



CITY OF COEUR D'ALENE

PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT

CITY HALL, 710 E. MULLAN AVENUE
COEUR D'ALENE, IDAHO 83816-3964
208-769-2252 – FAX 208-769-2383

PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION MINUTES

April 16, 2018 – 5:30 p.m.
COMMUNITY ROOM - LIBRARY

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Scott Cranston, Chair
Mike McDowell, Co-Chair
Ron Edinger, City Council Liaison
Jim Lien
Hart Parr Dal Pra, Student Rep
Kinsey Freeman, Alt Student Rep

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Bridget Hill
Ginny Tate
Christie Wood

STAFF PRESENT:

Bill Greenwood, Parks & Recreation Director
Katie Kosanke, Urban Forester
Melissa Brandt, Administrative Assistant

GUESTS:

John Schwandt, Urban Forestry Committee

CALL TO ORDER: Commissioner Cranston called the meeting to order at 5:32 p.m.

1. ROLL CALL

Five members present, resulting in an official quorum.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Commissioner Hart led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. CONFLICT OF INTEREST

None.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commissioner McDowell made a motion to approve the minutes of March 19, 2018. Commissioner Edinger seconded the motion, there being no discussion and all being in favor, motion passed.

5. STAFF COMMENTS

Bill Greenwood: Soccer for K through 8th grade underway with 67 teams. Mini kickers are 3-4 year olds; nearly 100 kids participating. Swim lesson classes have filled up again. We have concluded adult softball registrations, with 100 teams. This past weekend we had scheduled the coed tournament, but had to call it since the fields were so saturated. We are in the middle of doing repairs at Ramsey due to the fabric at the dugout coming loose. League play for softball begins next week, registration for

summer dance started. And we will be presenting activities for kids on Kid's Day Saturday, May 19 at McEuen Park.

At Memorial Field we have a lot of action going on the trail has been paved. This project was going to pave to the edge of parking lot at the carousel, the rest we had funds set aside for parks capital and for trail work, we are able to give a stipend back to the project; the whole distance is done now. Our crew put up the structure for the playground, all foundation material in, not putting the platforms on it until we have fall material. Sports courts have been paved including pickle ball and futsal. We went out for requests for qualifications for firms that could do the work for a skate park type of design. We had four companies submit and only two qualified with the correct bonding and licensing; Evergreen and Grindline. The restroom is also going up in the middle of the park. The K27 memorial water feature grand opening is at 4:30 p.m., Tuesday, May 15 at McEuen Park. Chief White and the Mayor will be part of the unveiling. All the lighting is in place and features a thin blue line running through the middle of the pond, the waterfalls are lit up and it looks phenomenal. Clearwater Summit has done an excellent job, they really came through for us; the design is exceptional, it is a piece of art. Our crew installed the irrigation, bollards and chain, with signage on the chain to respect the memorial and stay out, on the backside there will be signs to try and keep people from going inside the chain. Concrete work is done around the memorial, our staff helped complete the work. In the next two weeks you'll see benches designed by Jon Mueller, there will be six around the feature. Benches are backless so you can look at the feature from all angles.

Commissioner Cranston: Could you fill us in on projects you have going on?

Greenwood: We are hiring seasonal employees with about half a dozen left to fill. We have opened all the restrooms, and charging the irrigation system at McEuen, our annual fertilizer order has come in, next week that will be laid down, pre-emergent was put in just before the rain. Getting ready to do some work at City Hall, we will be planting in the dirt areas, turf and plants.

Commissioner McDowell: The grass looks really green in the outfield at Memorial. How is the sod coming? Greenwood: It's coming along, we will talk to our seed supplier to check and see how much bluegrass is in that mix. Not sure how viable it is. Looks nice, the color is a little more rye than blue. We're waiting for warmer days to see.

Commissioner Edinger: Notice at Person Field the grass is nice and green. Will you start doing something else there? We don't need to do much there at all the irrigation and soil conditions at that field are really optimal. Come July it tends to dry out a bit, but the irrigation installation has helped keep the park greener.

6. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

None.

7. PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

Meeting recessed at 5:51 pm while audio/visual was worked on to correct malfunction. Meeting resumed at 6:01 pm without audio/visual.

8. ARBOR DAY CELEBRATION & ARBOR DAY ART CONTEST AWARD

Katie Kosanke: Arbor Day will be held on Friday, April 27, at North Idaho College campus at the corner of Hubbard and College Drive. There will be signage and we will be doing a tree planting at that location. We are combining with NIC as they are receiving the Tree Campus Award, similar to a Tree City USA award. They will be only the second campus in the state to receive the award. We have been working closely with NIC to help them meet the program requirements. Bill McElver has headed up their efforts and accreditation. They will receive their award and we will receive our 34th consecutive Tree City USA award. There will be seedlings given away, displays, a ceremonial tree planting, and free lunch. Activities start at Noon at NIC. Other Arbor Day events include a program scheduled at the library next Wednesday, and next Tuesday we will bag and tag all the seedlings for the 4th grade students, we have trees being planted on Tubbs Hill finishing this week by various volunteer groups. JD Reeves our seasonal Urban Forestry staff coordinated a volunteer tree planting and nature hike with the kids from Children's Village. They really enjoyed their time learning of tree species, plants, and wild flowers. Our volunteers are planting white pine and larch on the north and northeast part of Tubbs. It's been encouraging to see the plantings we planted in 2011 have grown to nearly five feet and more. This spring we are planting 80 seedlings.

