

**PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES
September 29, 2026
Stella's on the Hill – 4176 E Potlatch Hill Rd**

MEMBERS' PRESENT:

Scott Cranston, Chair
Christie Wood
Jim Lien
Ginny Tate

ABSENT:

Bridget Hill
Mike McDowell
Warren Bakes

STAFF PRESENT:

Adam Rouse, Parks & Recreation Director
Melissa Brandt, Administrative Assistant

GUESTS:

Doug Eastwood
Tom Torgerson

CALL TO ORDER: Commissioner Cranston called the meeting to order at 12:03 p.m.

1. ROLL CALL

Four members present resulting in a quorum.

2. CITY PARK ESPLANADE AND TRAIL – *Information Item*

Doug Eastwood introduced the concept of revitalizing the City Park waterfront promenade area from Independence Point to Park Drive. The discussion focused on the area's importance as one of the most heavily used pedestrian corridors in Idaho, with estimates of 800,000 to 1 million users annually. Participants noted that the promenade area has experienced deterioration over time, including aging infrastructure, damaged concrete, outdated furnishings, and loss of landscaping. The intent is to create a long-term vision that enhances the pedestrian experience while preserving the area's character and access to the lake. Discussion centered on forming an ad hoc committee to develop concepts and recommendations for future improvements. Potential participants discussed include representatives from the Parks & Recreation Commission, Parks Department staff, City engineering staff, Rotary Club, Panhandle Kiwanis, Coeur d'Alene Resort, community stakeholders and business representatives.

The committee would be responsible for reviewing existing conditions, developing improvement concepts, working with a landscape architect, identifying potential funding sources, and returning recommendations to the Parks & Recreation Commission. Commissioners agreed that formal committee creation would need to occur at the October 19, 2026, regular meeting. The goal is to have this item go out to bid in mid-summer and a start date after Labor Day, a less busy time for the park.

Doug Eastwood reported discussions with retired landscape architect Dale Hatch regarding assisting with conceptual design work. The committee would work with the designer to evaluate multiple concepts and determine preferred improvement alternatives before presenting recommendations to the Commission including an estimate of probable costs. Potential improvements discussed included widening pedestrian circulation areas; replacing aging benches and site furnishings; improved lighting; enhanced landscaping and tree replacement strategies; upgraded bike parking facilities; improvements to restroom facilities; general beautification and modernization of the promenade.

Commissioners discussed the long-standing goal of improving the connection between Independence Point, the Coeur d'Alene Resort area, and City Park. There were prior planning efforts and concepts with potential relocation or redesign of Independence Point parking areas that would improve pedestrian safety and flow from city hall all the way through City Park. The changes would also enhance the visual connection between downtown, the resort, and City Park. Several members emphasized that Independence Point may ultimately be a separate phase of improvements due to the larger scope and potential public discussion associated with parking modifications.

There was discussion regarding funding for the project that include city participation, private donations, community partnerships, service club contributions, sponsorship opportunities, and grant funding. Participants emphasized the importance of project oversight, quality control, and construction management if the project advances.

Commissioners discussed an upcoming meeting regarding Land and Water Conservation Fund compliance issues. Staff reported that a meeting with state representatives is scheduled for October 19 to review historical park conversions, compliance questions, potential impacts on future grant eligibility, and steps necessary to regain compliance if required.

Staff will prepare an agenda action item for the October 19, 2026, meeting regarding the formation of an ad hoc committee for Commission discussion and approval. Commissioners will identify potential committee participants. The Commission will receive additional information following the October 19, Land and Water Conservation Fund meeting. Concept development and funding discussions will continue as the project moves forward.

3. NEXT MEETING / ADJOURNMENT:

Commissioner Cranston announced the next workshop and meeting dates.

- Monday, October 19, 2026: 10 a.m., Workshop in the City Hall Ron Edinger Room.
- Monday, October 19, 2026: 5:30 p.m., Regular Meeting in the Library Community Room.

Commissioner Tate made a motion to adjourn the meeting Commissioner Wood seconded the motion. There being no further discussion, motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 1:22 pm.