



CITY OF COEUR D'ALENE

PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT

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PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION MINUTES

February 26, 2018 – 5:30 p.m.
COMMUNITY ROOM - LIBRARY

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Scott Cranston, Chair
Mike McDowell, Co-Chair
Ron Edinger
Jim Lien
Christie Wood
Hart Parr Dal Pra
Kinsey Freeman, Alt Student Rep
(late arrival-sat in audience)

STAFF PRESENT:

Bill Greenwood, Parks & Rec Director
Mike Kempton, NOSC Liaison
Melissa Brandt, Administrative Assistant

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Bridget Hill
Ginny Tate

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

1. ROLL CALL

Six members present, resulting in an official quorum.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Commissioner McDowell led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Commissioner Lien-Abstain from agenda item #9 voting on Live After Five.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commissioner Wood made a motion to approve the minutes of November 20, 2017. Commissioner Edinger seconded the motion, there being no discussion and all being in favor, motion passed.

5. STAFF COMMENTS

Bill Greenwood introduced Jeff Erickson as the new Park Superintendent. Erickson started as a seasonal in 1999. He became the cemetery lead and later an irrigation technician. Sam LaPresta retired as of February 15, 2018. Had a meeting with Brad Cederblom who has been spearheading the Idaho Worker's Memorial. There have been revisions to the concept, looks really good, will break ground this spring. Modify irrigation in-house, complete the landscaping, adding more shrubs to the back of the

monument. Cederblom will be at our next meeting to give an update and share the rendering of the memorial. Memorial Grandstands at memorial went out for request for qualifications (RFQ), we had two local firms submit proposals, Architect's West was chosen. They are tasked to keep the historical elements, restrooms underneath, concession stand, storage, ADA access. Architects West will come to PRC, ignite, and City Council to talk about what is being developed. They will run the bid process to find a firm to do the work, taking point for construction management and design. Howard Gould will work along with them. Memorial Field the turf grass isn't strong yet, we aren't letting anyone play on it this spring or fall, so an opportune time to do the grandstands. The grandstands will be complete next spring and we'll open up for use. We are working with NIC for them to use Ramsey. Commissioner Wood: NIC looking at financially with the grandstands. Is there room for a small meeting room for coaches? Greenwood: In one design it shows a spot for storage, we are purchasing an out-building for storage, inside storage may not be needed, the space could be a meeting room.

Greenwood: We have gone out for RFQs for the Skatepark. We are looking for qualifications for building a skate park we want a firm that is very familiar with building them. Firms that have qualified will be allowed to bid on building the design. We have an architect that has designed the park that includes a bowl element that was to be an add-alternate. We should be able to get it done within the entire project. The Skate Park Association held a good fundraiser on the February 17 that was very well attended. The funds will be used to help the skate park. Memorial restrooms were an add-alternate as part of the bid for Memorial Park and shared parking was thrown out and has been re-tooled. That was put back out to bid and has been awarded to William Welch Corporation at a bid of \$245,000. Mayor will sign agreement. Commissioner Cranston: Is that design a combined restroom and picnic shelter? Greenwood: Yes, Miller Stauffer did the design on that and made modifications to it so we would come in under budget.

Greenwood: Our urban forester, Katie, is working on a grant for a fire smart program to clean up the wooded area at Veterans Centennial Park. We are planning a wildfire community preparedness day on Saturday, May 5, at Veterans Centennial Park. Publicity will go out about the event if we receive the grant. Recreation held a successful AAU tournament, with teams from Missoula, Moscow, Pullman, Sandpoint and some other local teams, really good turnout. Staff worked inside and out to keep the snow off the sidewalks to keep everyone safe. Youth dance program starting with Ballet, Hip Hop and Jazz for ages up to six. Indoor swim lessons our most popular class, we fill up every session, continuing to grow. Paula Austin's idea to have lessons on Saturday and increase the number of classes offered, if we had more space, we could provide more classes. K-2 basketball games going on right now, games are played with lower hoops for better success for the kids. Spring soccer registration starts this week, season starts in early April. Unplugged Week will occur the week of spring break, we partner with various groups to offer free outside play opportunities, some of the activities include fly fishing, pickle ball, archery, tennis, and disc golf.

6. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Motion by Commissioner Wood to move item Public Comment after Item #10, Commissioner Hart seconded the motion, there being no discussion and all being in favor, motion passed.

Commissioner Wood: Comment on the K27 memorial water feature to honor Greg Moore, Coeur d'Alene police officer shot in the line of duty, Bill your staff has done amazing work on the feature. The memorial will open during Police Week during the second week of May, on May 15th. There will be additional announcements. Encourage the public to attend the unveiling. Greenwood: The contractor, Clearwater Summit, really stepped up and provided a lot of extras, their man on the ground, Todd Bravo, has been excellent, very impressed with their work.

