



CITY OF COEUR D'ALENE

PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT

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PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION MINUTES July 17, 2017 – 5:30 p.m. COMMUNITY ROOM - LIBRARY

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Scott Cranston, Chair
Mike McDowell, Co-Chair
Jim Lien
Ginny Tate
Christie Wood

STAFF PRESENT:

Bill Greenwood, Parks & Rec Director
Monte McCully, Trails Coordinator
Melissa Brandt, Administrative Assistant

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Ron Edinger
Bridget Hill
Lily Foster, Alt Student Rep

GUESTS:

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

1. ROLL CALL

Five members present, resulting in an official quorum.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Commissioner Lien led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. CONFLICT OF INTEREST

None.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commissioner Wood made a motion to approve the minutes of June 19, 2017.
Commissioner McDowell seconded the motion, there being no discussion and all being in favor, motion passed.

5. STAFF COMMENTS

Greenwood reported that Recreation expanded their Skyhawks program we have 100's of kids participating in soccer, football, pickle ball, lacrosse, tennis and many other activities, fields are being used all over town. The strider bicycle program is in full swing, new this year, teaching little ones to ride bikes, without pedals. We hope to have a race in the future. Youth tennis had 70 kids, with the second session almost as busy. We had 20 participate in youth golf and indoor swim lessons next registration starts July 24, and, almost every weekend fields are booked for softball.

Last meeting we talked about improvements at the cemetery. We have a new Niche wall just outside of Section A in Forest, completed a few months ago. Perpetual care money was used to install and will pay back 10 fold. The week we opened we sold around 10. The GAR statue needed repairs, it now looks really nice with the work of Jeff Stoddard, who also helped assemble our first swinging bench at McEuen, and he'll help with another new swinging bench to be installed down near 5th street also at McEuen.

6. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

None.

7. PUBLIC COMMENT

Jacob Adams, 101 N Flora, Coeur d'Alene. Last Friday, July 14 around 1 pm, I was down at Independence Point, and received a call from Bill Greenwood who made the accusation I was running my business out at Independence Point. A parks employee reported I was parked in the parking lot and had my business information was displayed on my vehicle. I wasn't conducting business. I informed him that even if I was delivering equipment to a public park or street that is not conducting business. Greenwood stated there was an ordinance or code that prohibits delivery of kayaks to the beach. Your phone call was harassment, you stated your own opinion you had no answer for any law or code. Greenwood: You indicated you had talked to our legal department, you had not. I did not say one of our employees reported you, in fact, it was not an employee, it was someone from the Chamber, who supplied a picture of Mr. Adams delivering a board to someone on public property.

Commissioner Wood: This sounds like a personnel complaint, not to be addressed at a public meeting.

Commissioner Tate: What is the name of your business? Adams: Summer Snow Outfitters, LLC. I believe this is an unreasonable restraint of commerce. Greenwood made a point to tell me that a vendor already pays lots of money to the city to have business on the docks and beaches I think that's a monopoly. Everything I am doing is perfectly legal. I request that the Parks Department not contact me or my business.

Commissioner Cranston: The reason you were there was to deliver equipment to someone for use? Adams: Not correct, I was there with my family. If I was there to conduct business, there's nothing illegal with that.

Commissioner Lien: So, you in the course of running your business you believe you can pay for a parking space and in the course of doing that you can deliver non-motorized water craft to that location? Adams: If I'm not exchanging money, I can.

McDowell: This type of question should be forwarded to our legal department, follow direction from our legal department. Adams: Until someone tells me I did something wrong, then I will cease.

Commissioner Cranston: Is there someone who can help with this? Greenwood: As far as public park space, I did talk to our legal department. Code enforcement was to address Mr. Adams. This is about conducting commercial activity on public property. We have a vendor who pays a premium price to conduct business. Cranston: Get in touch with legal counsel, this is a wrong forum for this.

8. BROOKS SEAPLANE LEASE EXTENSION

Commissioner Cranston read the staff report for the record.

Greenwood: Brooks has been a wonderful tenant, great to work with and he's been an ambassador for the Parks Department. He has a lot of people who enjoy his services.

Commissioner Wood: Anybody else ever come forward with this type of business?

Greenwood: It's a unique business no one has ever approached us with interest in doing the same.

