



CITY OF COEUR D'ALENE

PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT

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PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION MINUTES

**June 19, 2017 – 5:30 p.m.
COMMUNITY ROOM - LIBRARY**

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Scott Cranston, Chair
Mike McDowell, Co-Chair
Ron Edinger
Jim Lien
Christie Wood

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Bridget Hill
Ginny Tate
Maya Burgess, Student Rep
Lily Foster, Alt Student Rep

STAFF PRESENT:

Bill Greenwood, Parks & Rec Director
Melissa Brandt, Administrative Assistant

GUESTS:

Rob Riley-Hooligan Island
Clint Cower-Hooligan Island
Mike Walker-Miller Stauffer

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 Lien led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. CONFLICT OF INTEREST

None.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commissioner McDowell made a motion to approve the minutes of April 17, 2017.
Commissioner Edinger seconded the motion, there being no discussion and all being in favor, motion passed.

5. STAFF COMMENTS

Greenwood reported the summer season is upon us, Ironman moved in today into the Museum parking lot, we have many large events this summer, gearing up for more. Reel Sportsman was held last weekend at McEuen Park. They hosted a televised bass tournament, with a big turnout. June 9th Family Fun day was held in City Park with opening of the carousel as part of the event, more than 1,000 people attended on and off throughout the day. Staff is working long hours covering all seven days a week.

Recreation has started more swim lessons and working to spread the lessons around to more public with a revised registration system.

6. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Commissioner Wood mentioned that May 5 marked the 2nd anniversary of Greg Moore's death. Fundraising for the K27 memorial continues with just \$60,000 left to cover Phase 1 in McEuen Park.

Commissioner Cranston shared that longtime Coeur d'Alene resident, Jon Mueller, just released his book "Public Park, Private Park" that tells the history of City Park. He encourages anyone who enjoys a good read and local history, to pick it up, available at Museum of North Idaho, the Well Read Moose, and John Mueller has copies available.

7. PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

8. PEDESTRIAN FRIENDLY STREET SIGNS

Pulled from agenda.

9. WATER BASED BUSINESSES

Greenwood introduced Rob Riley. A presentation similar to Tarzan Boat a couple meetings back. This business is Hooligan Island.

Rob Riley, 3039 West Baybury Court, Hayden and Clint Cower, 7400 North Sixteenth Street in Dalton Gardens. Thank you for the opportunity to present Hooligan Island. We are a water based amusement attraction providing fun activity for teenagers and young adults. Our design is to be in U.S. waterways. We would like to place an island on Coeur d'Alene Lake.

Discussions have been held with the Coast Guard, Army Corp of Engineers, and our engineers to ensure we are safe to operate on the lake with a kiosk for sales. The island stays in one place making it easier for emergency personnel to find us, that is different than Tarzan Boat. We have put together an emergency plan as request by the fire department.

Comments on Facebook and the Coeur d'Alene Press have centered on insurance and liability. We have six times the limit as asked for by the city in coverage and are covered for any possibility out on the lake. Coeur d'Alene would be our third location. There are islands on Lake Havasu, Nevada, and in St. George Utah.

Commissioner Cranston: Where in the city's jurisdiction? City Beach, with a companion kiosk on the shore. You need something available in City Park? Ideally we could operate and sell tickets outside City Park. We want a place for a security officer on land, but close to the island. The Police and Fire departments had concerns about how emergencies would be handled, having someone close by in City Park would be ideal.

Commissioner McDowell: How far offshore? We require 10 feet of water, so we would need to be about 100 feet off shore. Commissioner Cranston: How far off shore are the swim buoys? Greenwood, we have our no boat line about 200 feet off shore.

Commissioner McDowell: How would people get to the island? They would swim out. We would have life jackets for them to wear. If we can't be close enough, we would have a boat, a 6 pack to bring them out.

Commissioner Lien: You have submitted a safety plan to the Police Department? The Fire Department has asked us to have a public safety plan for the location. Greenwood, you have

an approved safety plan? No, not yet, we are putting it together. The uniqueness is that it is a new venture, we fit some requirements.