7. PUBLIC COMMENT

Moved after item 10.

8. VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION

Commissioner Cranston: The Parks & Recreation Commission would like to recognize the volunteer efforts of Michael J. Young. Mike has volunteered hundreds of hours researching burial records, working conscientiously with staff to ensure information is accurate and complete. His care and reverence for each and every headstone and burial is a quality that is sorely missed in today's society. He has determinedly found burials of long ago for living family members all over the world, helping close missing gaps in family trees and finding new relatives that were otherwise not known. He was an integral part in the creation of the City of Coeur d'Alene's burial search map. His years of work have been appreciated by many city staff members and people everywhere using the information and photos he has obtained. Through Find-A-Grave, he has added more than 20,000 burial records, uploaded 22,210 photos, and has volunteered to find and take 116 photos requested by others. This information will be used for many, many, years to come by thousands of people. Thank you Mike for all you do. Mr. Young was not able to attend our meeting, but we will get the plaque to him. He didn't want a big deal made, wanted read in the record for what he has done and let him know our appreciation.

9. LIVE AFTER FIVE

Cranston read the staff report for the record.

Tyler Davis, President, Live After Five Enterprises: We had a great first year at McEuen. Previously for 4 years prior, we ran the series at the corner of 6th and Sherman. We have hosted more than 75 shows over the past 5 years never have had an incident, no violations. We are very careful in the style of entertainment we select. We are cautious of the acts we book. Insurance carrier investigates groups and the genre dictates the cost of the insurance premium.

Commissioner Wood: No concerns, wonderful family atmosphere, a wonderful success.

Commissioner Hart: How long do the concerts last? Davis: A standard show the gates open at 4:30 pm, music is shut down by 8:30 pm, out of the park by 10 pm. For the big national acts, we know there will be some trial and error, more set up time and tear down time required. We will work closely with Parks & Rec, Police and Fire, covering public safety. We have plans to help with park infrastructure to make McEuen a world class venue.

Motion of Commissioner Edinger to approve the three year agreement with Davis Enterprises, Inc., for the Live After Five Concerts at McEuen Park seconded by Commissioner Wood.

Commissioner Cranston: Anything required or special process to occur for the three large concerts? Greenwood: The larger events will require more discussion with Police and Fire. This agreement will help Davis Enterprises to secure those larger acts. We have similar agreements with the concerts in City Park and the Arts Commission concerts at Riverstone.

Vote was unanimous with one abstention by Commissioner Lien. Motion carried. The agreement will move forward to General Services.

10. VETERANS CENTENNIAL PARK

Commissioner Cranston: Presentation on a revision to a conceptual plan for Veterans Centennial Park after a lot of community input and an open house workshop gathering public comments. This will come to the Commission at next months' regular meeting for adoption.

Mike Kempton: We had a workshop a month ago about the master plan for Veterans Centennial/Seagraves Park. The Natural Open Space Committee met to go through the comments and came up with a revisions based on that feedback. We are discussing 16 acres on Fernan Hill Road on Fernan Hill, donated by Emma Seagraves many years ago for the purpose of being a public park, kept in as natural a state as possible. The master plan has been simplified with the following changes. The trail on the east side of the site was moved thirty feet further from the property line to enhance privacy for the adjacent residents. Reference to the rain garden or wetland area was removed from the plan due to the realization that this was not a natural feature. Secondary pathways within the loop trail were removed to simplify the design and reduce the area of the park covered with non-natural materials. The size of the amphitheater was reduced and hardscape (non-natural) elements removed in order to blend in with the site better there is no plan for anything amplified at this location, the idea was to provide a natural amphitheater for school activities. The footprint of the parking lot was reduced. The Parks Department is committed to using gravel for the driveway and parking lot to the greatest extent possible subject to Kootenai County building codes, a gravel lot is easier and cheaper to maintain and the comments received indicate this is preferred by the neighbors. Two landscaped shrub beds were removed to simplify the design and preserve the view-shed. The overall number of trees planted in the open area was significantly reduced to preserve view-sheds. The paved trail along the park entrance road was removed from the plan to reduce further runoff, all trails will be gravel.

Commissioner Cranston: Walk us through the developed elements of the park and how they relate to the last version. Kempton: Parking lot is reduced but still big enough for a bus to turn around if we ever got schools up there. The interior pathways were removed. The amphitheater was much more elaborate, now it will be softscape, basically a gravel path with some grassy berms. We reduced the number of trees and eliminated the wetland. There will be a loop trail through the woods. We have a placeholder for a future memorial to Veterans. There is a natural playground, gazebo, and either a vault toilet or portable restroom shelter that would be removed during winter.

