



CITY OF COEUR D'ALENE

PARKS DEPARTMENT

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PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION MINUTES

August 19th, 2013 – 5:30 p.m.
COMMUNITY ROOM - LIBRARY

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Scott Cranston, Chair
Mike McDowell
Dave Patzer
Jim Lien
Ginny Tate
Mike Kennedy
Mason Patzer, Student Representative

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Bridget Hill
Addison Johnson, Alt. Student Representative

STAFF PRESENT:

Doug Eastwood, Parks Director
Steve Anthony, Recreation Director
Chenoa Dahlberg, Administrative Secretary
Bill Greenwood, Parks Superintendent
Katie Kosanke, Urban Forestry Coordinator
Jeff Erickson, Irrigation Technician

GUESTS:

Todd Prescott, Bob MacDonald, Cari
Fraser, Jay Nelson,

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

1. ROLL CALL

Seven members were present, resulting in an official quorum.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Commissioner Kennedy led the pledge of allegiance.

3. CONFLICT OF INTEREST

There were no conflicts of interest.

4. STAFF COMMENTS

Doug Eastwood spoke about the McEuen Park construction and the playground. He described the input with regards to the playground and the amenities. He then went on to speak about the accessibility of the playground and how the play possibilities are limitless. There were no questions of Doug.

Steve Anthony had no report to give, other than announcing Doug's upcoming retirement party and thanking Doug for his years of service and all of the fun. He added that it was 99% positive, most of the time. There were no questions of the commission for Steve.

5. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Commissioner Cranston announced Doug Eastwood's retirement. He and the other commissioners shared stories, memories and fond farewell wishes. Doug thanked them for the compliments and commended his hard working staff.

6. PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

7. LANDSCAPE OF EXCELLENCE AWARD

Katie Kosanke spoke about the Community Canopy Program and the activities, workshops and services provided. This year's winners were: the Coeur d'Alene Place Homeowner's Association with Greenstone HOA and Greenleaf Landscape. And, Oakcrest with Mark Beyer. Commissioner Cranston passed out the awards.

8. WATER CONSERVATION PRESENTATION

Doug gave the history on the introduction of the Calsense system into our parks and that it did exactly what they said it would do. It has reduced usage by 30%. He gave info on the program and how the system works. He added that it controls lights, irrigation and automated doors. He added that the only question truly is: what doesn't it do? Jeff Erickson explained how the Calsense system worked, which parks came online first, and then gave a live demonstration through the web interface program. He added that McEuen would be brought online with Calsense, and Ramsey was the most recent park completed. He proposed that the Coeur d'Alene Soccer Complex, Person Field and Shadduck Park be the next areas to look at installing the system. Commissioner Cranston asked about the savings. Doug stated it is between \$8,000 and \$ 10,000 per year. Commissioner McDowell asked how much it costs to install. Doug stated it costs about \$ 12,000 to install. Jeff added that this was yet another idea of Doug's to conserve water and taxpayer dollars.

9. DOGS – WATER ACCESS

Doug spoke about the introduction of the 1st dog park 3 years ago, and the 2 that have been added since then. He explained that the group has been looking at water access for our fur friends ever since. He added that they have been looking at both lake and river sites and then went on to describe the piece of property that he had been working on getting from NIC when they asked to be annexed into the city limits. He added that other potential locations included the Jewett House, 12th Street beach and Mill River. He wanted to know if the commission was interested in pursuing this. He spoke about his visit to Carmel, CA and the process and policies they have there. The commission saw this as a possible option and would want it regulated and to try an area as a pilot project. Commissioner Lien felt it was a great idea. Commissioner Cranston suggested discussing it later this year at a workshop and then a meeting. Commissioner Kennedy asked about the status of the dog park at Northshire. Doug explained that there was a new owner with potential ideas, but no plans yet. They then discussed other locations to re-locate the park, due to the property transfer. Bob MacDonald with the Kootenai Dog Park Association stated he was excited about the opportunity for water access. He said the timeframe on existing beaches may assist with the geese problem. Doug stated that he recommended dogs be allowed at Riverstone to keep the geese out. Commissioner Kennedy added that this is a 'can do' group and appreciates all their efforts.

