



CITY OF COEUR D'ALENE

PARKS DEPARTMENT

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PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION MINUTES

July 15th, 2013 – 5:15 p.m.
COMMUNITY ROOM - LIBRARY

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Scott Cranston, Chair
Dave Patzer
Jim Lien
Bridget Hill
Ginny Tate
Mike Kennedy
Addison Johnson, Student Representative

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Mike McDowell
Mason Patzer

STAFF PRESENT:

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

GUESTS:

Annette Barnes, Donald Barnes, Brian
Kazmienoi, Dan Franks, B. Castillo, Garth
Merrill, Roger Smith, Julie Reber, Michael
Wigle, Ryan Davis, Daryl Elmore, Alison
Shindarine, Wayne Longo, Bruce MacNeil,
Cort Wilcox, Christina Heater, Russ McLain,
Andy Barretl, Jodie Roletto, Cathy Gephert

CALL TO ORDER: Commissioner Cranston called the meeting to order at 5:15 p.m.

1. ROLL CALL

Seven members were present, resulting in an official quorum.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Commissioner Johnson led the pledge of allegiance.

3. CONFLICT OF INTEREST

There were no conflicts of interest.

4. STAFF COMMENTS

Doug Eastwood gave a power point presentation on Parks Day and information on the activities. He discussed how the event came to be. He announced the awarding of a grant to assist with the Accessible Trail on the east side of Tubbs Hill, and that it was an 80/20 match. Commissioner Cranston asked about Ironman and the 4th of July events. Doug explained that both went well with the weather being cooler and the 4th falling mid-week rather than on a weekend. Commissioner Cranston thanked Doug and his staff for all their hard work and effort.

Steve Anthony reported that the Girls Fast pitch Tournament had been held at Ramsey and that it went well. There were numerous compliments. He announced swim lessons were available both indoor and outdoor this summer and that fall softball teams could now register through August 15th. He added that Soccer registration and Flag Football

registrations would start on August 1st. he then announced the lifeguard staffing hours at City Beach. The Arts Commission update from Steve was that the final four artists' models for the Archway at McEuen were on display for public input at the library. There were no further questions of the Commission.

5. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

None.

6. PUBLIC COMMENT

Roger Smith, 619 S 9th Street. He spoke about the Old Atlas Mill site and the need to take action due to the City Council's decision to annex the property on June 18th. He added that this site affords one last opportunity for public access to the river frontage for walking and bicycling. He added that it provides connectivity and continuity as well as a natural frontage area. He referenced the shoreline ordinance and regulations as well as the City's strategic plan. He added that he had presented this to the Ped-Bike and Natural Open Space committee's and that they saw this as a wonderful opportunity. Commissioner Kennedy suggested that Roger get in touch with the City's legal department regarding the annexation.

7. CHERRY HILL BMX AGREEMENT

Commissioner Cranston read the staff report aloud. Doug Eastwood added that this was an excellent group to work with and that they do a great job keeping order at and maintaining the track. Commissioner Patzer asked if there were any neighborhood concerns. Doug stated that the BMX group stays well within the decibel limit and that the BMX group had also re-directed the speakers. Commissioner Lien asked if this was a renewable agreement. Doug explained that it was a 3 year agreement that could then be renewed for an additional 3 years at a time, and why the agreement was for 3 years.

There being no further discussion a motion was made by Commissioner Kennedy to recommend to City Council the approval of the agreement with Cherry Hill BMX. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Tate. All were in favor, motion passed.

Commissioner Patzer made a motion at 5:35 p.m. to recess into the workshop portion of tonight's meeting. Commissioner Kennedy seconded the motion. All were in favor, motion passed.

8. PERSON FIELD

Commissioner Cranston called the meeting back to order at 5:45 p.m. Mayor Bloem then called the meeting to order on behalf of the City Council members that were present. Renata McLeod took role call for City Council then Mayor Bloem turned the meeting back over to Commissioner Cranston. Commissioner Cranston then announced that this meeting was for input only and Commissioner Kennedy spoke about the flyer that went around the neighborhood and added that there was no vote on this issue scheduled at the City Council meeting on Tuesday the 16th. He stated this was incorrect information that was provided. Commissioner Cranston then added that presentations would be limited to 10 minutes and that public comment would be limited to 3 minutes. Commissioner Patzer thanked all those who had come out for tonight's meeting. Commissioner Cranston then turned it over to Steve Anthony for history of Person Field. Steve stated the location of the property and then gave a Power Point presentation on the usage of the property. He added that due to McEuen's fields being displaced due to the new park this caused more use on the fields at Person and Ramsey. Commissioner Lien asked about the 2 football fields. Steve explained that one field was east of the track and the other was inside the track. Commissioner Cranston then asked the Boys and Girls Club to give their presentation. Wayne Longo, Ryan Davis and Pat Waylan

