



CITY OF COEUR D'ALENE

PARKS DEPARTMENT

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

May 20th, 2013 – 5:30 P.M.
COMMUNITY ROOM - LIBRARY

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Scott Cranston, Chair
Mike McDowell, Vice Chair
Dave Patzer
Ginny Tate
Bridget Hill
Mason Patzer, Student Representative
Addison Johnson, Alt. Student Rep.
Mike Kennedy

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Jim Lien

STAFF PRESENT:

Steve Anthony, Recreation Director
Doug Eastwood, Parks Director
Chenoa Dahlberg, Administrative Secretary

GUESTS:

Frank Orzell, Paul Amador, Ann Melbourn,
M. Baragar, Nancy Edinger, Dale Baune,
Keith Jones, Dorothy Dahlgren, Fred
Ostermeger, Marlo Faulkner, John
Schwandt, Bo Sullivan-Dag, R. Wayne
Sweeney, Kirsten Pomerantz, Cari Fraser,
Charles Buck, June McClain, Ryan Crosby,
Tom McTevia, Roger Snyder, Karen
Lawson, Cara Smith, Matt DeRyan, Anne
Nesse, Wanda Quinn, Barb Harris, Deb
Cordes, Pat Volkar, Tina Johnson, Terry
Cooper, Sharon Alexander, Kathleen Sims,
Cheryl Klein, John Bruning, Frank
Darlington, Craig Brosenne, Tony Berns

CALL TO ORDER: Commissioner Cranston called the meeting to order at 6 p.m.

1. ROLL CALL

Eight members were present, resulting in an official quorum.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Commissioner Johnson led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. PURPOSE OF MEETING

Commissioner Cranston welcomed the group to the meeting and explained the purpose of the meeting. He explained the BLM application process, and the meetings that will take place. He explained this would allow everyone to be invited and meet in smaller groups. He then spoke about the walk the commission took on the property. He added that once all of the smaller group meetings have taken place then the Commission would have an Open House with the public to then move forward with a motion to City Council.

4. REVIEW OF FOUR CORNERS AREA, BLM CORRIDOR & EDUCATION CORRIDOR, AND PERMISSABLE USES WITHIN AREAS

Doug Eastwood explained how all 3 of these areas are tied together. He added that the 4 Corners idea came about in 2002 and that the area has grown in interest since then. He added that the land exchange that was expected to take place with BLM did not occur due to policy changes and therefore the leased property may become

ownership of the cities at some future point. He added that there would be a walking tour of the BLM parcel on Saturday June 1st at 9 a.m. He also spoke about the Park and Rec Commissions monthly meeting schedule, workshops on the 1st Tuesday and regular meetings on the 3rd Monday and that this is when the smaller group meetings would occur. He gave a Power Point presentation and explained the areas and interest groups. He also described the project boundaries and showed on the map how important connectivity between the 3 areas is. He went into detail on each area and how they impact the surrounding areas. He then explained that BLM needs a master plan to ensure that the uses stay within the public outdoor recreation parameters. He then gave examples of acceptable uses. There was a question as to whether the Centennial Trail follows this corridor. The answer was yes, and no. Doug discussed the proposed commuter trail and then went on to talk about the LWCF boundaries and funding used and the restrictions that imposes. He also talked about 'safe corridors' and the connectivity needed between the trails, schools, parks and neighborhoods. Doug then presented the main list of interested parties.

5. IDEAS / SUGGESTIONS

Matthew DeRyan – 815 Madison in Post Falls – Asked about the Army Corps of Engineers involvement. Doug explained why they are involved. He then suggested his ideas and spoke about NIC and the 'Agenda 21' funding requirements. He said he is opposed to NIC taking over the property as 'educational'. He did recommend a community garden on a portion of the property and cited the following reasons this is urgently needed: 1. Unemployment is high; 2. Easy source of water to the area; 3. Lots of volunteers; 4. Helps 'underemployed'. He applauded the community for what it has done for the homeless and underemployed. He asked that this be considered and only needs 1 person in charge with volunteer staff. He also spoke about what he feels is to come in our nation and that it doesn't look good. He also requested that the CDA Press come to these meetings as well.

Karen Lawson – 333 Park Dr in CDA – She is with the Fort Grounds HOA and is appreciative of the 2 new points of access. She has noticed that Riverstone, 4 Corners, BLM and the Ed Corridor all flow out on to NW Blvd. She wondered if a traffic study had been completed to show the capacity of this area. Doug stated that a traffic study would be part of this project and those answers would come.

Wayne Sweeney – Museum of North Idaho – Thanked the committee for allow their participation. Stated that the Library had previously started to build a fund and knows they will have to do a capital funds campaigning to raise the needed funds. But he added that they do need a building site in order to secure those contributions. He added that there is a large list of interested parties. He did pose the question of how a non-profit should approach the discussions about wanting to be in the corridor. Commissioner Cranston explained that these discussions will take place during the upcoming meetings and that the Park and Rec Commission will be contacting the groups for opportunities to meet and have discussions about what to do going forward.

Tina Johnson – North Idaho Centennial Trail Foundation – Explained that she attended the walk with the Parks Department and BLM Staff. She noted that her suggestions were a community garden, commuter trail as well as an expansion of and improvements to the skate park.

There being no further public comments, Commissioner Cranston added that there will be opportunities to provide input during the upcoming meetings. He then asked if there were any questions from the Commissioners.

Bridget Hill asked about the lease/ transfer process. Doug explained the lease process and that to have the property given to the City of Coeur d'Alene would be a process to work with the local Senator's on. Commissioner Kennedy asked that we add Representative Labrador to the list as well as the Kootenai County Dog Park Association. Commissioner Kennedy also added that he would make a request to the City's Public Relations person to get the media involved.

Commissioner Patzer asked about the Museum of North Idaho's proposal and if it would be allowed on the BLM Property. Doug stated that the purposes of these meetings are to get as much information as possible and then figure out how to fit the pieces together. He added that there is always a 'risk factor'. Janna added that the BLM's goal with the property lease is to have as much open space as possible on the parcel.

Commissioner Kennedy asked about the Carousel and Worker's Memorial. Doug stated that some of the interested groups have already started raising money or have the funding available. Once the master plan is completed those groups would probably move forward first. Commissioner Kennedy asked how to get the County Commissioners involved. Doug stated that they had been contacted and are extremely interested in working with us.

Commissioner Cranston asked about limitations on the use of the property. Janna stated that the lease would be for 'public outdoor recreation', and would like to see the communities input on the project and proposals.

Commissioners Cranston and Patzer thanked all those who attended and asked them to be sure and sign-in on the sign-in sheets.

6. MEETINGS

Commissioner Cranston announced the walk on Saturday June 1st at 9 a.m.

Motion was made at 7:12 p.m. by Commissioner Patzer to adjourn the meeting.

Motion was seconded by Commissioner Kennedy. Motion passed.