

**MINUTES**  
**CARBONDALE PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION**  
**June 8, 2022**

Hollis Sutherland called the meeting of the Carbondale Parks & Recreation Commission to order at 6:05 p.m. at Carbondale Town Hall on June 8, 2022.

**ROLL CALL**

The following members were present for roll call:

Members: Hollis Sutherland, Chair  
Ashley Hejtmanek, Member  
John Williams, Member  
Drew Sorenson, Member  
Misha Logan, Youth Representative

Town Staff Present: Eric Brendlinger, Parks and Recreation Director  
Jessi Rochel, Recreation Center & Recreation Programs Manager  
Kae McDonald, Boards & Commission Clerk

**CONSENT AGENDA**

**Motion Passed:** Ashley Hejtmanek *moved* to approve the minutes from the May 11, 2022, Special Meeting. John Williams *seconded* the motion, and it was *unanimously approved*.

**Motion Passed:** John Williams *moved* to approve the minutes from the May 11, 2022, Regular Meeting. Ashley Hejtmanek *seconded* the motion, and it was *unanimously approved*.

**ITEMS FROM CITIZENS PRESENT NOT ON THE AGENDA**

There was no one present, not on the agenda, to address the Commission.

**WELCOME TO DREW SORENSON AS A NEW PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSIONER**

Hollis welcomed Drew to his first official meeting. She encouraged him to reach out if he had any questions.

Eric reminded Drew that there is a link to the Parks & Recreation Master Plans on the Carbondale Recreation and Community Center website under the "Miscellaneous" drop-down menu. He also reminded all of the commission members to fill out the project prioritization sheet that was distributed at the May 18<sup>th</sup> Work Session and return them to him prior to the July 13<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Ashley asked that that discussion topic be added to the July meeting agenda.

**PARKS TOUR MAP AND RULES AND ADAPTED OLAT PARK ASSESSMENT TOOL DRAFT**

Eric asked the commission members for input on which park to use the OLAT tool.

Ashley suggested trying it at a park with a lot of features.

Hollis thought trying to use the OLAT tool during the parks tour might not be the best use of the available time. She asked if the Ramey-Harvey Park could be added so those commission members that haven't visited it yet would have a chance to see it.

Ashley added that she would like to see the Crystal River restoration project and agreed with Hollis that the OLAT tool requires time to read the categories and carefully consider how park features fit in. She noted that the subcommittee is revising to tool to make it useful for all age groups rather than only older adults.

Eric thought it would be beneficial to assign it as "homework" for the July meeting.

Hollis thought it was important to also consider whether the OLAT tool is “asking the correct questions.”

Ashley suggested each commission member choose a different park to apply the OLAT tool.

#### 4<sup>th</sup> Street Plaza

Eric commented that the Town of Carbondale acquired this park through a recent donation. He noted that the park needs an infrastructure and irrigation update, but it may also become non-irrigated space. He pointed out that there are lots of artificial turf products that last ten to fifteen years and using such a product at this park would even out the terrain for the ice rink and reduce the mud. He added that 4<sup>th</sup> Street Park upgrades will be a 2023 budget item and encouraged suggestions on how to make the park sustainable. He also noted that a “Plaza” style park is being considered. Eric pointed out that the shed used to store Parks & Recreation Department items will be removed and a new storage location will have to be figured out – one possibility would be to cost-share rental space with Carbondale Arts.

Hollis pointed out that a plaza-style park would mirror the west side of 4<sup>th</sup> Street.

John asked if 4<sup>th</sup> Street would be closed.

Eric replied that that option has been discussed, but mostly in terms of temporary closures.

#### Sopris Park

Eric pointed out that the Environmental Board worked with both the Parks & Recreation Department and the Tree Board to complete a tree labeling project at Sopris Park within the past year. He also noted that while playground equipment replacement was not a priority, maintenance of the rubber surface covering the metal is needed. He added that other budgeted projects include replacing the water fountain, pouring a concrete pad around it to fulfill ADA requirements, and installing a cement sidewalk to replace the dirt path between the shade structure and the wooden walkway over the ditch.

Ashley commented that the OLAT tool really focuses on accessibility.

Eric replied that accessibility can be challenging and noted that, for example, while the treated EWF within the playground area is accessible the border surrounding the playground is not. He also pointed out that someone removed a portion of the rubber membrane around the spinner, so it is no longer ADA compliant.

Ashley noted that the tool isn’t meant to facilitate code enforcement.

Hollis pointed out that commission members can just write “don’t know” if they aren’t sure of the answer.