presented on behalf of the club. They spoke about the history of the group and that starting in 2004 the goal was to build facilities throughout Kootenai County. Providing a positive and safe place for children is the goal. Their hope is to be able to serve the children of CDA. Ryan explained that they are a 'youth development agency' and provide lots of opportunities to learn and grow. They provided examples of the positive impact the program staff makes and the 'teachable moments' they attain for. Their ratio is 51% girls and 49% boys. There are over 4,000 clubs nationwide that serve over 4.4 million children each year. He explained that the facilities must be in neighborhoods because the kids can't get to it if it's elsewhere. They provide full days during the summer serving up to 200 kids and 160 during the year. He added that there is a huge need for a facility on the east side of Coeur d'Alene. They currently provide services at Sorenson and serve 55 kids per day. They then spoke about the entities they partner with. Pat explained that they would like to utilize Person Field because they are seeking a long-term facility in the Coeur d'Alene area. He described the meeting they had with the neighborhood and Jr. Tackle and all parties agreed that there is a need for the facility, but don't want it at Person Field. Commissioner Patzer asked them what it was that they are asking for. Pat explained that they can get the funding for the facility, but would need a location in order to do so. Commissioner Kennedy asked why another facility was needed when we already have the Kroc Center. Pat explained that the Kroc Center is at capacity and that it doesn't serve this area of town well due to transportation. He stated that a place is needed for kids and whatever size they can get would be best. They want to do as much for the kids as possible. Ryan added that the size facility they would need is 10,000 sq. feet. Pat added that this would be less than 2 acres of the site. Commissioner Kennedy asked about the impact on the Jr. Tackle group. Pat added that it would impact them. Commissioner Patzer asked how the kids would commute to the facility. Ryan stated that they walk and bike, but the school district does provide some bussing from schools. Commissioner Hill asked about the difference between Schools Plus and Boys & Girls Club. Ryan stated that it depends. Schools Plus is fee based and can't accommodate all of those with a need. Commissioner Kennedy asked about their timeline and the donors they had lined up. Pat stated they are surprised by the number of people that support a facility here.

Person Field Neighborhood Presentation – Mike Wygle. The group brought forth the neighborhood associations concerns along with the long term resident's goals of maintaining current use. He stated that they feel the property is 'up for auction'. They feel this is for public use and the City needs to limit its development and keep it as open space. He added that this is the only 'oasis of green' in this area of town. He also added the essential role this property plays in property values. There was a petition circulated, and 351 signatures obtained that asked that this property be declared or zoned as "Park Space". He added that there are only a few places for the young to go and play and recreate. It's also a key to our health. He also explained that this parcel lends itself well for manmade and natural disasters were an emergency shelter area is needed. The group also expressed interest in keeping the property functional as it is and 'open green space'. Do not want to see a picnic shelter in the middle. Doug added that the zoning for the property is 'Parks by right' and described the process with the Panhandle Parks Foundation and the benefits to all parties involved. Commissioner Patzer brought up the parking situation with Jr. Tackle and asked if the neighborhood had any issues. They said they are okay with the current situation.

Commissioner Cranston then opened the meeting to Public Comments.

Annette Barnes – 1324 E Pennsylvania Ave – She stated that she supports lights and sound being brought back to the field, and asked that the City not to attempt to fix something that is already perfect. She stated that the property is not abandoned or useless and that the track is in use all day long, even by those learning to ride their bike. She added that this is not the first

time that the community has taken a stand to save this property. She did suggest Cherry Hill as an alternative site since the baseball stadium was not going in.

D.J. Cavenall – He has been with Jr. Tackle for over 8 years as a coach and on the board for 4 years. He spoke about the league and the positive impact it has on the youth with regard to promoting the fundamentals of Football, sportsmanship and teamwork. He added that they do not agree with the placement of a Boys and Girls Club facility due to safety and overcrowding of the park. He explained how many people they have come out for games and provided photos showing the crowds that the events draw. He added that they can have up to 500 people present on Wednesdays and up to 1,000 on Saturdays. They have teams from all over the Northwest that come to play and add more players each year. He mentioned that while they don't feel fitting Boys and Girls Club will fit on the site, they support whatever decision the City makes.

Andy Barretl – He added that Berg supports the Boys and Girls Club and the placement of this facility on Person Field. He spoke about this experience over the years with his own kids and how kids from all demographics would fall away over the years. He felt that this would engage the at-risk kids and help the entire community.

Brian Kazmienoi from Harrison stated that the Jr. Tackle board has been fearful over the years of losing the fields because there are no other viable areas to hold their events. He added that it is also too pricey to purchase land and run their program. He didn't feel that the Boys and Girls Club should be on the property, it's not fair to pass the buck to the taxpayer for new fields when we already have good playable ones. He added that this is a beautiful community and a safe place for our children to play. Commissioner Lien asked about Jr. Tack's seasonal schedule and Brian provided that information.