Commissioner Tate made a motion to extend the lease agreement with Brooks Seaplane. Commissioner Lien seconded the motion, there being no discussion and all being in favor, motion passed.

9. CANFIELD MOUNTAIN TRAILS

Monte McCully: I'm here to catch you up and remind you of the work we've done at Canfield Mountain Natural Area, what has been done, and what we plan to do. This open space was donated in 2005 by a Seventh Day Adventist church. The hillside was being used for recreation for years by motorcycles, ATVs, jeeps, hikers, and mountain bikers, access to the area were roads that went straight up the hill. When I started working for the City in 2007 there weren't any really good trails to hike on and we wanted to connect the trail to the USFS trail, specifically for non-motorized vehicles. We spent a lot of time and effort to get motorized vehicles to go to another area to ride their use had caused erosion and a lot of damage. We applied for a grant in 2007 to build a new trail, when we didn't get the grant, for 3 years we had volunteers from Boy Scouts, churches, various groups, and mountain bike groups to build trails, more than 6,000 hours went into building these trails. The area has become very popular. At the time of the donation there was only one house in the Copper Ridge Subdivision. There is a 50 acre parcel that belongs to the Erickson's that we've been trying to get obtain for an easement, hopefully that will come in the next few years so we can get more trails to connect. Since there are more hikers and mountain bikers at the area, we have had some conflicts, people come down the hills on areas that aren't designated for use, there are a lot of deep scars that are being used by hikers and bikers, to my knowledge no one has been hurt yet, but it could happen. We are trying to figure out a way to make it safe. Some ideas we have come up include closing undesignated trails, making the trails a one-way system, installation of silt fencing to mitigate erosion, better signage, better fencing, and educating the public. We are looking at funding sources and plan to start a pilot project out of our current budget.

Commissioner Cranston: The conflict between hikers and bikers, what are the considerations in the future plan, what are the problem areas? McCully: I'm not aware that there have been issues on the trail itself, what I hear is that conflict seems to happen on the old scar trails. A biker can get going fast on the trail, but closing the old trails will help and making the trails one way, one way up for everyone and one way down for everyone. There haven't been any reports of someone getting hurt, just getting startled by a biker coming downhill. The master plan doesn't necessarily state separating hikers and bikers, but this pilot project to close the scars, create signage, and separate the up and down the trail will help.

Commissioner Cranston: We'll open up for public comments now, going down the list of people who have signed up, you have three minutes to comment.

Public Comments:

Jeff Owens, 4860 N Cuprum Ct, Coeur d'Alene: I'm a resident at Copper Ridge and a mountain biker, I enjoy the trail, like to see the use, don't want to lose those trails. I like

Monte's ideas of how to protect those trails. Emphasize as I read the Master plan from 2012, National Open Space management plan talks about education signage. I've ridden hills that have education signage to help mountain bikers understand the dangers out there, look out for hikers, take care of each other.

Don Crawford, 2750 E Shadduck Lane, Coeur d'Alene: I grew up in Coeur d'Alene, here since 1984. I've used the mountain for hiking, biking, and dirt bikes, I think it's a multi-use area and a challenge to find balance. There is a one way trail system at Nettleton Gulch, it is a good system, it really helps, I support that plan. I agree with previous speaker, the signage is important, tough to change habits, but can be done, would like to see continued mixed use on these trails.

Brad Gilbert, 2437 E Mountain Vista Dr, Coeur d'Alene: I am here representing the HOA. The area is not landscaped very well, not consistent with the CC&Rs in our neighborhood. We have requirements for nice landscaping maybe the City could put in some irrigation. Mountain bikers are riding down the rock outcropping making it look bad. The current fencing is dangerous. We had an HOA meeting and issues with the trail were raised at the meeting; the trailhead, parking on the street, congestion, parking in front of residences, and the existing trail signs are confusing. Bikes are traveling at high rates of speed, riding on non-trails, average speed is 22 mph with downhill rates higher than 30. A lot of the bikers are using the trailhead as their take off point, they go into the private Erickson land and then on to the USFS. We want you to consider having the mountain bikers not Canfield, use the trailhead on the USFS land instead of this trailhead. There are 30 miles of trail they can access, it would be safer for hikers, and mountain bikers would still have plenty of opportunity. (Handed over a list of comments from the HOA to be shared with the Commission).

