

July 22, 2024

The Columbia City Park Board met in regular session with the following members present:

Park Board President Keith Nickolson

Park Board Vice President Mark Ellis

Park Board Member Kim Varga

Park Board Member Roger Ferrell

Park Director Matt Heiden

Also in attendance:

Mayor Ryan Daniel

Not in attendance:

Park Board Secretary Karen Koday

After reviewing the meeting minutes from June 24, 2024, Mark Ellis made the motion approve the minutes as submitted, and Roger Ferrell second the motion. On the call to vote, all voted aye.

Matt Heiden, Park Director opened the meeting by revisiting the heat policy from the last meeting set in place for the baseball/softball program. Matt reached out to Wallen Baseball Complex to examine their rules for heat and applied them to our park's rules. Everyone agreed that the rules need to be based off the heat index, not the actual temperature to accommodate humidity and the amount of gear the players must wear. The board agreed that they will use the Columbia City's weather app as the official source for determining what temperature it is outside and the heat index. Keith Nickolson mentioned that he would like to review the heat regulations for the park's football league and use that as a basis for baseball. Everyone agreed to table the discussion for the next meeting to have time to review the football and Wallen rules to make the most informed decision.

Matt brought up the policy for allowing private parties at the pool. Matt mentioned placing a cap on the amount of people a party can have. The main concern is trying to control not going over occupancy. Matt made a general agreement to change the wording for renting out the pavilion at the pool from "Private Party" to just calling it a "Pavilion Rental" and everyone agreed. Clarification was made that a pavilion rental only rents out the pavilion area, and that the pool is still open to the public. There have been many requests for total facility rentals. Matt said in the few months before

the summer season, he receives at least one facility rental request a week, and a few here and there during pool season. It was decided to table this discussion and to come back with a list of what has worked so far and what has not.

Mayor Ryan Daniel suggested taking this transitional time between managers and seasons to create and amend the policies that the park currently has in place. He also suggested that the board needs to make a list to distinguish what the park board should approve and what the park director and/or pool manager be allowed to make decisions on.

Kim asked if there are yearly employee, administrative, and/or swim team surveys that take place to hear about what went well and what issues need to be addressed. Matt said there have been surveys in the past, but nothing yearly. Mayor Daniels agreed that the swim team has been better this year due to there being a survey last year and allowing people to voice their concerns. Matt said he can come up with a skeleton draft of a survey for the park board to review the next meeting.

Matt gave updates on the Eagle Park construction. We are now in the 30-day window of letting the concrete dry and settle at the entrance of the park. There will also be padding added to the gas meter to prevent any damage being done to it. We are also in the process of collecting estimates on redoing the bathrooms.

Matt stated this weekend is City Slam. He said that it is a growing event, with more teams this year.

Matt presented everyone with a copy of the On Turf requested dates for the 2025 season. He asked for a motion to approve the schedule. Kim Varga made a motion to approve the requested dates which was seconded by Mark. On the call to vote, all voted aye.

Mayor Ryan Daniel and Mark both asked what everyone thought of the firework celebration on July 3rd. Mayor said he heard it as either being a good show or not being a good show. He said that many people compare it to Tri-Lake's firework event. Mayor said they spent \$10,000 this year and have bumped the budget up to \$15,000 for next year. He said that Tri-Lakes does fundraisers all year round and spends about \$30,000 on their show. Mayor proposed having a business sponsor the event to bring in about another \$10,000. Another issue with fireworks is that we are limited to how big of a firework we can shoot off due to limited open field areas in the city.

Mayor mentioned the signs in the park mentioning Little Leagues championships from the 1990s. He asks that the board consider what to do with those signs as to whether we keep them for historical reasons or move them to a different location. No decision was made and will be discussed at a later date.

The next meeting will be on August 26th, 2024.

These minutes are respectfully submitted by Emilee Button, Administrative Assistant Parks Department.