



CITY OF COEUR D'ALENE

PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT

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PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION MINUTES

April 17, 2017 – 5:30 p.m.
COMMUNITY ROOM - LIBRARY

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mike McDowell, Co-Chair
Ron Edinger
Bridget Hill
Maya Burgess, Student Representative

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Scott Cranston
Jim Lien
Ginny Tate
Christie Wood
Lily Foster, Alt Student Rep

STAFF PRESENT:

Bill Greenwood, Parks & Rec Director
Katie Kosanke, Urban Forestry Coordinator
Monte McCully, Trails Coordinator
Melissa Brandt, Administrative Assistant

GUESTS:

Jake Adams

CALL TO ORDER: Commissioner McDowell called the meeting to order at 5:31 p.m.

1. ROLL CALL

Four members present, resulting in an official quorum.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Commissioner Burgess led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. CONFLICT OF INTEREST

None.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commissioner Edinger made a motion to approve the minutes of March 13, 2017. Commissioner Hill seconded the motion, there being no discussion and all being in favor, motion passed.

5. STAFF COMMENTS

Bill Greenwood gave a department overview. Youth soccer kicked off with a large turnout, co-ed registrations for softball completed winding down. There were three separate Easter egg hunts in parks this past weekend. Swim registrations took place this morning and we did something a little different, we allowed early registrations for our waiting list so we can get families who haven't been able to participate. Unplugged took place during Spring Break. We added a new program with Strider bikes, these are bikes without pedals so participants can learn how to balance and ride. We are

planning a derby for later. Restrooms are open, beach cleanup continues, we have pulled out more than 100 cubic yards of debris from the beach.

Greenwood reviewed the drawing of the Four Corners area and Memorial Field. After going through a couple drawing revisions, the decision has been made to go with the original drawings that have already been presented to the commissioners, City Council, the County, and the Fort Grounds HOA. There have attempts in various drawings to lessen asphalt due to the parking lot taking up too much space. We are going back to the original design. We are working through the plans and will bring it back to City Council and the Ignite Board.

6. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

McDowell; The park cleanup that has taken place, with all the rain and snow, staff has done a great job getting things looking good.

Hill; All the areas for the Easter egg hunts looked very good.

7. PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

8. TARZAN BOAT PRESENTATION

Bill Greenwood introduced Jake Adams who has an interest in operating a commercial activity on the water. Jake met with park staff, police, fire, and the City Clerk to discuss his idea to operate a Tarzan Boat on the lake. Jake opted to come to the Parks and Recreation Commission to share his information directly.

Jake Adams – operates Summer Snow Outfitters, renting snowmobiles to scooters. Tarzan Boat became available to the public a couple years ago. Small businesses can purchase and operate given the right set of circumstances (*showed short video of Tarzan Boat activity*).

Attending the meeting to discuss some of the logistical concerns and answer questions about operating the boat. The boat is a barge-type apparatus, great for all ages, and will work great located in the right area. The boat can be driven out anywhere, anchored, and the public can swim out to the platform. In order for the business to work, he will need a small area for public to access and allow for sales and registration, possibly a hut, popup tent, or mobile pull behind trailer. He doesn't care where it's located as long as its close to the sales location and just a couple hundred yards from the Tarzan Boat. He has been researching this idea for a while. The boat can be parked in the water anywhere on Lake Coeur d'Alene. He has spoken with Kootenai County, US Coast Guard, and the State of Idaho Parks and Recreation.

McDowell: Have you talked to Idaho Department of Lands Bureau of Navigable Waters?

Adams: I'm not permanently placing anything in the lake. I can be permitted to have this out in the water as long as it's anchored and movable. I don't have to have a captain's license to operate.

Hill: Where will you keep the boat at night? Adams: It will be parked at a private boat dock, locked up at night, and driven out, anchored for the day, ideally close to the sales and registration area.

The Tarzan Boat is registered as a boat, but not considered a boat while anchored during the day, it's a swim platform. Summer Snow Outfitters needs a public sales area. We are requesting a sales and registration area on city property, either a spot at the beach, in a parking space, or on a city lot. Participants sign a release, watch an instructional video, pay their fee, and get out to the boat. Tarzan Boat would coordinate with all entities; Parks, police,

fire, etc., sharing operational plans including sales, personnel training, emergency response, and evacuation plans. And, there are at least four insurance companies who provide commercial liability insurance for an operation like the Tarzan Boats.

