



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

June 20th, 2016 – 5:30 p.m.
COMMUNITY ROOM - LIBRARY

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Scott Cranston, Chair
Ginny Tate
Mike McDowell
Jim Lien
Ron Edinger
Bridget Hill
Christie Wood
Maxwell Evans, Student Representative

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Maya Burgess, Alt. Student Representative

STAFF PRESENT:

Bill Greenwood, Parks & Rec Director
Paula Austin, Recreation Superintendent
Sam Lapresta, Parks Superintendent
Howard Gould, Building Maint. Supervisor
Chenoa Dahlberg, Administrative Assistant

GUESTS:

Phil Boyd
Bob MacDonald

CALL TO ORDER: Commissioner Cranston called the meeting to order at 5:36 p.m.

1. ROLL CALL

Eight members were 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 Tate made a motion to approve the minutes of April 5th, 2016.
Commissioner McDowell seconded the motion, there being no discussion and all being in favor, motion passed.

5. STAFF COMMENTS

Paula Austin spoke about the current Recreation Department programs, the youth activities and the new adult activities. She spoke about the 'take flight' program and reminded everyone of the Kiddie's Parade on July 1st.

Bill Greenwood introduced Sam Lapresta, the new Parks Superintendent. He then gave an update on the seawall project and other work being done. He gave a reminder of the IronKids event on June 25th. He introduced Howard Gould to give a presentation/update on the Jewett House. Commissioner Cranston asked Bill about Ironman and Bill updated the commission on the changes, layout and impact of the first half-Ironman in Coeur d'Alene. He explained the route change to lessen the impact in the downtown area. Howard then gave a power point presentation and history of the Jewett House. The storm damage to the property was estimated at \$

162,500. The contractor was able to reconstruct the porch to match the original design from 1917. He also gave updates on the ADA access, energy efficiency and safety.

6. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Commissioner Cranston welcomed Christie Wood to the commission.

7. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

8. RIVER TRAIL

Bill Greenwood provided the commission with an update on the River Trail corridor. He explained the grant that had been applied for, and that there would be two pieces to the project. He gave a power point presentation. He noted that the area surrounding/near the existing Johnson Mill River Park would be addressed at a later date. He then went on to speak about some creative ideas for the park and space usage. Commissioner Cranston asked about the timeline and Bill stated that the grant would be awarded this winter, and if we were selected work could start late spring next year.

9. DOG PARK AT G.O. PHIPPENY PARK

Commissioner Cranston read aloud the staff report. Bill showed the specific location of the park on the overhead and spoke about the history of this location and the source of funding. He also explained that approx. 65 door hangers were placed in the neighborhood making folks aware of the request for a dog park at this location. Public Comment was then taken. Bill had Chenoa Dahlberg read into the record the comments received via phone call from Steve & Patty at 907 8th Street who were not in favor of the dog park, and also Mr. Steele who resides across from the park, who was also not in favor of a dog park at this location and suggested a small water play area for the children. (See attached)

Linda Nelson – 523 Montana Ave.

She has collected 23 signatures on her petition in support of the dog park. She feels there is a need for a safe place in the park for pet, as well as the existing uses. She has witnessed numerous families bringing their pets to the park with them. She explained that the police are constantly stopping and reminded folks that dogs are not allowed in the park. She added that this is a nice little park that can be shared.

Bob MacDonald – 1407 Silver Beach Rd

He feels that the space designated is too small and needs to be larger. He added that the uses are disbursed throughout the park and that pets are 'family friendly'. He does support a dog park at this location for the neighborhood and referenced that this type of use discourages illegal or shady activity from occurring at parks.

Hildegard Pohl – 816 N 8th Street

She feels the park is too small and that McEuen is nearby and hardly ever used. She wants to see a small pool or water park area for the children. She feels this would be much more useful than a dog park and noted that there are no public pools for the children in the City.

Dean – 601 E Montana

Dean explained that he met Linda when they moved in across from her about a year ago. He added that he has lived many places and that Linda loves her pets. He stated that this is a family park and that there is no illegal activity. He walks by the park often and doesn't feel the dog park would be a detriment to the area. Feels it would be a nice improvement.

There being no further comments the commission entered a lengthy discussion about the surface type of the dog park, materials being used in-house and work being done by contractors, the increase of workload on staff and whether adding a dog park will deter dogs in

the open park area or increase it. Bill added that often it can increase bad behavior from owners who are irresponsible. Questions about maintenance, hours of operation, size, access to the existing arboretum, concerned about it being a 'tight fit' and the impact on the neighborhood. There was a discussion about a 'trail or temporary' basis. Councilmen Edinger asked about the survey numbers. There were 23 signatures on the petition, 3 speaking tonight about support and 3 speaking against. So Bill explained that there were more people in favor than against. There was a discussion about the costs, source of funding and whether the decision tonight would set precedence in other neighborhoods for dog parks. Commissioner Lien noted that the dog park would be a compromise to make all user groups happy. Bill added that dog parks work and people love them. There was a discussion about the amount of funds left in the endowment and potential other uses for them. There was a discussion about a water park/splash pad for the children. Commissioner Hill asked Bill what his reservations or concerns would be and Bill stated that it creates more clean-up for his staff. There were concerns addressed for the impact on the residential neighborhood surrounding the park. Bill added that if problems arise the City can shut down the use of the dog park area. Commissioner Wood suggested that Linda start a neighborhood watch group. Commissioner Hill had the concern of more dogs off leash when Dog Park is put in. Commissioner Cranston presented the commission 3 voting options. 1 – Approve the request; 2 – deny the request; and 3 – table the request. There being no further discussion, