

MINUTES

CITY OF FORT COLLINS • BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS



Park and Recreation Board Meeting

May 22nd, 2024

Twin Silo Park – 5552 Ziegler Rd. Fort Collins, CO

1. CALL TO ORDER

Nick Armstrong called the meeting to order at 5:44pm

2. ROLL CALL

- List of Board Members Present
 - Nick Armstrong
 - Meghan Willis
 - Josh Durand
 - Paul Baker
 - Mike Novell
 - John Mola
 - Lorena Falcon
- List of Board Members Absent
 - Ken Christensen
 - Marcia Richards
- List of Staff Members Present
 - Mike Calhoon – Director, Parks
 - LeAnn Williams – Director, Recreation
 - Jill Wuertz – Sr Manager, Park Planning & Development
 - Kendra Boot – Sr Manager, Forestry
 - Ernie Wintergerst – Sr Supervisor, Forestry
 - Kevin Williams – Sr Supervisor, Parks
 - Rachel Eich – Business Support III

3. AGENDA REVIEW

- Introduction of new board members (John Mola and Lorena Falcon)

4. CITIZEN PARTICIPATION

- No citizen participation

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- Meghan Willis moved to approve the April 2024 minutes as written at 5:47pm, Josh Durand seconded, all in favor

Parks and Recreation Board

TYPE OF MEETING – Hybrid Meeting

6. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- Urban Forest Strategic Plan Update
 - Kendra Boot and Ernie Wintergerst began presentation on the high level status of the Urban Forestry Strategic Plan update.
 - Urban Forest is defined to include the trees that grow within the built environment, parks, golf courses, cemeteries, etc; also includes private trees
 - The UFSP is looking at all trees in the growth management area to steer the direction for the department moving forward.
 - Why plan?
 - For strategic planning and adaptive management, we have to understand what we have and do not have
 - Helps to answer the question for how we are doing
 - What do we have?
 - City wide canopy cover is at 13.7%, with 12.6% if the GMA is added.
 - 80% of canopy cover is on private property
 - Public Tree Inventory
 - The City Forestry team manages roughly 60,000 trees
 - 60% are less than 8 inches in diameter
 - Managing trees at different age classes takes different resources
 - Community Engagement
 - 3 public meetings (October 2023 & March 2024)
 - 8 different community events
 - 1 community survey (971 responses)
 - Themes:
 - Trees are an integral part of Fort Collins, infrastructure
 - People love trees on public property
 - People would like more resources for how to manage trees on their private property
 - Concerns around development and trees
 - The draft plan includes 8 recommended strategies
 - Continue to invest and grow the urban canopy
 - Create a planting plan (for both public and private property)
 - Complete the shift to proactive management of Fort Collins' trees
 - Strengthen City policies to protect trees
 - Collect data to track changes over time
 - Sustainably grow the division to keep pace with need

Parks and Recreation Board

TYPE OF MEETING – Hybrid Meeting

- Deepen the engagement with the community around tree stewardship
- Expand the network of the Forestry Division’s partnerships
- Requesting feedback from the board by May 31st
- Questions from the Board
 - From the survey, people are concerned around development, is that because people think trees are removed in development?
 - Staff heard that people would like to see more regulation around tree protection and development (50%), others would prefer to just have education and outreach (50%)
 - Is there a plan to hiring more staff?
 - Hiring will be part of the plan for sustainable growth
 - Hiring is challenging because of the BFO (Budgeting for Outcomes) conversation
 - Are there limits on staff training?
 - There is a need for a feeder into workforce development
 - Urban Forestry Planner would help with the bigger policy and bigger picture ideas
 - How specific is the tree planting plan?
 - Priority planting area is focused on canopy coverage in block groups
 - Looks at social, health, and environmental variables
 - Knowing that most of the canopy is residential or private, how much opportunity does the City have to proactively influence and help people plant the best trees?
 - A lot of opportunity through development, but have not always been able to keep up with it due to staffing capacity
 - Is the idea to point private property/residential owners to the existing resources (i.e., Front Range Tree List)?
 - Private property owners will be pointed to that list, as well as specific resources on the City website (Street Tree List)

7. NEW BUSINESS

- Twin Silo Park
 - Sr Supervisor, Kevin Williams, presented on the maintenance and unique features of Twin Silo Park
 - Park is staffed by two technicians, one crew chief, and one worker 1
 - Team also manages Radiant Park
 - Features include:
 - Interactive play feature in the creek