Commissioner Cranston: You've met with several other agencies, you've mentioned, Coast Guard, Army Corp of engineers, I'm assuming also marine deputies and Department of Lands. Would you relate their concerns? Most discussions have been cautionary and informative. We are seeking Coast Guard certification. It is costly, but we know it will be a good investment, they also gave us good direction on operating on Lake Coeur d'Alene outside the city's jurisdiction, they gave us ideas of what we can do, they suggested some changes to the railing and anchor lights. The Department of Lands was okay as long as we aren't encroaching on the seabed, we can operate in certain areas without limits on how long we can be in one place. According to Idaho Law, anyone can anchor out in the lake for as long as they want, there is legislation to change that, but it has never gone through.

Commissioner McDowell: I think that's true for personal watercraft, versus commercial watercraft? As long as it's not blocking a waterway it's okay. They don't have a lease for that? No. Our anchoring system is portable, we can move at any time. Who did you talk to? Jim Brady and Mike Garside.

Commissioner Cranston: Would this be anchored for a period of time, brought out and moved each day? We would leave it in one spot beginning Memorial weekend through Labor Day. At Lake Havasu we do move it daily due to their requirements. It's bulky and we'd like to keep it in one location.

Commissioner Lien: During off hours how would you keep people off? If someone had a boat high enough to go over the security fencing they could, however, we have security cameras, an alarm system, a notification system, and all ladders are removed each night. We would make it as difficult as possible for people to get on the boat.

Commissioner Wood: What is the history of your operations at Lake Havasu and St. George? There has been no history of accidents. The most asked question at both sights was that their share of the profits would be. As long as we had liability coverage, there were no real concerns. We've had some stubbed toes because people have climbed the ladder too fast.

Commissioner Cranston: This is the third or fourth water based business activity presented to us, most recently, Bill, what is the city process to create a revenue business? We've had at least four of these types of businesses asking questions about operating on the lake; Tarzan Boat, Treasure Island, Hooligan Island, and a hover board business. In order to consider this type of business, we would have to decide the type of activity we would allow. We can't allow boards or kayaks, it would compete with a lease we already have now. We would have to approve commercial activity on City Beach and put this out to bid. The commercial activity would have to have some restrictions and compliance with other jurisdictions such as county, and state.

Commissioner Cranston: Have you had any input from other departments? Greenwood, yes, a few weeks ago, we met with Rob Riley, and police, legal, fire, code enforcement, city clerk, and park superintendent. The Hooligan Island operations manual was handed out and there was a lot of discussion and concerns. Rob Riley indicated he had a safety plan to turn over to Glenn Lauper, that has not happened yet. There were some concerns about whether this needed to meet ADA requirements. Riley responded, according to the Coast Guard, ADA doesn't apply to this type of vessel. Police was concerned because they don't have a boat to get to the Island if there was a ruckus.

Commissioner McDowell: Your information is thorough, but there are still concerns. The process is lengthy, requires coordinating with Idaho Department of Lands regarding encroachment, and other agencies responsible for overseeing the Lake. A lot has to occur and we aren't ready to consider an opportunity like this, I don't feel we can move forward at this point.

Commissioner Wood: You might consider contacting Associated Students of North Idaho College regarding their beach they a recreation area. They may also have concerns, but it would be out of the mix at City Beach, yet still in a highly visible area. We actually tried that, we made numerous contacts, but was not able to talk to someone. We understand it will be a process. We plan on putting the island out there outside city jurisdiction in the next week, or week and a half, fully following Coast Guard rules. If we are outside the jurisdiction, the City doesn't make any money from us. We are entrepreneurs we will find a way to operate this summer. The NIC beach would be a great location, but City Beach would be the best overall.