Commissioner Cranston: How many parking stalls are in the revision? Kempton: I believe there are 32 spaces. Use of the site will be very light. We do have an issue with our easement, we want to use our easement for them and allow them to use our driveway to access the property.

Commissioner Cranston: Two things that stand out in this revision is responding to a lot of public comments we had is cleaning up the easement or right of way for access to the park so not to conflict with neighbors' property and access, and also responding to a lesser or more

modest level of development keeping the park at a more natural state. Kempton: It's important to have a park available for the public, the deed stipulated having a park available for parks and recreation and keeping the site in as natural state as possible, feel this is a really good compromise with what was stipulated. Right now if someone wants to use the park, there isn't good access, they are driving down a road on someone else's property. There are no fences to contain cars in the parking lot.

Commissioner McDowell: The parking lot and driveway will be a gravel surface? Kempton: Yes, per county code we can have a gravel lot they aren't as strict as City code.

Commissioner Wood: You talked about more natural scape for seating, so rocks instead of picnic benches? Kempton: Yes, natural, a grassy berm to sit on, native grass that will be mowed, but no turf grass, may have some drip irrigation if trees are planted, but no other irrigation.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Josephine Jackson, 2946 Murphy Road: Nice to see the modifications have been made to make it useable by the public for wintertime, cross country skiing is going on. Would the city be using city or well water? We need to have the aquifer recharged. The longest boundary is along our property line. We have a farm and don't want people coming in. In November there was a herd of elk that uses this area as a thoroughfare. We don't want to lose the ability of the elk to come through. We love the elk coming in, but don't want people coming in on our property. We don't want to make the elk herd public, there are already poachers who come up on the hill. And, weight load on the bridge/culvert can't take extra houses, how would it take busloads and public use. Possibly have a gate that wouldn't allow access after dark, dawn to dusk access only.

Greenwood: Are you asking for a fence for the elk? You mentioned wanting a fence, we said we could do a fence, is that a problem to have a fence with the elk there, you can't have both. We don't get any incursions from the public and allows the elk to travel. How high would the amphitheater be as it will look right into our property? Greenwood: The amphitheater would be more depressed than elevated. This is a preliminary plan, and as we move forward it will all be engineered accordingly.

Commissioner Wood: Does it need to be fenced? Greenwood: We thought a fence was requested to keep the public out, maybe a short fence or signage to identify public/private but allow elk to continue through. Delineate public and private and not interfere with natural life.

Ron Jones, Fernan Hill Road: Park doesn't bother me at all. Ms. VanLaken when she donated it she wanted it to honor Veterans make it available to the people of the City, County, and State. Keep as natural as possible keep it simple, there are a lot of trees there, why would you plant more trees?

Dane Hanna, 3005 East Fernan Hill Road: The road going across is his property and Eberling's. No one has contacted him about easements. I second what the gentleman said, keep it natural. The cabin Emma lived in is on our property. She wanted a space for people to enjoy. Who wants this? Has anyone done a study on the need for a developed park for the City, we have parks all over, to me, they are under-utilized. Is there a formal study that's been done that says we need a park with parking, restrooms, potential increase in law enforcement to patrol, you will need more police, especially if you promote it. Applaud the changes. I believe you can hunt in the county up there, bow hunters can hunt up there, could be a safety issue. Leave it as natural as possible. Greenwood/Kempton: We had a public workshop last month wherein most written comments were 50/50. Right now this site is unknown to the public. There are no problems with law enforcement issues in any of our other natural areas. This property is included in our Master Plan that was vetted in 2008. It was voted on, a formal

survey was conducted in 2006, published in 2008, surveyed at Taste of the CDAs, public meetings; we can get that information to you. We had folks show up and what they wanted to see was natural open space, such as Canfield, Tubbs, and Fernan Lake, and this area, and was adopted by City Council. The study was conducted by a company called MIG out of Portland, Oregon.

Commissioner Cranston: Summarize what the Natural Open Space Committee has done in respect to this area. Kempton: The NOSC committee put together this information in 2007 when working on the natural space management plan. Several of our members did go door to door and spoke with residents. Important to note we do not have any public parks east of 15th street in Coeur d'Alene, underserved. Commissioner Cranston: This master plan was a guideline for when funds become available there is no funding to develop these elements at this time. Kempton: This master plan protects the site if there is a change in the political will of the city.