He also noted various examples of vandalism at the park including the complete destruction of the porcelain sinks in the park bathroom – this occurred at Miner’s Park, as well.

#### Jail and Cabin History Park

Eric commented that the signage project discussed at last year’s park tour has been completed. He also pointed out that the cabin interior was remodeled by the Carbondale Historical Society to resemble a country store and the building exterior has been re-chinked.

Eric noted that across the street is Glassier Park, which is a sanctioned off-leash dog park. He added that the Colorado Intergovernmental Risk Sharing Agency had completed a review of the Town’s Parks and is requiring a one-foot wall be built behind the stakes at the horseshoe pit. He commented that he is currently researching products that could be used to retrofit the pits and it will be included as a 2023 budget item.

Eric also pointed out that while the Bridges High School field is school district property, the Town of Carbondale can access it when school is out of session.

Hollis commented that she sees a lot of dogs in that field.

Eric replied that the benefit of a Dog Park story map would be to show that such places are not Town of Carbondale property and help educate community members and visitors alike on the different land ownership and differing rules. He suggested that signage could help reiterate that information, as well.

#### Bonnie Fischer Park

Eric noted that Demeter's Garden is part of the Master Plan for this park. He pointed out that the playground and basketball hoops have lost their priority because of negative sentiment by adjacent neighbors. He added that signs have been added to help solve the problem of trespass parking and storage, but they are still working on the road right-of-way encroachment. He commented that while signs have been posted, they are still waiting for some property owners to remove their items.

Hollis commented that if anyone uses the OLAT tool at this park to be aware of the impact a playground might have on those working in the business offices in the adjacent Third Street Center.

Ashley added that the OLAT tool is designed to take differing perspectives.

#### North Face Bike Park

Eric pointed out the newly rehabbed jumps at the Bike Park. He commented that this is one of the busiest parks in town. He noted that the baseball field has hosted a bike polo tournament as well as adult soccer in the fall. He added that the infield requires a lot of weed maintenance, particularly with respect to bindweed extraction, and one strategy was to treat the area with "Alpha Natural" and then cover it with dirt but the bids for the kind of dirt needed came back more than four times over their estimate. Eric pointed out that Alpha Natural had also been used to treat the Canadian Thistle on the slope and while it didn't kill it outright, it has visibly stunted its growth, and they will continue to assess this product.

Eric also noted that the five-year capital improvement plan includes an LED lighting system upgrade. He pointed out that it would extend shoulder season activity and has been requested by many users.

#### RVR Riverfront Park

Eric pointed out that this is the site of the Crystal River Restoration and Weaver Ditch Headgate Improvement project, and it has been on the books since 2016. He noted that one feature of this project will be adding ADA accessibility. He noted that they received just one response to the RFP for the project and unfortunately, it was significantly over the project cost estimate. He thought they might be able to apply value engineering to see if there are some cost savings somewhere in the project. He added that because there are limitations placed on when construction can take place, they must plan to complete the project all at once. He indicated that the organizations funding the project have agreed to extend the time frame. Eric pointed out that no dogs are allowed in the park and commented that the large numbers of birds that inhabit the area is a good example of why they aren't allowed.

#### Orchard Park

Eric noted that the design of this playground is meant to evoke the feeling of a natural park. He noted that the play features are all constructed from Robina wood and while it is supposed to last for a long time the harsh environmental conditions are affecting the integrity of the wood. He pointed out that maintenance is an issue under several play features, and he thought the CIRSA inspector might penalize them for that. He commented that RVR is attempting to solve the problem by using interlocking tiles. Eric also pointed out that there is no regulatory signage at this park.

#### Ramey-Harvey Park

Eric noted that this park is a new acquisition and is a passive park. He added that they still need to put up regulatory signage and the standard trash system. Eric explained that leashed dogs are allowed on the path which will require additional signage and pointed out that an additional picnic table for the patio will be included in the 2023 budget. He also noted that the existing irrigation system was powered off the home next door and while a solar pump has been added, more money may need to be budgeted to make it completely functional. Eric also asked for suggestions for the fountain area.

Rose suggested adding exercise equipment that could be used by all ages.

**REPORT & UPDATES: STAFF AND COMMISSION MEMBERS**

Eric Brendlinger, Parks and Recreation Director:

- Please review the 30/60/90 spreadsheet included in the meeting packet

**ADJOURNMENT**

The June 8, 2022, meeting adjourned at 8:08 pm. The next regular meeting is scheduled for July 13, 2022, at 7:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Kae McDonald