Commissioner Cranston: Location is the issue for this commission to vet. We get a high amount of commercial and public activity on the beach. We would be concerned about the safety, and where an appropriate location would be. We haven't touched yet on lifeguards. We would have certified lifeguards who could help the public even if they aren't using the facility. We are from this area and want to operate here. Utah took us a week for all approvals. This has been by far the toughest city to work with. We don't want anyone getting hurt we spent a lot of time on our design to ensure we are safe. The trampoline was the biggest issue for our insurance company so we spent a lot of time designing this element. It paid off, we haven't had any injuries. As we go through this process, please understand with safety issues, we will work with police and fire to ensure safety we want to meet and exceed expectations. We would love to have that location.

Commissioner Edinger: Where else are you looking at putting these? We are working with Hayden Lake right now, not a federally controlled lake, it doesn't fall under the Coast Guard, and talking to Ponderay, Flathead Lake in Montana, and we hope to put them in many areas. Some locations we are waiting on final approval.

Commissioner Cranston: Will see what the Commission's pleasure is if there is a motion and what would be the next steps.

Commissioner McDowell: Summer is here, we wouldn't have anything available for this year. This process should have started in December. Is music associated with this? Yes, we do have audio. We won't let the music be too loud it would be hard for the lifeguards to hear.

Commissioner Lien: The City Beach area is already full of activity, others want that location. This process will take time. We prefer to be part of City Beach, to do business inside the city.

Commissioner Wood: The commission is not ready to make a decision. I'd like a report on how they are doing outside the city limits, such as financials, safety, and security. I hope you are successful there are too many concerns to move forward.

Motion by Commissioner Wood to not move forward with approval of water based businesses at City Beach; seconded by Commissioner Lien. Motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Cranston: We will continue to review this topic with more discussion at our July 5th workshop.

10. CHERRY HILL TENNIS COURTS

Staff is requesting the Parks & Recreation Commission approve the use of Parks Capital Improvement Funds to resurface the Cherry Hill Tennis Courts.

Greenwood stated it is critical to address some of the cracks before winter freezing and cracking. We have funds available in miscellaneous revenues, and it would be better to get this done this fiscal year, during September, instead of waiting.

Commissioner Cranston: Is there a bid process? There's only one company who does this type of work, we've used them before.

Commissioner Cranston: With CIF funds and Charter Academy's contribution, the amount would be \$40,500? Yes. We are trying to prioritize and this was high on the list from our workshop discussion.

Commissioner McDowell: Thank you Charter Academy for helping offset the costs.

Commissioner Edinger: Have you approached the Pickleball people about making a contribution? They have not offered up a contribution.

Motion by Commissioner Lien to approve the use of Parks Capital Improvement Funds to resurface the Cherry Hill Tennis courts, seconded by Commissioner McDowell. Motion passed unanimously.

11. VETERANS CENTENNIAL MASTER PLAN

Greenwood introduced Mike Walker of Miller Stauffer who presented the master plan for Veterans Centennial Park. Mike Kempton has been the driving force in the Natural Open Space Committee, and could not be here tonight. Mike Walker developed the plan.

Mike Walker: As a member of your ad hoc committee for Natural Open Space, this property has been under our charge directly and indirectly. We were asked to put together a master plan for the city's open space. This property was acquired in 1999 and has been on the back burner for a while. The committee put together a conceptual master plan and I donated my time to put together these drawings to be brought forth to the Commission. The site sits on Fernan Hill Road. We identified several areas and uses that would work well with this site, the first identified issue was the site has poor access for the public, including a parking lot will formalize access to the location. The city gained a right of way, currently access is through a dirt road that goes through other properties. We want to work within the property boundaries the city has jurisdiction to, and propose a 24 foot driveway, a parking lot with generous minimal impact landscape. The parking lot would have just a few parking spaces and possibly expand as use increases. The character of lot would be natural landscape, large trees for shade, creating a screen buffer for the neighbors. Next to the parking lot we wanted to create a play area, there are no city parks within close proximity to this neighborhood. The playground would be part of the natural landscape, nothing that will stand out, embedded into the natural environment, with use of natural items. Basic amenities would include a vault restroom, very low maintenance. Being the park is named Veterans Centennial, we would create a private garden with accessibility to the parking lot, create an area that would be a memorial garden with statues, a plaza, pedestrian trails, but integrated into the natural landscape, a way to dedicate an area for Veterans. Other basic amenities would include a simple 30x30 pavilion to allow user groups to use the park, keep it simple for cost reasons and to minimize impact. Propose a natural amphitheater built into the natural garden, with a gravel walking path and grassy knolls to sit on. Potential stage at the bottom so school groups could be out there with, for example, Fish & Game participating in informal discussion. Open play area. Preserve the openness of the current site preserve the views and vistas, retaining the natural area there. Good area for walking paths, good location for art at that site in the future. A small wildflower area not needing maintenance, a rain garden, through walking the site and tours with the group, this portion has natural spring cattails in the area. Create an area that would collect storm water in heavy rain events that would allow species of trees and plants that need more water, not standing water, just a depression in the ground with trees on the outer edge. Create a dry creek bed. Potential for some small bridges, encourage some historic elements into this site, like a railroad trestle. The existing natural forest would see some clean up tree falls cleared, and expand the trails to 4 foot walking paths. The boundary portion, planting trees, create some diversity in the

