



CITY OF COEUR D'ALENE

PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT

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PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION MINUTES

September 19, 2016 – 5:30 p.m.

COMMUNITY ROOM - LIBRARY

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Scott Cranston, Chair
Jim Lien
Ron Edinger
Bridget Hill
Maya Burgess, Student Representative

STAFF PRESENT:

Bill Greenwood, Parks & Rec Director
Adam Rouse, Recreation Lead
Melissa Brandt, Administrative Assistant

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Ginny Tate
Mike McDowell
Christie Wood

GUESTS:

George Ives,

CALL TO ORDER: Commissioner Cranston called the meeting to order at 5:33 p.m.

1. ROLL CALL

Five members present, resulting in an official quorum.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Commissioner Hill led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. CONFLICT OF INTEREST

None

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commissioner Edinger made a motion to approve the minutes of June 20, 2016. Commissioner Lien seconded the motion, there being no discussion and all being in favor, motion passed.

5. STAFF COMMENTS

Adam Rouse gave an update on recreation activities. The basketball, one of the biggest programs, starts next month. We have forty softball teams. Flag football continues to grow and is going strong. The soccer program continues to be very popular, and full, with 7th and 8th graders having numerous teams. Dance classes started with 2 classes now 7-8 classes with 10-12 kids per class. Ironman grant funds were down, gave a large portion to Specialized Needs Recreation and District 271's Cross Country program. Skyhawk sports camps numbers up 40-45%, 120+ kids. Planning for next year may include longer camps and more summer camp options. Commissioner Cranston asked how the programs compare to last year. Rouse commented they are definitely up, parents getting their kids involved, hiring good people who promote the classes and give a good experience. People are coming back and staying involved with their younger kids all the way up to junior high.

Bill Greenwood shared that winterization will start next week, to get everything done in time before bad weather. Restrooms will start shutting down, irrigation blow outs, and leaf pick up. He pointed out the swinging bench just up the hill outside the library. It was designed by Miller Stauffer and funds were donated by Dr. Justin Stormogipson in memory of his wife Maj. The bench was in storage for a year and unfortunately damaged, so staff stepped up to make the bench happen. Tom Meek fabricated the bench, Howard Gould got a building permit and his guys, Joe Pounds and Glen Wessel helped with painting and structure, Nick Goodwin helped with the roofing. A plaque for Dr. Stormogipson's wife is on the bench and his handprint is next to her plaque. Fits really well there, it looks and feels right. Parks Foundation helped hold those funds until it could get installed. Another art piece, approved earlier this year by the Commission, was installed down at the dog park in McEuen. Welcome new admin assistant, Melissa Brandt. Commissioner Cranston asked if there was a report on events and how things went this summer since the group hasn't met since June. Greenwood stated he will have some numbers for the commission next meeting with details on number of events, etc. Commissioner Edinger asked how the Pickle Ball Tournament went and how many people were from Coeur d'Alene. Greenwood stated it went very good, people from all over the country and Canada. Received good comments, courts played well, have already booked for next year. Bill figured 50-60 were from CdA and Post Falls, not including Spokane. Lots of Washington and Canadian plates at the park.

6. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Commissioner Cranston led off with a couple of announcements; reappointments: Mike McDowell, Vice Chair, and Jim Lien. Maya Burgess was our Alt Student Rep and has agreed to stay on as the Student Rep.

7. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

8. TUBBS HILL ACCESSIBLE LAUNCH

Commissioner Cranston read the staff report regarding the accessible launch request at 11th Street. Recommendation from staff is the approval of \$40,500 of funding from Impact Fees to be placed in the Parks Capital Improvement Fund for the construction of an accessible non-motorized watercraft launch.

Greenwood presented a conceptual design of the non-motorized accessible launch. The 11th Street Marina is very supportive. The existing parking lot does not change, working through how the accessible launch will fit. In-kind donation will help with irrigation changes, moving trailhead signs, and a new porta-potty shelter will be built to accommodate an ADA unit.

Commissioner Cranston asked what the funding would do in relation to this concept; docks, pathway to the dock, beach improvements. Greenwood affirmed funding would pay for all those items. The beach drops off quickly, but we have honeycomb blocks to help with erosion. Commissioner Hill asked what the ADA dock looks like. Greenwood said he could easily show anyone interested the plans/drawing in his office. Commissioner Lein asked if there is an ADA lift to get from a wheelchair into a kayak. Greenwood responded the assistance mechanism is passive, not motorized. Commissioner Cranston, asked if there were any issues with water department. No. Commissioner Hill, asked what types of watercraft would be allowed. Greenwood stated we used a generic term, non-motorized watercraft to encompass any and all types of kayaks, canoes, etc.