Edinger: Wouldn't a request like this have to go out to bid? Greenwood: Yes, it would go out to bid through a Request for Quotes (RFQ) or Request for Proposals (RFP). We have been approached by 4 or 5 folks who have similar ideas. The bid would have specifics for location, type of sales area, etc.

Adams: The Tarzan Boat is meant for family fun, no alcohol allowed, and no one allowed who has been drinking. The boat allows for a maximum of 40 people. We would have two lifeguards back to back monitoring 180 degrees.

Greenwood: At the meeting we had with Jake and other city departments, we talked at length about lifeguards. There are concerns about fights and people getting on the boat that shouldn't. Lifeguards cannot be involved in any activity other than watching participants in the water. Who would be responsible for the public once they are on the boat? Adams: Lifeguards will have the authority to say certain people aren't allowed, if they don't comply, they would radio management reporting a theft of services and they would call police. We would not be able to supply a security team on the boat. Greenwood; the police do not have a police boat, and lifeguards aren't allowed to do anything but scan the water, they cannot do crowd control, they cannot be distracted. Adams; we may have management staff on the boat as well.

McDowell: Are you planning to do any food or beverage sales on boat? And, how far will you be from shore? Adams; recreation only, no food or beverage, and the boat will anchor in at least 12 feet of water, we figure about 25-30 yards from the shoreline. We would like to be located as close to the downtown core as possible. We are looking also at NIC beach.

Adams: The boat will have equipment on board to ensure safety, etc., and our lifeguards will also be trained beyond necessary requirements. There will be a fire plan to get people off the boat in case of fire. If wind or lightning become issues, we will stop all operations and get folks off the boat. We will have use of a small boat nearby to allow errands to and from Tarzan boat. We will work with County Marine patrol. Tarzan Boat is not considered a transport vessel as it will not be running while public is onboard and it will be anchored out. Currently, commercial swim platforms are not addressed in Idaho; no permits are needed at this time.

McDowell: Does the boat come in different sizes and will there be lifejackets on board?

Adams; the one in the video is the largest 14' x 34' about the size of a small houseboat; that is the boat we are interested in buying. We would have as many lifejackets as the City required us to have onboard. The boat is meant for people 5 to 55. We would require kids 12 and under to wear a life jacket.

Hill: Are there other commercial ventures in the middle of the lake? Greenwood; the Buoy Boys, our current vendor at Harbor House, has a houseboat in the middle of the lake that serves food and another houseboat at Silver Beach. Adams; there is also a jet-ski island, where the owner has a catamaran he shuttles from his private property out to use jet-skis.

Hill: Is there music? The Fort Grounds folks talk about the noise from the baseball field, and soon the carousel, I'm assuming there is music? Adams: Yes, this apparatus has Bluetooth available, and we can have speakers, it is likely we will have music playing. But, we want this to work and that won't be the break point.

Burgess: Will people be able to swim out to it okay? Adams: Yes, young kids could have life jackets if not a strong swimmer.

Edinger: Would you be onsite and running this operation? And, when do you want to start this? Adams: I would be head of management staff. I would be onshore registering the public,

and doing sales. We would like to start in 10 weeks, by the 4th of July. That would be early enough to turn a profit. If I can't get it going until then, I'd wait until next year.

Hill: Someone responsible would handle intoxicated people, not a 16 year old? Adams: I would have someone responsible, myself, running the registration.

McDowell: Water may be in the city limits a certain distant, but the State of Idaho controls the navigability for moving and non-moving areas. I suggest you talk to the Department of Lands Department of Navigable Waters to make sure you have covered everything.

Hill: What is the liability to the city with this operation? Greenwood: The liability is on Mr. Adams just as the parasail vendor has liability. We will start work on an RFQ and prepare a staff report, with a location on the beach for commercial activity, and all the detail for staff and Administration to make a recommendation. We can't write a report with all the variables or possibilities covering all potential requests, we would have to cover all the details on any business operating commercially with city property as the conduit. An RFQ would allow us to open up for bid to any and all vendors who have expressed interest in the past, or have current interest. Qualifications, a business plan, and all details covered to the satisfaction of Park staff, commission members, Council, etc. We will check with legal on whether this would be an RFQ or an RFP. Allowing a bidding process opens up a myriad of commercial activity requests. The winning bid would be a combination of the dollar amount and the best business/safety plan.

