



CITY OF COEUR D'ALENE

PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT

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PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION MINUTES

February 27, 2017 – 5:30 p.m.
COMMUNITY ROOM - LIBRARY

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Scott Cranston, Chair
Jim Lien
Mike McDowell
Christie Wood
Maya Burgess, Student Representative

STAFF PRESENT:

Bill Greenwood, Parks & Rec Director
Katie Kosanke, Urban Forestry Coordinator
Melissa Brandt, Administrative Assistant

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Ron Edinger
Bridget Hill
Ginny Tate
Lily Foster, Alt Student Representative

GUESTS:

Chris Guggemos
Kevin Jester

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 Wood led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Commissioner Lien stated he will abstain from the vote to renew as his band has contracted with Handshake Productions for the Summer Concert Series.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commissioner McDowell made a motion to approve the minutes of December 19, 2016. Commissioner Burgess seconded the motion, there being no discussion and all being in favor, motion passed.

5. STAFF COMMENTS

Recreation had swim lesson signups today with folks lining up as early as 7 am. By end of day, all available slots were taken. There are so many families that want take the classes, but miss out. We're trying to figure out a way to take a waiting list of those who haven't been able to get signed-up they would be first for the next session. The classes are very popular.

This past weekend was the AAU basketball tournament. Nineteen teams and more than 500 people were in attendance. We appreciate our agreements with School

District 271 for the tournaments. We get comments all the time from players, parents, and spectators about the facilities, kudos to School District 271 for partnering with us and providing fantastic facilities.

Our parks employees have been doing snow removal all season long, since December at 38 sites throughout the city. We clear 1,400 parking spaces that equates to 15 acres of land, 16 miles of trails, and 5 miles of sidewalks. Our staff has done a remarkable job this year, working most weekends and some holidays to keep things cleared. Snow is tapering off somewhat so we are busy doing maintenance on benches, picnic tables, and equipment, getting ready for the spring and summer season.

Commissioner Wood: Great work on the trails. When spring comes, does someone clean the dog feces off the trail? Greenwood responded we haven't had to do that, we sweep, and use a blower to clean the trails.

Commissioner Lien: SD 271 facilities and the relationship with the Recreation Department isn't the norm. On March 14, there is a levy and a bond election for the district to continue, and increase, opportunities for our children.

6. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Commissioner Wood: The Mayor, our architect, John Mueller, and I have been working on donations for the K27 memorial in McEuen Park. North Idaho Collect welding program is partnering with us to create some wonderful benches, four of them; we are excited to have them ready in time for the groundbreaking. Sgt. Greg Moore died on May 5, we hope to commemorate his loss and break ground on that day.

7. PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

8. SUMMER CONCERT SERIES AGREEMENT RENEWAL

The Handshake Productions agreement is up for a three year renewal. Staff recommendation is to renew the agreement.

Commissioner Cranston: Are there any changes to the agreement? Greenwood: Concert dates have changed and we had the agreement reviewed by City legal counsel and tightened up the language. Nothing essential has changed. Greenwood stated that Chris Guggemos does all his own fundraising, the series costs nothing to the City.

Commissioner Lien: Chris Guggemos is a great person, does a great job providing a family friendly event.

Chris Guggemos: This past year personally, has been through a lot, very happy to produce this years' concert series. This is the twenty third year of the concert series, first year was 1995. Look forward to doing the concerts for a few more years. Hope you suggest that the agreement be renewed.

Motion by Commissioner Wood to renew the agreement for three more years with the option for an additional three year renewal provided everything runs smoothly with Handshake Productions responsibilities, sending the agreement to General Services for approval; seconded by Commissioner McDowell. Motion passed with four votes and one abstention.

9. RIVERSTONE CONCERT SERIES AGREEMENT

Staff is requesting the Parks and Recreation Commission recommend the approval of this three year agreement with the Coeur d'Alene Arts & Culture Alliance for the Riverstone Park Summer Concert series.

Commissioner Cranston: This formalizes an agreement with the group that has been producing concerts at Riverstone Park for eight years on Thursday nights. Greenwood stated that their series has created a great vibe. They are good to work with, even with changes in their leadership concerts go on without a hitch. A new sign, built by Park's employee, Larry Walter, is in place offering ongoing advertising and continuity.

Commissioner Wood: Wonderful addition to the summer events.

Motion by Commissioner Lien to recommend approval of this three year agreement with the Coeur d'Alene Arts & Culture Alliance for the Riverstone Park Summer Concert Series, and sending the agreement to General Services for approval; seconded by Commissioner McDowell. Motion passed unanimously.

10. ORDINANCE CHANGES-URBAN FORESTRY

Recommend approval of urban forestry ordinance changes.