area, as well as creating benches and nice spots for people to stop and take a break. The Moscow arboretum is a great example and very successful. The City doesn't have anything like the arboretum, this area would be a good candidate. We would have the Native Plant Society give input for native plants in the area. Encourage low shrubbery to preserve the views of the site.

Commissioner Lien: Would there be any irrigation? No, only around the parking lot itself, we would have to provide some water service for the restroom, trying to stay natural and limit the overall maintenance and construction cost.

Commissioner Edinger: Any estimate of cost? No, this is our effort to have a master plan for the site, we didn't think the city would approve all these ideas in one shot. Volunteers developed this plan over a period of several years. We felt there needed to be a plan to ensure trees and trails were part of a concept.

Commissioner Cranston: Thank you for your time, effort, and talent. This is a great beginning.

Commissioner Wood: This is concept only, no funds are attached to it, is it mandatory for it to be developed? Greenwood commented it has been identified as property for a park, not an active use park, I believe this is what the donor had in mind. Active use is a ball field, this is a passive use park. We always thought the arboretum and amphitheater would be a great idea for this area. Mike has done an excellent job. The committee has been working on this for a couple years, and I believe we are in line with the gift.

Commissioner Wood: Beautiful the way you have done it, will have some input from the public tonight, mainly their concern about the impact on wildlife.

Commissioner McDowell: Great work, we have a lot of neighbors who are here to share. Walker stated the plan is conceptual to stay within the natural open spaces realm and get information out to start the dialogue. We are an ad hoc committee to the Parks & Recreation Commission. We wanted to bring this to you to gain comments from the neighbors to see if they are interested, we hope so, good use of the location, but everyone will have an opinion.

Walt Richard-907 North Victorian Drive. My property is just above the area bordering the park. I came here 25 years ago, I was excited about the park, but concerned it had been donated to the City with the stipulation it was never to be developed. I went to Kootenai County to get the form filed by Mrs. Vanderlaken and it states the property is to remain as natural as possible. Beautiful presentation, but I'm representing many people on the Victorian drive home area. We've enjoyed the park and the wildlife in the area, and hold the area in high esteem. The area is very low crime, one burglary in 25 years. The park is fully utilized, mushroom hunters, hiking, people flying kites, the park is open. There is a legal matter and an emotional matter, legal if the city goes against the wishes of the donor. The park is open many say they don't know about it, if the city wants to let the people know, get more information out to the public that it is there. You don't have to have asphalt, plumbing, etc., to make this work. Many years ago there were homeless people camping in the area attracting more people, there will be issues. If restrooms go in homeless people will be going through garbage cans and it will be very difficult for law enforcement. The park is working right now, we want it left the way it is. Field trips can go up there, that's fine. Tax dollars are much better suited to fix potholes, buying snow plows. Don't fix it, it's not broken. Mike Walker talked about cattails and wetland. We have a French drain at my house and I planted the cattails there is no wetland there. Emma Vanderlaken made the request in writing, that it remain in its natural state as much as possible. The city is in violation for suggesting this.