Commissioner Cranston: Could we clarify driveway access from the street, where does the legal access occur? Greenwood: Currently access the private road bi-sects our property, we would have to have the approach go through our property. Private road is on our easement more than we are on the homeowner's property. They will need access through our easement to make it easier for them, we prefer to share and work together which we've done when we have a joint use agreement.

Shelly Hertado, 2795 Fernan Hill Road: I've lived on the hill for 18 years I'm in favor of some form of natural scape. No one does know it's a park. If this is just a preliminary plan, is it the city or county taking control of this area and creating, or holding this park. The end result may or may not be what this schematic looks like. Don't know when it will happen, funding? Materials used? Greenwood: This vetting process is to get a guideline. When will this park actually be developed? Greenwood: We are several years out our energy right now is on the Atlas mill site. We want to identify the plan and protect it, a plan allows us to forecast what we want to do. Everything we've identified is pretty soft, to get a feel for what the neighborhood wants. Kempton: The park is owned by the Panhandle Parks Foundation being held for the City. It's in unincorporated Kootenai County it isn't unusual for one entity to own property in another. The concern for most of the neighbors is we like the serenity, do we need another designated public park with school buses and an amphitheater. I understand this would just protect this area per the deed to the city. Sounds like many years from now, more public input and transformation with the design. Want the parking lot to be small, gravel, easier to maintain. Greenwood: We are identifying what we don't want, the lights, speakers, we want to keep it passive, I spoke with her nephew Jack, as we don't want to do anything Emma wouldn't want, wanting to do what she wishes. Do the best we can for the whole community, and honor Emma's wishes. The idea initially for busses was from our previous Urban Forester about having an arboretum, that's where that idea came from 10-12 years ago, that's where the educational component came from.

Commissioner Wood: This is just a master plan that needs to be adopted to move forward and protect the site, and we won't vote on this until our next meeting on March 19. If approved the master plan, that has been dramatically changed, more natural, hopefully will fit what you like, if it moves on, it will go to Council, they haven't seen it or had any discussion. It's not currently on any priority list, no funding, could be a decade or more, the master plan gets done now, keep as natural as possible, locks people in for the future. The process won't happen immediately. It is important to adopt the master plan.

Cora Powers, 3018 E Fernan Hill Road: I live just above the entrance. I really like the idea of a trail, to use and walk through, like the idea of a gravel parking lot, like to encourage the migration patterns of the wild life when considering the designing of fences and where you put

trees, not just for elk, deer, and turkey, but also the butterflies, humming birds, would provide a tremendous amount of nature and a benefit for children. Consider the migration and how we can co-exist, don't want to drive them away, integrate all of it together. Greenwood: Even with the development of Cherry Hill Park we still have elk, deer, turkeys, and bear. Here at McEuen we have elk, fox on Tubbs Hill, deer, and certain wildlife they will stay. We thought we had a natural water feature, but there isn't one, so there won't be anything like that.

Walt Richard, 907 Victorian Drive: Appreciate reconsideration of your plan, after listening to our comments. I want to ask about law enforcement, a patrol car comes up 2-3 times a year, we are a non-problem area. A park will create a problem, there will be homeless, littering, underage drinking, lover's lane maybe sexual assaults, what will you do about patrolling the park? Have you talked to the City, county, if this park comes in, signage is put up, drawing people in, what will be the patrol tactics? Is there a commitment from law enforcement with a plan for how they will deal with this? Because of the location it is a challenge for law enforcement. We appreciate you taking our comments into consideration. Greenwood: Our police department patrols our parks. We do rely on the neighbors, they take ownership for any park that is near them, neighbors will call police, and the neighbors help watch the park.

Commissioner Wood: Law enforcement isn't up there much. With any park, we respond when called, they get out and walk Tubbs Hill many times, Police and Fire. This is never going to become that kind of park. If it becomes a problem the Chief would put more officers on it to make sure it stopped.

Susan Crowe, 4011 N. 21st Street: I live a block and a half from Canfield mountain the Parks Department put in a trail system and preserved a piece of canfield, I want to speak about it briefly I hear the fears of what happens, who's going to hang out, our experience has been wonderful. It's a beautiful trail system, it preserved a wild open space, we have people who come and hike the trail, respectful of people's property, we talk to the people, friendly respectful, no destruction, it saved that area from the destruction that had been going on. All kinds of wildlife, has not prevented them from being there. I hear the concerns expressed, and have experienced the positive work the city did, how they improved the area, improved the erosion because of dirt bikes, now a beautiful area, maintained very well. It has been a wonderful experience. Come see the trails at Canfield, see how nice it is, how well the city has set that up and managed it.

