



CITY OF COEUR D'ALENE

PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT

CITY HALL, 710 E. MULLAN AVENUE
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PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION MINUTES

August 16, 2021 – 5:30 p.m.
COMMUNITY ROOM - LIBRARY

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Scott Cranston, Chair
Mike McDowell
Jim Lien
Christie Wood
Eleanor Tenbrink, Student Rep

STAFF PRESENT:

Bill Greenwood, Parks & Recreation Director
Melissa Brandt, Transcriptionist

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Bridget Hill
Ginny Tate

GUESTS:

Jon Mueller
Bob Burton

CALL TO ORDER: Commissioner Cranston called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

1. ROLL CALL

Four members present, resulting in a quorum.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Commissioner McDowell led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. CONFLICT OF INTEREST

None.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – *Action Item*

Commissioner McDowell made a motion to approve the minutes of July 19, 2021. Commissioner Wood seconded the motion, there being no discussion and all being in favor, motion passed unanimously.

5. STAFF COMMENTS

Director Greenwood: We received kudos from CDA Garden Club part of their annual tour, gave us, the Tubbs Foundation, and Fire Department, recognition for maintaining the beauty of Tubbs Hill. The Foundation has really been helping out with their ambassador program. Park at 17th and Sherman will be hydroseeded this week, trees are in, the location close to 15th already has been hydroseeded with clover. Vandalism has been rampant, but didn't get any this past weekend. Doing well with lack of staff, very resilient. On the recreation side, fall youth soccer has about 500 participants signed up ages K-8th grades, 100 signed up for Flag Football grades 3 and 4, swim lessons continue with about 150 participants. Roughly 300 adults have signed up for

fall softball. On Saturday, August 22, our Recreation Division is hosting a community yard sale in the city hall parking lot that starts at 8 a.m.

6. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Commissioner McDowell: Kiwanis club sponsored the Taste of the Coeur d'Alene's event at City Park; the park was in excellent condition following Ironman and 4th of July. The crew down there is fantastic, even short staffed, it ran very smooth. Good successful event. Mike Kempton and Mark Walter do a great job.

Commissioner Wood: Concerned about people bringing dogs to events when it's 100 degrees out, do any vendors consider not allowing dogs? Greenwood: Dogs are not allowed in city parks and the Downtown Association handles the street fair, and Art on the Green is held at NIC, how they run the events is their discretion.

7. PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

8. BROOKS SEAPLANE – Action Item

Commissioner Cranston read the staff report for the record.

Director Greenwood: Shane Rodgers will do a good job. He will carry on the lease as it stands with renegotiation and pricing adjustments when the current assignment of the lease expires in 2023.

Commissioner Wood: Should we do a pricing assessment now, and do we want to continue with that operation at Independence Point? Greenwood: Recommend finishing out the current lease through assignment to Shane Rodgers, and reassess pricing and whether the operation needs to change after the lease expires in 2023.

Commissioner Cranston: Payment on this lease would be paying next season, have all documents been received, and has there been discussion regarding safety issues and the busyness on the lake? Greenwood: Fees have been paid through this year by Anne Lunt. Shane will take over those fees next year. All documents have been received, and we have discussed concerns with water traffic.

Commissioner Wood made a motion to recommend that City Council approve the assignment of the current lease with Neil and Anne Lunt d/b/a Brooks Seaplane Service, LLC, to Shane Rodgers d/b/a Scenic Adventures Flights, LLC, Commissioner McDowell seconded the motion, there being no discussion and all being in favor, motion passed unanimously. Moves to General Services next Monday.

9. KOOTENAI COUNTY WATERWAYS MOU – Action Item

Commissioner Cranston read the staff report for the record.

Director Greenwood: We recently have been receiving reports of vessels entering into the city beach area and someone has moved buoys that state boats are not allowed. The county currently does not have jurisdiction to address these boaters, and Johnson Mill River has lost park land due to the wakes along the river.

