



CITY OF COEUR D'ALENE

PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT

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PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION MINUTES

November 20, 2023 – 5:30 p.m.
COMMUNITY ROOM - LIBRARY

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Scott Cranston, Chair
Mike McDowell
Christie Wood, Council Liaison
Jim Lien
Bridget Hill
Ginny Tate
Warren Bakes
Grace Wickham, Student Rep
Tyler Voorhees, Alt Student Rep

STAFF PRESENT:

Bill Greenwood, Director
Melissa Brandt, Admin Assistant
Nick Goodwin, Urban Forester

GUEST(S):

Craig Woolf, INWPC

CALL TO ORDER: Commissioner Cranston called the meeting to order at 5:32 p.m.

1. ROLL CALL

Eight members present, resulting in a quorum.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Commissioner Hill led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. CONFLICT OF INTEREST

None.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – *Action Item*

Commissioner Bakes made a motion to approve the minutes of September 18, 2023. Commissioner McDowell seconded the motion, there being no discussion and all being in favor, motion passed unanimously.

5. STAFF COMMENTS

Director Greenwood: Jewett House garage is nearly complete with some paving to be done next spring before wedding season. Adam Rouse has booked all of next year except for two dates and this year brought in more than \$50,000 from weddings; he's doing a great job. The greenhouse is in poor condition, we will be taking it down this week, that will help us create a bigger parking area. The mooring dock project is underway. Sprinkler blowouts went really well running three compressors, made quick work. Recreation has a great need of gym supervisors for basketball if interested, please call our office.

6. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Welcome student representative, Grace Wickham and Tyler Voorhees, alternate student representative.

7. PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

8. VETERAN'S CENTENNIAL PARK UPDATE – *Information Item*

Urban Forester Nick Goodwin: Update regarding grant work at Veteran's Centennial Park natural area near Fernan Hill Estates. High priority for fuel mitigation as a wildland urban interface area. This is the zone of transition between unoccupied land and human development. Removed high risk and infested trees. Ladder fuels reduction and improved lateral spacing on eight acres. No burning was performed, chipping only. The \$25,000 grant required matching funds of \$2,500 that we matched with in-kind work. This was a partnership with the City and Kootenai OEM. The in-kind match included grant management and field work that included 59 employee hours, 9 volunteer hours, 7 equipment hours, for a total in-kind match by the City of \$3,508. Greenwood: We have a natural open space master plan approved in 2017, in that process we met with homeowners and a workshop with city council. A soft approach for trails up in that area letting the wildlife and neighborhood delineate where those paths should be. A neighbor whose property abuts the park, Walt Richards and an amazing photographer, brought us numerous photos of the wildlife utilizing Veterans Centennial Park. Goodwin: The fuel mitigation and path enhancements improve the ability for the public to enjoy this park. We are fortunate to receive these grants. We have other grants we have received that we will begin working on for Canfield and Tubbs Hill.

9. PICKLEBALL COURTS AT CHERRY HILL – *Action Item*

Commissioner Cranston read the staff report for the record.

Director Greenwood: Inland Northwest Pickleball Club was officially established in 2014 as a non-profit organization, however, we have worked with this community much earlier. The group works closely with our department to organize play, lessons, and equipment. The first tournament was held in 2014. They installed a gate at the Memorial futsal court to allow entry without hindering play. They have 155 volunteers who volunteered 700 hours. Their tournament is ranked at a 4, the highest it can go without having permanent pickleball courts. Permanent pickleball courts are needed to get to a 5 ranking. Their tournament has grown from 300 to 500 participants, and they have 439 members. Our plan to build additional courts next to the fire station is not an option now as there are plans for the Idaho Transportation Department to do freeway construction in that area. Although the plan is in the future, we didn't want to spend the time and money only to have to move them. Converting the tennis courts at Cherry Hill would allow for 12 pickleball courts. New parks going forward will have pickleball courts and one tennis court per location. Funding to convert the 4 courts at Cherry Hill will come from the club, money they raised for the original idea for more courts at this location. There will be no out of pocket for the City. Converting four Cherry Hill courts will cost \$127,897.00, that includes fencing, an access gate, plexi-pave and crack sealing of the two tennis courts and the 12 pickleball courts. Our 3 tennis courts at Ramsey are budgeted to be resurfaced they will be for tennis only as they are now. If this MOU is adopted, we will have 10 very nice tennis courts; two at Cherry Hill, three at Ramsey, two at Landings, two at McEuen, and one at Northshire.

Craig Woolfe: The sport has grown exponentially. We have people traveling to Coeur d'Alene just to compete in the tournament in July. They are spending money in the community and the popularity of the sport is not slowing down.

(Two members of the pickleball club stood and voiced their support.)

Commissioner Tate made a motion to recommend that Council approve the revised Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Northwest Pickleball Club, Commissioner Hill seconded the motion. There being no further discussion, motion passed unanimously.

10. NEXT MEETING / ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Cranston announced the next meeting date.

Next meeting date:

- Monday, December 18, 2023, 5:30 p.m., Library Community Room

Commissioner McDowell made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Commissioner Tate seconded the motion. There being no further discussion, motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 6:11 pm.