Stacey Gray, 922 N Veranda Dr: Applaud the efforts to take this back to a more natural space. Not opposed to developing the park to a certain extent. Still think the amphitheater with berms and depressed seating is a step in the wrong direction, most of the time the weather is not conducive to having school groups up there, not a good plan. Canfield and Tubbs are nice facilities but I hike and run them both, I could pick up bags of garbage, beer cans, broken bottles and needles I don't want that in my neighborhood. Like the idea of a circular trail, but developing to the point that will be like Tubbs, you could run on Monday morning and pick up buckets of garbage. Fernan Hill is very icy in winter, opening this up to people is creating a hazard, no guardrails if they lose control they will end up in someone's house. Good job in stepping back, still think making the parking lot smaller and not big enough for a bus turnaround, reducing the amphitheater use rocks or tree trunks, not berms. Headed in the right direction, not there yet.

Archie Gray-922 N Veranda Dr: I am a Forester, I've walked through the stand of trees there and applaud your efforts to get a fire wise grant, wish you luck. Tubbs Hill a few years ago there were kids up there starting fires, fire burns uphill quickly, nothing at the top, if something starts on this property and runs uphill, it runs up to my neighbors. Really encourage to get that fire smart grant and see treatment of the older trees, thinning, brush mitigation, that will make it more parklike in appearance, don't mind the trail, or the parking lot, the proximity of where

you are going to put the amphitheater, tweak the location so it's not so close to his neighbor's house. It is less than 150 feet. Encourage the trail. CDA could use an arboretum, this isn't the location for it. Greenwood: The idea for an arboretum was from our Urban Forester, that won't happen here. We do have something similar at Phippeny Park. Kempton: We did write an open space treatment plan for fuel mitigation in 2010. Words have meanings, refrain as referring to Veterans Centennial Park refer to it as Veterans Centennial Natural Area.

Greenwood: The original deed says "Seagraves Park" we are leaning toward naming it after family, not Veterans Centennial Park. Not sure where Veteran's Centennial Park came about it was in the deed. She had brothers who were Veterans. Another copy of the deed states it is to be Veterans Centennial Park. Reduce anxiety most are familiar with English Point, opportunity for something like this as well, developed by boy scouts, in line with what the population would want.

Peter Erbland-3007 Fernan Hill Rd: Compliment you for scaling back on the park. Great move, and keeping with what Emma would want. That outline we see there was originally 17 acres. Emma foreclosed on one of the other acres now owned by my neighbor Bill. She gave it to the park foundation so it could be a park, grateful it was taken back by Emma and given to the park foundation. You have scaled this back 2-3 times in keeping more with her wishes.

Becky Tucker, 875 N Victorian Dr: Glad this has been scaled back, we are from Wyoming; we miss open space and looking at something that's not developed, enjoy seeing the animals. My kids are both in school here, a bus turn around and amphitheater are grandiose plans, there is no money for field trips, and would not be utilized to their fullest. Kempton: We want the parking lot to be as small as possible but our fire department would like a parking lot that allows for at least a three point turn if needed.

Tom Jones, 853 Gisa: I am all for keeping it quiet and clean, preferably population of visitors as low as possible. When the exercise equipment on the trail on Lakeside Drive, things changed, there was more noise and trash. Don't want to see it occur again. Not against the park, keep it low, slow, quiet, and clean.

Greenwood: Thank you, everybody, for your time, your comments are valuable.

Commissioner Wood: Next months' meeting the same master plan scaled back, will be brought to the meeting as an action item?

Commissioner Cranston: The master plan will be an action item next month at the regular meeting on March 19, adoption of the conceptual plan. Not sure if there will be any modification between here and now,

Greenwood: The parking lot will be scaled back to discuss this with our fire department. We will shrink it a little bit if at all possible with guidance from our fire department.

Commissioner McDowell: Moving this ahead we are on the right track. I also have heard do we need the amphitheater and the size of the size of the parking lot. Serious look at the amphitheater, do we need it, how developed does it need to be, maybe have a gathering place.

Commissioner Lien: I didn't know Emma, in her history it says she was a school teacher, I think she would be happy to see children up there, maybe have a gathering place as a compromise.

11. ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Cranston asked for any additional comments.

Upcoming meeting dates:

- Tuesday, March 6, 2018: Workshop; Caruso's Deli, Coeur d'Alene – 11:30 am
- Monday, March 19, 2018: Meeting; Community Room at the Library – 5:30 p.m.

Commissioner Edinger made a motion to adjourn the meeting with Commissioner Hart seconding the motion. All were in favor, motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 7:09 pm.