Commissioner Cranston: Motorized boats coming into the swim area and on the beach, do the signs have adequate language to prohibit that motorized intrusion? Greenwood: Signage is out there on five buoys at along the Hubbard area to the mouth of the marina, someone has moved or carried them off.

Commissioner Wood made a motion to recommend that City Council approve the amendments to the Municipal Code to regulate vessel speeds on that portion of the Spokane River within the City limits, Commissioner Lien seconded the motion, there being no discussion and all being in favor, motion passed unanimously. Moves to General Services next Monday.

10. SHERMAN SQUARE PARK – Action Item

Commissioner Cranston read the staff report for the record.

Bob Burton, Coeur d'Alene Rotary Club: The club has been working for a number of years to identify a project, something special for their 100-year anniversary. This pocket park will serve the community and honor club history. Currently \$300,000 is committed to make the park happen.

Jon Mueller, Landscape Architect: The park will provide an upgraded downtown urban space. Completed analysis of the site, strengths, conclusion to push the park out into the street utilizing 2-3 parking spaces, creating a multi-use venue with benches, landscaping, and a historic timeline of Rotary community projects. A low volume water feature will create sound and splash, the space will be easy to maintain and provide shade. Rotary messaging is key to this park and their commitment to the community. The area could also host rotary events.

Commissioner McDowell: Estimated cost for this project, and will there be a restroom facility? Mueller: 7,500 square feet with a budget of \$300,000; that is the full price, but hopeful to get donated or discounted labor and materials. If approved demo would occur this fall, and finished up next spring. Restrooms were discussed at one point but rejected by the Club as there hasn't been one before, there are plenty of downtown restrooms.

City Administrator Tymesen: City staff have met with design group, especially as we look at taking over parking places, there are concerns about snow plowing and sweeping, and the idea was brought up for a restroom. The public space downtown is very positive. The club did indicate they are not in favor of a restroom facility.

Commissioner Lien: How tall is the waterwall, it will cut down on the view of the lake? Mueller: Fairly certain that there is a project for a high-rise building directly behind this location. Currently, the lake will appear above the height of the wall or screening.

Commissioner Lien: Been to many concerts in that park, there is need for a restroom facility, using a downtown business restroom is not the answer, will the club revisit this idea? Mueller: The cost to go deep and hide a restroom would cost \$300,000 alone. The club believes a porta potty would be unseemly and exposed to vandalism.

Director Greenwood: A porta potty is important, discussed how we could mitigate concerns with a porta potty structure or screening effect. This year we have not had vandalism of porta potties. We are building a porta potty structure for the Sherman parks we are putting in now. Don't want to impose on patrons to use restrooms of the businesses next door, we feel this is very important and more discussion needs to take place.

Commissioner McDowell: Are the concerns due to cost or aesthetics, or both? Mueller: Aesthetics mostly. There was discussion with Rotary to do something more permanent and hidden so there is no smell and pleasing for use by public.

Commissioner Wood: The city is very involved in public and private partnerships, we want to see this happen, but there must be consideration of what will work and not work, with both entities at the table, as this will be a long-term city owned property.

Director Greenwood: Jon Mueller and I have spoken about the waterwall, and maintenance of the facility as our department will be charged with taking care of the site for the next 99 years. Concerns were voiced and the need for easy maintenance of the site, there are reservations about it.

Commissioner Cranston: A wonderful project, and the first time this group has seen the plans. We support what you are doing, but we need to come to an agreement. We can bring this to our workshop on September 7, and give an opportunity to address the issues to ensure it is well received by city council. The parking space loss will be a concern. We are not far off for a full endorsement of this project. The Commission will not make a decision tonight to allow review of issues.

11. MEETINGS / ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Cranston asked for any additional comments.

Upcoming meeting dates:

- Tuesday, September 7, 2021; 11:30 a.m., Workshop; Conf Rm 6 City Hall
- Monday, September 20, 2021: 5:30 p.m., Meeting; Library Community Room

Commissioner Lien made a motion to adjourn the meeting with Commissioner McDowell seconding the motion. There being no further discussion, motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 6:52 pm.