Introduction of John Schwandt to talk about the Arbor Day button/sticker contest, this is the 32nd year for this program, John has headed since the start and more than 72,000 tree seedlings have been given out to 4th graders in those 32 years.

John Schwandt: The giving away of seedlings to 4th grade students throughout the county has been a long term project. All the school districts in the county are included at a cost of \$2,500 per year. No tax dollars go to this program, we have the support of some great sponsors: Avista Utilities, Specialty Tree Service, Idaho Forest Group, Potlatch Corporation, Inland Empire Paper, Stimson Lumber Company, Canon Industries, Northland Nursery, Hayden Discount Cinema, Out on a Limb Landscaping, and then some other community organizations, Master Gardeners and Venture High School sends their students over to help bag and tag the seedlings. Thank you to Idaho Department of Lands, BLM, and Parks and Recreation. On Tuesday, April 24, if you want to do something fun and get a free t-shirt, we could use some help bagging trees, it's a sloppy mess, wear dirty clothes; meet at the Idaho Department of Lands fire warehouse on Atlas Road. The Art Contest is to get more kids involved, other than the 4th graders, have them design a memento of each year, we invited junior and senior high school art classes to submit art to create a sticker or button to commemorate the special event. The artwork received is on display tonight. It's a tough art contest, we have a bunch of adults look over nearly 150 pieces of art trying to pick the top 6 or 8 they like the best, we take those to the 4th graders and they get to vote on the buttons. Amazing what the students come up with, the artwork is judged on quality and adhering to the annual slogan.

Commissioner Cranston was asked to help hand out some of the awards. The overall winners are: 1st Place Lauren Knobich, 2nd Place Sadie Thompson, 3rd Place Emily Romanowski, all from Coeur d'Alene High School. 4th Place Logan Koenig, 5th Place Tenaya Rumold both from Coeur d'Alene Charter High School, and 6th Place Carley Pratt of Lake City High School.

We also have an Arbor Day Poster Contest sponsored by Parker Toyota. Fifth graders design posters with the theme 'Trees are Terrific in Cities and Towns'. This year we received around 250 entries. We are always amazed by the great work these kids do. The winners of the poster contest are: 1st Place Eleni King of Fernan Elementary, 2nd Place Alia Lopachuk of Skyway Elementary, 3rd Place Kate Murray, Dalton Elementary, 4th Place Ashlynn Hartley, Ramsey Elementary, 5th Place Owen Perry, Borah Elementary, 6th Place Campbell Hancock, Atlas Elementary and 7th Place Jude Ronningen, Bryan Elementary.

Thank you to all who participated.

9. DOG SWIM AREA

Commissioner Cranston read the Staff Report for the record

Bill Greenwood: In the packet you have an outline of where the proposed area is and the property line. We've talked about adding a dog swim park, or area, for some time. Hubbard Park lends itself to providing this very easily. If you have been watching the Atlas Waterfront Project, we hope to have a swim area, but that is a few years out. We have people at the meeting tonight from the Kootenai County Dog Park Association. This park is used some, but not near as heavily as City Park.

Commissioner Cranston invited public comment at a 3 minute time limit.

Bob McDonald: 1407 Silver Beach Road; represents the Kootenai County Dog Park Association, and they appreciate all the time given to the dogs in our community. His dog Jake didn't care for the water, but many dogs enjoy water. 90% of the people surveyed some time ago wanted water access for their dogs, as well as our local residents. There is plenty of beach but no area for the dogs to get in the water. We ask for the commissions' approval and ask that the City consider passing this.

Commissioner McDowell: This seems like a no brainer, an area we aren't using heavily, a relatively quiet part of the beach that wouldn't disrupt other activity there, an easy and inexpensive way to provide dogs a place to swim. The water is shallow, not a deep area, provides a great opportunity for dogs to cool off in the summer.

Commissioner Edinger: Has a survey been done with the people in that area? Greenwood: He talked to the residents in the past, only one person didn't agree with the idea; that resident moved some time ago.

Commissioner Hart: How large is this the area? Greenwood: It's not quite a triangle at 100 x 200 feet.

Commissioner Cranston: What signage would be posted? Would signage help establish the boundaries? Greenwood: Dogs would be allowed to use this area and not prohibit use by anyone else. Currently dogs are only allowed on the trail, not on the beach. This is a quieter area, a good fit. We would have signs facing inward stating no dogs beyond this point, and probably three signs around the perimeter of the space.

Commissioner Edinger: An informal survey of tonight's audience, how many would like to see this dog swim area? Majority of those in the audience voted yes; there were no negative votes.

Motion by Commissioner McDowell, seconded by Commissioner Edinger to approve designating Hubbard Street Park as an off-leash dog swim area, there being no discussion and all being in agreement, motion passed.

Item will move forward to General Services.

10. ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Cranston asked for any additional comments.

Upcoming meeting dates:

- Tuesday, May 1, 2018: Workshop; Caruso's Deli, Coeur d'Alene – 11:30 am
- Monday, May 14, 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 6:25 pm.