Commissioner Lien: I don't live there, how would I access it? You park on Victorian drive where the cul de sac is, it's graveled, they can park there, anywhere around the terrain, walk 60 feet, you are in the park. Is there any signage up there? Yes, at the cul de sac there is a sign, and on the south side, there is a sign. We invite the public to come up. We don't get a lot of traffic, so we won't like that much, we are very comfortable and secure. If this plan goes ahead and it's legal, we ask you to consider replacing those trails. For the last 25 years they aren't within 50 feet of our houses. The property line is 25 feet from my home, if someone was hiking back there, they would be right outside our property.

Commissioner Cranston: How much maintenance does the parks department do? Greenwood replied we are up there 4 or 5 times a year. I will pull the Vanderlaken agreement. This development being show here is conceptual. You as commissioners know about providing opportunities for our public, all ideas and concepts can be modified. We will be promoting this park as most people don't know it's there. There isn't a place at Victorian to park. If we develop, we will need some place to park. I will search out the document and take a look at it.

Ron Jones-3106 Fernan Hill Road. I have a copy of the original document dated in 1989. Emma donates it as a park, very specific, this park shall be retained in as natural state as possible. This will be a war of semantics, that's all it's going to go to lawyers.

Bill Meyerholtz-921 Victorian Drive. My property also borders the park. The park isn't well known, you have to have this as your destination, going up the hill to go to that park. I agree with the things said, wildlife is enjoyable, hopeful more people will take advantage of seeing it they are welcome to come up there. Not an easy place to get to, but people can get there. I am encouraged by the work done and the words I heard to be low impact and natural, I agree. Open undeveloped green space plays an important role in our City. The master plan mentions planting more trees, I have somewhat of a view and with the trees they want to plant you won't have much vista. Lovely view, hate to see that restricted. Perhaps more promotion of this park, changing it in the way I've heard, is not compelling to me that it would be more valuable to people than what it is right now.

Pete Erbland-3007 Fernan Hill Road. My driveway is used to access the park, I've lived there for 29 years, I live in the house the Vanerlaken grew up in. The property was deeded to the City of Coeur d'Alene with restriction. I am an attorney, I represent the city in other unrelated matters, I am here as a private citizen. The work done is great to show what this park would look like. When I look at the deed, as a private citizen, the deed does say to encourage development of a park Emma Vaderlaken did want a restriction to be as natural as possible. We don't have any problem with people using our driveway to access it, it's fine, more signage would be helpful. Use our driveway for signage, no problem with that. I'm grateful for this gift more people should have access and use it. I walked the fields with Emma and she would say she wants it as natural as possible. This tremendous gift is to be used by people who want this natural experience. I would personally work with the folks on the committee to see what we can do to encourage people to use it in its natural state.

Commissioner McDowell: If we keep this as a city park in as natural way as possible, do you think having this parking lot is not what she would want? There is a 60 foot right of way that was deeded to the city to ensure access. People do need a place to park when they come up there, does it need to be paved, no, it could be gravel, or right now its weeds. To the extent the committee wants to have input from us I would be open to that and not be the "not in my back yard" guy.

Josephine Jackson-800 Tuscan Lane. Beautiful job, if I was to donate land, I would like this to be done but to keep to what is a restriction by the donor, has to follow the chain of title, and it's absolutely clear that this park is to be retained in as natural state as possible, not probably, or maybe, it is clear and immutable in the trust of the laws of this country. To honor Veterans, we must honor her wishes. We have been at our property for 2 years. There are neighbors who knew Emma Vanderlaken very well and told them how she felt about the property. Noxious weed control needs to be taken care of, there are some in the park, and in the wooded area in the master plan it mentions there is a fuel source problem in the area, the City should attend to that, park or no park, under jurisdiction of the city, the area is a. Noxious weed and fuel source needs to be taken care of. The area mentioned for the amphitheater looks right inside our bedroom window. Once it's built, how do you control sound and when used. The homeless situation is real, we had to clear the fence line and uncovered a homeless campsite tucked up, hidden, a public toilet will not help. Why don't we already have interpretive signs? We have a working farm. We love the elk coming by and the wildlife coming through. If this goes through you will have to have a trespass proof fence, with expense incurred by the City. This design I would love if I ever donated land.