Commissioner Cranston: Have you had a discussion about the trail head and signage, or the aesthetics? McCully: We could do a much better job of weed managing and approve the look at the area it has gotten away from us. We have realigned some of the fence posts we need two signs with more information, a map that that clearly shows the trail, and come up with ways to make it look better.

Commissioner Wood: How you would you separate the hikers and bikers from each other?

Gilbert: We have talked to Rusty Bailey, he has helped a lot with the trail. He's been working on the one-way system. We understand the mountain bikers don't want to go away from there. The HOA feels they have ample opportunity for the bikers at another area. We wanted to share our concerns with the commission directly. We can work with Bill and Monte. Thank you.

Almer Casile, 814 East Front, Coeur d'Alene: Administrator of the Lake City Trail Builders Association, we coordinate volunteer efforts for the construction, advocacy, and maintenance of mountain bike trails. We have built many trails, provided technical advice to Monte on many trails. We have worked with Monte for 10 years to keep the trails from getting too steep, and trying to mitigate problems with user groups. We've been working on this plan since 2010. Things can be done without a ban. Other things can be done to reduce speed and provide visibility for slow and fast users, we would like these mitigating ideas formed before moving mountain bikers. This is the only trail in the park system that allows mountain bikes. We would like to help the City, more than 6,000 volunteer hours and 10 years of our time has been expended to help on this property.

Rusty Bailey, 915 Dearhaven Ave, Dalton Gardens: A quick thanks to Bill and Monte who have been supporting us and this trail. Thank you, mountain bikers, for your show of support. For the last 2-3 years we have been working to address the problem of our wildlands being used more as Coeur d'Alene becomes more discovered. If the City could get the Erickson land all these problems would go away, and we would have the most amazing recreation

resources, from Mtn vista road to the summit, would be really something special, it would be a fantastic heritage. Please work hard on that.

McCully: We are working with Mr. Erickson on an easement, we have drawn up an agreement between lawyers, an easement into perpetuity, even with development, there would be trails through.

Josh Adams: 4403 N Huntercrest, Coeur d'Alene: Want to reiterate what Don said, education is key, I mountain bike, hike, and have been using that trail before homes were there, I bought my house there because of the trail. The system at Nettleton Gulch works really well if you are hiking or mountain biking. It's nice to have a non-motorized park in our neighborhood. Hate to see one group eliminate another group. Love to see mountain bikers able to stay there.

Willy Bartlett: 128 North Street, Kellogg: Bike manager at Silver Mountain no user group should trump any other. Our area is becoming nationally known as a mountain biking place. This is one of the few places mountain bikers can ride in the winter. Regional draw for cyclists from all over the place, there are people from Spokane tonight, concerned about losing such a wonderful access point. Unique experience, easy ride for family, the rest of the trail system USFS as well, hikers and bikers have co-existed, a friendly environment. A well-organized system is a huge asset to the community. Parking is a real challenge. Signage and barriers are good, at Silver Mountain we spend a lot on signage, really helps user experience; trail etiquette education. People take pride in what you have here, embrace it, having access is good, improve the riding community. Thank you for taking this seriously.

Alex Castagno, 1415 E Davis, Coeur d'Alene: Thank you for having this meeting tonight. Mountain biking in Coeur d'Alene is a fast and large growing recreational thing to do; this room is full of mountain bikers. We can work together, better signage, being courteous, getting out there and revamping the system, close off the areas that are a problem, work together to build a better community. Mountain bikers who are here, be courteous, let them know you are riding down the hill, pay attention to what's going on, know that you are going fast, show up for fundraising to create new trails, thank you for showing up tonight.

Don Southerland, 5093 N Haycourt, Coeur d'Alene: My home was the third home in Copper Ridge. I like the idea of the trails, they need to get out there and clean things up. Most of those rocky outcropping areas are overused by kids having parties up there, kids come down those trails. We can work together, Coeur d'Alene is an area that is God's country, green, beautiful, people are friendly, and want to work together. Hikers might have a hard time with the one way up and one way down. That trail is very narrow, maybe widen it so you can step aside for the biker not a lot of room on the down side by the homes. Get the various user communities to help make it happen. Parking is really limited. We can work together.