Dan Franks – He stated that he has coached for Jr. Tackle and is also a part of the board. He thanked the Commission for hearing their concerns tonight. He also thanked Ryan and Pat for the information they provided as well. He spoke about the concerns they had about the layout that Boys and Girls Club had presented to them prior to the meeting and that the layout of the design would not work. It does allow people to spread out and stacks the fans on top of the teams. Which are a detriment to all as well as a safety concern.

Julie Reber – She is the Fernan PTA President and stated that a Boys and Girls Club facility is needed in this area. She added that Schools Plus can only provide services for 20-30 students and is fee based. She is concerned about the youth that are unable to utilize the fee based program. She asked that the Commission please consider a year-round facility, versus a seasonal activity. She added that there is limited fundraising and funding in this area of town.

Kristina Jaeger – She stated that she is a mother of 3 and the President of the Borah PTO. She said that the Boys and Girls Club would be a blessing in this area and spoke about the needs of those affected by economic situations. She wants to be sure we do all we can to keep kids safe and off the streets, which in turn keeps them out of trouble. She added that "we need a Boys and Girls Club".

Cort Wilcox – Stated that he has been a long-time Boys and Girls club member and that location is key to assisting the kids that need the help. He added that Person Field lends itself well because of its location in proximity to the kids in need. He explained the research into providing one facility and found that each community needs one due to transportation issues. He then spoke about the process that took place to secure their Post Falls location.

Beatrice Castillo – Had a question for the Boys and Girls Club about why they chose Person Field and if another site could be chosen. Ryan explained that while there were other areas of opportunity this was the ideal place due to distance. Beatrice then added that the

neighborhood feels strongly that the field should stay as it is and they enjoy the 'green space' activities.

Kathy Gephert – She stated that in her youth she attended the YMCA. But now as a working mom she has spent over \$ 10,000 a year on daycare. Not only was it hard on her families pocket book but it was also harder to find a place to watch her kids as they got older. She stated that something is needed in the downtown area for the youth. We need to find a place downtown for this to exist. She also mentioned that they contact Sorenson because they had a great parent group to help with fundraising.

Russell Moore stated that this area is referred to as the ghetto and the only positive thing in the neighborhood is the cheering from the games. He added that the Boys and Girls Club could do a lot of good in this area of town, but not a Person Field. He felt that Cherry Hill would be a better location, that way the kids can still have access to both.

Susan Snyder – She added that it's taken 8 years of fighting to get Person Field in the City's hands. She likes Boys and Girls Club but feels that there is a better location than Person Field to situate it on. She would like to see the integrity of Person Field left alone and have Cherry Hill considered instead.

Bruce MacNeil – He referenced the 2008 Parks Master Plan and stated that there were no misunderstandings of what Person Field should be. He referenced pages 35 and 84 from the Master Plan and stated that the improvement plan and schedule should be kept to.

Don Barnes has lived in this area for 42 years and is supportive of the Boys and Girls Club, but feels that Person Field needs to be kept open space. He added that it is easier to find another location to place the Boys and Girls Club at rather than rebuild another Person Field.

Todd Tondee – Explained that he is a Boys and Girls Club alumni and that he is from a family of 9. He noted that Boys and Girls Club is what saved him, and gave the history of his life. This gave him the positive role model and 'right thing to do' attitude and thinking. He added that location is important. And that the partnership between the open space and the facility would pair nicely together. This provides 'teachable moments' for the kids and since they are our future we need to focus on them.

There being no further comments from the public Commissioner Cranston closed the meeting to public comment. Commissioner Patzer thanked everyone for coming out tonight and stated that the Commission sincerely appreciates the turn out tonight and that everyone has ties to this area. He added that we need to remember that this is all about the kids. Commissioner Lien mentioned that there is a lot to review and consider and that the Commission would look for a solution. Commissioner Kennedy asked Commissioner Cranston what the next step would be. Commissioner Cranston stated that the commission has no timeframe on this, that this was the initial contact. Commissioner Patzer stated that the City also needed to look at Bryan Field as well and incorporate that property into the discussion. He added that the master planning will need to fit the needs of the neighborhood. Commissioner Cranston mentioned that they would need to discuss how to proceed at their August workshop. Commissioner Hill mentioned to those in the audience that the BLM master plan was dominating their meetings right now and that she wasn't sure if the Commission could handle both at this time. Commissioner Kennedy asked for Doug and Steve's input. Doug reassured the Jr. Tackle group that they do not need to worry about field space. He concurred with Scott about discussing the timeline at the next workshop. He added that there would need to be more in-depth discussions and more meetings. He added that a master plan would need to be developed and recommended once they looked into this with more detail.

MEETING

Commissioner Cranston announced the upcoming meetings and workshops. He added that all these meetings were open to the public. City Council then adjourned themselves from the meeting and Commissioner Kennedy made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:36 p.m. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Hill. Motion passed.