Archie Gray-922 North Veranda. I am a neighbor, and professional forester, I work for Idaho Department of Lands. There are forest health concerns there and misconceptions as to what is truly natural. Very little is considered in its natural space. The natural space wouldn't have those species and that density. Last year I walked down there a bit. There is plenty of room for a fire to take off from a homeless camp spreading to the homes very quickly. The city mowing helps. The noxious weeds are an issue. The idea of an arboretum, but as natural as possible, importing all kinds of species is pseudo-natural. Wildflower species would not be natural. Let nature take care of its self.

Commissioner Cranston: Conceptual plan, rolled out tonight in first official format, will have extensive discussion moving forward. No funding at this time.

Commissioner Wood: What can we do to address the noxious weeds and the forest area? Greenwood replied we have been leaving it in its natural state, the forest health is poor, we had plans to go in and cut and grind some things up. We do go in and mow, trying to keep the weeds down, we have not sprayed. What about fire smart funds, is there money to address fire? The Fernan area is being looked at for fire smart. Staff has looked at grants to deal with wildfire issues there. Glen Lauper and I have met with homeowners up in the area, a plan was adopted. We will look funding, grant processes take a while, staff is busy, but we can see if there's anything available this summer. This presentation was an information item, not an action item we need a public meeting to get more input.

Commissioner Cranston: We had discussed continuing the discussion of this area with the public and the Commission. Those in the audience we would want to participate in an open house or workshop to discuss in more detail. Getting more input from you, what you want to see or not see there. We will plan to use a regular Monday evening informal meeting in August or September to gather and exchange ideas. We may walk the park prior to that meeting.

Commissioner McDowell: Maybe some parking and signage, clean up for forest health and safety would do a lot.

Commissioner Edinger: Keeping it as some people have mentioned keeping it in a natural state, Tubbs Hill we have kept in a natural state, maybe this piece of property would fall in that category.

12. VFW DOUBLE DEPTH BURIALS

Greenwood shared information on lots from an agreement that dates back to 1942. The VFW pays the City \$75 for each lot, as they sell them, and those payments go to lots not yet paid for. Double depth burials go 10 feet deep. We had been contracting with Wilbert Vault out of Spokane to perform these burials. Wilbert was contacted by OSHA that they could not do these burials anymore. These lots are at-need. When someone passes, they get the next spot in line. The lots are very close together because they are dug so deep. These remaining lots will no longer be double depth, we will do single depth. The VFW has a niche wall that is about 50% full, and we have an opportunity to put in niche walls to add more spaces. The VFW will lose some lot locations due to the change from double to single. Office staff will receive lot payments and manage the sale for them. We are trying to correct some mistakes that have taken place. VFW members can now purchase pre-need lots, they can choose the lot they want.

Commissioner Wood: Are these just sold to military? They have to be veterans of the VFW, a member in good standing. The VFW provides a letter stating they are a member in good standing before they are able to purchase a lot.

Commissioner Cranston: Any other cemetery comments. Yes, we have put in a niche wall installed this spring, closer to Government Way, near the first cross-road. We have already sold 10-12. We have some ideas for other locations as we move forward. Prior to Memorial Day, the soldier statue in Old Post was been refurbished with a new walk way. We still have, and offer, the walking tours and we have school groups who do clean up in the fall.

13. ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Cranston asked for any additional comments. Upcoming meeting dates:

- Wednesday July 5, 2017 – Workshop – Caruso's Deli, Coeur d'Alene – 11:30 am
- Monday July 17, 2017 – Meeting - Community Room at the Library – 5:30 p.m.

Commissioner Edinger made a motion to adjourn the meeting with Commissioner McDowell seconding the motion. All were in favor, motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 7:38 pm.