George Ives, 713 South 11th, Coeur d'Alene, shared public comment for the Tubbs Hill Foundation (THF). George is a close neighbor of the location. He stated he feels, as a neighbor, these would be good improvements. The THF has two concerns; 1) many neighbors use the launch, and they all see commercial activity at the location. They request that the commercial activity be curtailed if at all possible. 2) The THF board opposes any increase in parking as it exists. They are concerned that parking will take over green space. Consider these two items as you move forward with this plan.

Greenwood stated there isn't any additional parking being added with this project. The only paving to take place is at the drop off space and the pathway to water. No parking lot expansion. As for commercial activity, we have had issues with beach access at Sanders. There are two locations; Jewett beach and 12th Street beach. We've had groups take over these beaches, putting out oars, kayaks, etc. They have been given new locations to launch from, letters were sent out and for the most part they complied. Most moved down to NIC, that has worked. At one point we looked at using Jewett beach or 12th Street for business use. Jewett House Beach won't work due to weddings and 12th Street won't work due to the donor's stipulation to not allow it. The 11th Street site is a possibility, an opportunity for revenue, and an opportunity for business owners to use the site. Vendors are our eyes and ears, our ambassadors, like our vendors at Harbor House; they share information about Tubbs, the parks, etc. 11th street might be a location, an opportunity, and we understand THF has concerns. Any commercial activity proposals would come before the Commission, for approval, well before any bidding processes start. The grant states we must complete the project by the end of September 2017. Bid documents would be prepared and proposals requested. Some work, depending on weather, might take place this year. The \$150,000 funding includes consultant fees, bid documents, etc. Having access to a non-motorized launch is a good thing, many in the Sanders Beach area will be happy and the ADA effort really makes a difference, it ties in with water trails and is very positive. There is no public facility like this, none on the lake.

Commissioner Lien made a motion to recommend to General Services for the approval of \$40,500 of funding from Impact Fees to be placed in the Parks Capital Improvement Fund for the construction of an accessible non-motorized watercraft launch. Commissioner Burgess seconded the motion, all in favor, motion passed.

9. FORT GROUNDS DRIVE

There will be changes to the circle areas, installation of some landscape features so people don't think they can drive in the park. The Service Club sign was also moved during construction. Once the project was done, we weren't sure it would fit. Met with Silver Creek signs and the original members of the board who put that sign in place in the early 1990's, we found a good place to put the sign, a few hundred feet from the original location. The area is grassy and additional landscaping and lighting will provide good visibility, the sign will be almost at eye level, and won't block the view for traffic or the carousel. Will get the updated sign installed as the Service Clubs want to get some press. Carousel structure is going up, by next spring should be up and running.

10. DOG PARK AT PHIPPENY

The proposal moved forward to Council, however, there was some resistance. The idea needs more discussion. We didn't have a packed room of dog lovers or non-lovers at the Parks & Recreation Commission meeting, but a half dozen people showed up at the Council meeting voicing concerns. We asked to pull it from their agenda so we could revisit the idea with those neighbors. Folks who live two or three blocks away were really in favor, the homeowners who live closer to the park have a greater say in whether we go forward, not

someone who lives 2-3 blocks away. This proposal will come back to the PRC in the next few months.

11. CITY/COUNTY PARKING LOT

We have been talking to the County on a joint venture for a parking lot on the BLM property along Northwest Blvd. We are getting close to presenting an MOU to Council. The County is offering \$1.3 million to build a facility, there has been lots of discussion about how this would layout. They will give us 50% of the A&E funds, about \$50,000 so we can go to bid. We would manage and maintain the project (with funds generated going into weed control). They want 200-205 parking spaces, County employees would use the lot 7 am-6 pm, Monday-Friday. We would use it on weekends and holidays when they aren't open. Our engineer at the time agreed to a signal light to get pedestrians across the street safely.

There may need to be modification to the traffic speed along that stretch of road. Currently its 35 mph, with discussion of having it drop to 25 mph right after River. We will work with engineer on that aspect. With this new parking lot configuration it would preclude any ideas of reorienting Memorial Field baselines. This change may trigger other changes. The fence could be moved to give the field greater distance. The County asked for 205 spaces for employees, which would free up parking for their customers. We don't yet have the lease from BLM. Right now they are in agreement with the additional parking, but without the lease in hand, we can't get started. Commissioner Cranston stated signage would need to be posted stating when the lot could be used by the public, and when only used by County. A parking lot was in original proposal with BLM, this proposal is the same; a few puzzle pieces have been moved around a bit. A 30,000 square foot Skatepark will be in this area, as well as pickle ball courts are going in that area.

12. ADJOURNMENT

There was discussion at last workshop to move the start time to 11:30 a.m.

Commissioner Cranston announced the upcoming meetings:

- Tuesday October 4, 2016 – Workshop – Caruso's Deli – Coeur d'Alene – 11:30 a.m.
- Monday October 17, 2016 – Meeting - Community Room at the Library – 5:30 p.m.

Commissioner Edinger made a motion to adjourn the meeting with Commissioner Hill seconding the motion. All were in favor, motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 6:42 p.m.