Commissioner Cranston read the staff report

Kosanke: The ordinance was written in 1995 with only minor changes since that time. New definitions are being included, such as grand scale tree, significant tree, and urban forest. We thank City legal counsel, Randy Adams, for his help in putting these changes together. Highlights of the changes follow. Various definitions and working changes for clarification, take topping out as allowable with an approved permit. This practice is against industry standards and has not been allowed in the past. Reduction pruning replaces topping which is an acceptable practice in some cases when height reduction is allowed. Clarify fee in lieu of replacement tree; allows exceptions for replacement trees when planning a replacement tree is not practical. Add additional provisions for tree service licensing to ensure quality control of tree services working on public trees. Allow others to plant trees in the right-of-way, not just tree services. Not all of the city-licensed tree services plant trees and this has not been enforced as many landscape contractors plant trees through site development following city guidelines. Increase the minimum size a tree planted from 1.25" to 1.5" caliper for a required street tree for better survivability street side. Add permits required for root pruning of public trees. Amend tree spacing requirements. Include new technology for root containment including engineered soil and cell planters. Outline penalties for violations to be consistent with the appraised value of the damage.

Commissioner Cranston: Thank you for such thorough work. No questions or comments from Commissioners.

Motion by Commissioner Wood to recommend to the General Services Committee approval of the draft urban forestry ordinance changes; seconded by Commissioner Burgess. Motion passed unanimously.

11. TREE PROTECTION STANDARDS ORDINANCE

Recommend tree protection standards for public trees and grand scale trees.

Commissioner Cranston read the staff report.

Kosanke: The proposed ordinance is for protection standards for significant grand scale trees on private property within 20 feet of the street and, that are 20" caliper or more in size. Developers can choose to retain and receive FAR bonuses; the building department refers to these as floor area ratio bonuses, such as more square footage, if they save these trees. Currently there are no protection requirements in place; we don't specify that they save them. In some instances developers have received bonuses for keeping the trees, but ended up not saving the tree, however, they received the bonus anyway. We want developers to choose to preserve these trees. We also want protection measures for trees in the right of way and park trees. We want to promote tree retention for social, environmental, and economic benefits. This ordinance encourages protection during construction. The requirements are simple, easy to follow and will include site inspections. Protection standards include distance from trees while working, encroachment, protection fencing with tree protection zone signage, mulch required in the area where equipment will be running near the trees, watering, and no dumping or washing out of equipment near the area. We want to work with developers so we don't get to a violation or penalty point. The value of the tree will be determined at beginning of the project, if developers don't abide and the tree is removed or declines, the developer will be penalized, and a replacement tree will be required.

Commissioner Cranston: The intent of the ordinance is to provide incentives to developers to preserve and save grand scale trees. What are those bonuses or incentives? Kosanke: Those are bonuses through the planning department for providing a variety of things, such as outdoor seating, bicycle parking, all sorts of things; extra square footage in a smaller lot for providing certain things.

Commissioner Lien: Is the bonus worth the risk of possibly having to pay for a tree, or to follow through on all the requirements? There are only a few of these that come up each year, there won't be additional work, we are trying to keep it really simple so they are encouraged to maintain. Oftentimes the developers see the value of the trees and want to preserve them. We want something in place but not make it difficult.

Commissioner McDowell: A developer can choose to preserve the tree, it's their option to choose whether or not to pursue the bonus, if they choose not to preserve the tree, they don't have to? Kosanke: Yes, if on private property, they can choose not to. If it's in the public right-of-way, that's different.

Motion by Commissioner McDowell to recommend to General Services Committee tree protection standards for public trees and grand scale trees; seconded by Commissioner Wood. Motion passed unanimously.

12. ROCK OF FAME NOMINATIONS

Commissioner Cranston: Rock of Fame nominations go to those individuals who have made significant contributions to Parks and Recreation. We have three nominations: Steve Anthony, Doug Eastwood, and Karen Haskew.

(Read nomination of Steve Anthony)
(Read nomination of Doug Eastwood)
(Read nomination of Karen Haskew)

Commissioner Wood: We have great citizens who step up and do a lot, as City employees, they don't get the recognition they deserve most times. These three have more than 100

years of service to the City, very proud of these City employees, very deserving to be on the Rock of Fame.

Commissioner McDowell: We moving the Rock of Fame to a better location near the new carousel. Greenwood: currently the rock is at the easterly end at Memorial Field, not very well seen. This spring or early summer, we are moving it to the carousel in the memorial plaza, it will fit very nicely. After the move and installation, we will have a special event to honor these three. They were a pleasure to work with and I learned so much from them.

Commissioner Cranston: This action item is for the Parks & Recreation Commission. Do we have a consensus to include these nominees on the Rock of Fame to honor them? All were in favor, motion passed.

13. ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Cranston asked for any further items, none were presented. Four items to move forward to General Services all will go to General Services the Monday after the first council meeting. Upcoming meeting dates:

- Tuesday March 7, 2017 – Workshop – Old Council Chambers, City Hall – 11:30 am
- Monday March 13, 2017 – Meeting - Community Room at the Library – 5:30 p.m.

Commissioner Burgess made a motion to adjourn the meeting with Commissioner Wood seconding the motion. All were in favor, motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 6:35 pm.