10. POCKET PARK AT RIVERSTONE

Commissioner Cranston read aloud the staff report. Doug described the area along the Prairie Trail and showed it on the overhead projector. He added that this area is just down from Riverstone Park. Todd Prescott with Whitewater was present to answer questions of the commission. Commissioner McDowell asked how the process worked with the LCDC and IHFA funding. Todd explained that he would need to spend \$ 280,000 on the park as part of his funding. He said it's based on a percentage of the entire project. Scott asked about the timeframe for this project. Todd said it would be summer of 2014. Commissioner Cranston asked if they could put conditions on it or just approve a concept. Doug stated that yes, they could have the Parks Dept. look at this and then approve. Commissioner Patzer asked how the \$ 280,000 was calculated. Todd explained the tax credit from IHFA and then

Commissioner Patzer asked the Commission to consider if this was the best way to spend those funds. He then asked what Todd's plan B was. Todd explained that he had no Plan B. he then explained the user count numbers he had and that he wants to make this property usable. Commissioner McDowell asked to see the budget that came up with the dollar amount. Todd explained that the dollar amount is driven by the cost of the project. He had no budget to present regarding actual costs of the project. Commissioner Kennedy then read aloud the conditions listed in the LCDC meeting minutes. Commissioner Patzer then explained the process for approval with regards to urban renewal. Todd stated that a budget and maintenance agreement could be completed within the next 30 days. Commissioner McDowell commented that if approval was given tonight that it could not be reversed later. Commissioner Patzer's concern is that it becomes the projects 'personal park'. He then asked what amenities were going to be needed in the dog park and asked that the Parks Dept. assist Todd in figuring out what his budget will buy. He also asked that a meeting take place with trail users, the dog park association members as well as parks dept. staff. Todd added that the City would not maintain the facility for 12 years. Steve added that he would like to see a spot for public art set aside. Commissioner Kennedy asked if conditions could be made and then carried into General Services and then must be met before City Council approves. Commissioner McDowell asked why it would be for 12 years and Todd stated it was due to the LCDC funding. Todd added that this would be a great example of xeriscapes in the City. There being no further questions Commissioner Cranston asked if there was a consensus of the committee to move forward with a detailed plan and review by staff. Commissioner McDowell made a motion for the Parks Department to work with Whitewater Creek to get details of project, maintenance agreement and budget finished to bring forward in September. This will include KCDPA, Centennial Trail Foundation and Arts Commission. Commissioner Tate seconded the motion. All were in favor, motion passed.

11. MEETINGS

Commissioner Cranston announced the upcoming meetings:

- Tuesday September 3rd at 12 p.m. in the Old Council Chambers at City Hall.
- Thursday September 19th at 12 p.m. in the Old Council Chambers at City Hall.

Commissioner Lien made a motion to recess into this evenings workshop @ 7:06 p.m. Commissioner Patzer seconded the motion. Motion Passed.

Commissioner Lien made a motion to reconvene the meeting to September 19th at 12 p.m. Commissioner Patzer seconded the motion. Motion Passed.

12. BLM/ 4 CORNERS WORKSHOP

The workshop was called to order at 7:20 p.m. Doug gave an overview of the project and explained the need for the master plan on the BLM property. Cari Fraser with the Carousel Foundation presented first. She talked about a discussion she'd had with Doug regarding the Carousel when it was donated back to the area and the option of giving it to the citizens. Her group's objective is to find a location that provides key components to support the success of the Carousel. This would include party rooms, meeting rooms, accessible parking and mostly being close to lake and park activities. They have the footprint layout to house the Carousel and also obtained their 501c3 status for donations. She added that the Carousel is being safely stored and is insured, but they are working to get more support. Their board has voted to move forward with discussion for a multi-use facility with the Museum of North Idaho, HREI and CDA Tribe. Commissioner Cranston asked what a potential site would be for them to be successful. She said that the building must contain meeting rooms, a patio and gift shop as well as the Carousel and they need 1 ½ acres to include parking. Doug gave details on the other meetings that have taken place. Cari said they need to be as close to the park as they

can to attract the user groups. Cari added that a shared building would be key to make it cost effective for all entities involved. She added that she has a lot of people who can donate money and time but that they need a location. Jay Nelson then gave a presentation on the master plan for the Kootenai County Campus, which covers the next 20 to 25 years. She provided an overview of each building on the campus and the interface with the downtown area. She asked the Commission to consider vacating Garden and making it into a plaza. She said the County would be interested in doing a Joint parking agreement with the City since the peak usage times are different for them. She then went into detail on the campus layout, security measures and the skywalks that could potentially connect over NW Blvd. Bob MacDonald with the Kootenai County Dog Park Association then spoke about their proposal for the area on the BLM Property to place the dog park. They are looking at the area above the tunnel, under the overpass for Hwy 95. This would provide access from either side of the property for parking. Doug then spoke about the potential access points from the Riverstone side as well as the Harbor Center side. There was a lengthy discussion regarding the potential places to put the dog park. Commissioner Cranston asked how much room was needed and Bob stated they would like 3 acres so they can put in an agility course. There were no further questions and the Coeur d'Alene Chamber had no comments. Motion was made by Commissioner Patzer to recess the meeting to September 19th. It was a unanimous second to the motion. Motion passed at 8:43 p.m.