Amanda Harrison, the city's Communications Manager, was on the news and one of the lifeguard trainees was interviewed. The news coverage was helpful, with 50 applications coming in, but not all the applicants respond or pass the swim test, so hiring lifeguards continues to be a nationwide challenge. Indoor pool will be opening Monday thru Friday from open to about 12:00 to 12:30 for adult swim only, due to adults requiring fewer lifeguards. Anderson Park is fully open with regular hours and when there is inclement weather, the outdoor pool gets closed, and the indoor pool fully opens to everyone.
- d. **Green at 38th Update** – Karen presented the initial concept B and explained that this is the design that will be moved forward with the change of the stage location being flipped to the west side due to concerns brought up about the sun. The architect dug into the history of the Stevens Elementary history and presented photos of the evolution of the building and space. It is the oldest continuous school site in the State of Colorado. Will be using the history of the location to help design that space.
- e. **Colorado Lottery Starburst Award** – Award was presented at the Leave No Trace event, since the mayor was attending the event. This award is for parks projects that receive funding from the Colorado Lottery. Not all projects get awarded this award, but the City of Wheat Ridge received it for Prospect Park phase 1 & 2.
- f. **Grant Funding Received**
 - i. **7-Eleven Grant** – new 7-Eleven opened at 44th and Harlan and received \$711 to go towards Summer Camp.
 - ii. **Gates Family Foundation** – received \$30,000 to go towards the Green at 38th project.
 - iii. **CDOT Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP)** - this is to assist with funding towards the Peaks to Plains Clear Creek trail expansion to 10 feet wide with crusher fines shoulders through all of Wheat Ridge's portion of the trail. It's over \$900,000 funds, that will be over a few years as you do have to provide matching funds, but it means there is a little more time to work on the project. Anticipating design to start in 2024 and construction to start in 2025.