Motion by Commissioner Edinger to table until some questions have been asked and answered; seconded by Commissioner Burgess. Motion passed unanimously.

9. REVISION OF CITY'S APPROVED STREET TREE LSIT

Kosanke presented proposal of some slight revisions to the City's approved street tree list. The first list set was in 1987, with revisions since, noting appropriate trees for street side planting for homeowners and contractors, trees with good street side habits. The last revision was in 2014. This proposed Urban Forestry Committee revision adds species, allowing more choices for contractors and homeowners and diversifying our canopy cover. We also recommend removing a couple trees from the list; Purple Robe Black Locust and Ash. The main reason to remove Ash (*Fraxinus* species) is the Emerald Ash Borer beetle, a very destructive, non-native insect pest, originally found in 2002 in Michigan and soon after, spread to Ontario. In 2016 it appeared in Colorado, with one county, now quarantined, reporting beetle discoveries in 2013. State foresters feel that this is a case of when not if the beetle spreads up here. The beetle causes significant damage, and they have no natural predators. It is estimated it has killed hundreds of millions of ash trees in North America, and caused billions of dollars in damage. We have a large number of ash trees in our community; 6.3% of our trees are ash. Insects and diseases are species specific, with this beetle being moved through firewood. Currently no beetles have been found in Idaho.

Burgess: Are current ash trees in the City being grandfathered in? Kosanke: We won't take those down, we just won't plant anymore. When this insect gets here, we will have to address the problem and can consider applying treatment that is 80-90% effective.

Motion by Commissioner Edinger to approve the revision of the approved street tree list and forward to General Services; seconded by Commissioner Hill. Motion passed unanimously.

10. ARBOR DAY AND TREE CITY USA REPORT UPDATE

Kosanke presented information regarding the Park's Arbor Day celebration to be held at noon on April 29, at McEuen Park and near the Harbor House. We will be planting six native trees and native shrubs. There will also be a ceremony to recognize Coeur d'Alene as a 33 year recipient of Tree City USA, and cake and beverages to celebrate the 145th Birthday of Arbor

Day. We are also receiving a growth award this year that highlights new projects we have completed. Our 2016 Tree City USA statistics: planting of 921 public trees and 700 seedlings. We removed 182 dead or declining public trees and pruned 1,372 public trees. Other Arbor Day activities include announcing the winner of the Arbor Day button art contest; Jacob Laumatia from Coeur d' Alene Charter Academy. We will be packing seedlings on April 25th at Idaho Department of Lands warehouse at 9am. Providing a children's library program April 26th at 10:30am, a program for a Campfire troop on April 28th, and the Daughters of the American Revolution is holding a private event on April 28th at McEuen Park. We also will be putting up tree tags that have information about trees throughout the City. We will also be working with North Idaho College, as they are interested in becoming a Tree Campus USA. We hope the public comes out to participate in the 145th Birthday of Arbor Day on April 29, at Noon in McEuen Park.

11. BIKEWAYS MASTER PLAN

McCully reminded the Commissioners that they had already approved the 2017 Bikeways Master Plan, with a recommendation to move on to General Services. General Services passed the plan to City Council. Before it got to City Council, a local advocacy group and members of the Ped Bike committee had concerns that new members of the Ped Bike committee and citizens hadn't had time to review and participate. We then actively sought out public comment, and received recommendations for additions and changes from the new engineering representative and landscape architect representative on the Ped Bike Committee. Revisions were made and a new Draft Master Plan was presented at an open public meeting the end of March. We then received several comments and recommendations from the public. Once we had the public comments, we changed some language and fine-tuned the plan, the Ped Bike committee voted to move the plan on to the Parks and Recreation Commission for approval.

Motion by Commissioner Edinger recommends the Parks and Recreation Commission move the 2017 Bikeways Master Plan on to General Services for approval; seconded by Commissioner Hill. Motion passed unanimously.

12. ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner McDowell asked for any further items. Upcoming meeting dates:

- Tuesday May 2, 2017 – Workshop – Caruso's Deli, Coeur d'Alene – 11:30 am
- Monday May 15, 2017 – Meeting - Community Room at the Library – 5:30 p.m.

Commissioner Edinger made a motion to adjourn the meeting with Commissioner Burgess seconding the motion. All were in favor, motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 7:08 pm.