Melissa McKelly, Spokane, from Eastern Trail Association, there are a lot of committed mountain bikers here, we want to work together. A lot of volunteer work goes into maintaining good trail systems and making them sustainable, keep the trail alive, we want to make it work. Sarah Williams, VP of HOA. I was one of the first people to move into the subdivision as well, I have seen the trails come in. Over the last 3-4 years the mountain bikers have increased exponentially, most of the problems are the knuckleheads, we aren't here to fight the mountain bikers; we are trying to raise awareness that there is a problem. Having a mountain biker come down too fast by you and you are trying to get out of the way and lose your balance, it's a problem. The trails are narrow, not much room to move over we are willing to make this work. We aren't out to get them.

Commissioner Wood: You are part of the HOA, you are willing to work together and both groups can live together in harmony and respect, and that would work? Brad Gilbert's position was no mountain bikers at all; what is your group's position? Williams: When we were in our meeting, ideally everyone felt that no mountain bikers would be ideal; hearing Mr. McCully's presentation for other ideas was great. We don't want to say no mountain bikers we aren't out

to stop them, we are out to make it a safe and secure place, people can enjoy the trails, and not feel they are going to get run down. Commissioner Wood: Trails are for everyone, the respect issue is very important, educate their members, maybe we can all live together, I would rather we go that direction, to work together, and have a rep from HOA in closer contact. Williams: It would be nice to be informed when groups are coming up doing work on their own, more communication. McCully: I'm taking lots of notes, widening the trail, sign about parking, and make the entryway look better. We can devote some resources.

David 7080 N Mt Carol, Coeur d'Alene: Apologize to anyone harassed by knuckleheads, that's not the way it should be, there are some mountain bikers who can behave in a bad way, that's unfortunate. There can be solutions to these problems. Statement made earlier that these trails are a launching point. I have three kids that are mini mountain bikers, this is the destination, not using it to get to Canfield upper part, it is our destination. This is the only city park with a mountain bike trail, remember that, build on it don't take it away.

Kim Gilbert, 2437 E Mountain Vista Dr, Coeur d'Alene: My husband is Brad Gilbert, we've been residents for more than 30 years, we bicycle as well, we do care about bicycling, one thing that hasn't been addressed is we built our dream house in this neighborhood, and for people going to canfield, this park is only 24 acres, Cherry Hill has 30 acres. We have people trespassing on our property because they don't know where the boundaries are. Signage that says "Enjoy Canfield Mountain and be respectful of the neighbors who provide use of Canfield."

Mike Fuller, 1507 Fairmont Loop, Coeur d'Alene: I serve on the Park's Department Ped Bike committee, not speaking for them, I'm speaking for myself, input from mountain bikers would be great on the committee. We would love their participation. We've got our challenges, attend our meeting, help and support your endeavors, we live harmoniously, building bike lanes, we do a lot of education. Come to our meetings, mountain bikers, have your concerns heard. Monte is a big advocate. Any input is appreciated.

Commissioner Cranston: Looks like design development of this trail plan as well as looking for funding are the next steps? McCully: Next would be to start with the trail head that we can do quickly in the next couple weeks, after that start working on signage, select the first scar and start putting silt fencing as a pilot and look for funding to pay for the rest of it. Thank you all for participating, I encourage everyone who wants to advocate for this, stay involved. I can keep you updated on how progress is going, and if you want to reach out to me, my email is mmccully@cdaid.org, or you can email parks@cdaid.org, my phone number is 208-292-5766.

Commissioner McDowell: We really appreciate the harmonious discussion. A good chance to work together, ride a mile in each other shoes. Let's do wider trails, education, better signage, give it some time, and mountain bike community try to police yourself, spread the word, and that will help mitigate some concerns.

Commissioner Cranston: When the city inherited this land, we knew the management of it would be tough, it has evolved a lot and has had its challenges, thank you all, again, for participating.

10. ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Cranston asked for any additional comments. Upcoming meeting dates:

- Wednesday August 1, 2017 – Workshop – Caruso's Deli, Coeur d'Alene – 11:30 am
- Monday August 14, 2017 – Meeting - Community Room at the Library – 5:30 p.m.

Commissioner Wood made a motion to adjourn the meeting with Commissioner McDowell seconding the motion. All were in favor, motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 7:00 pm.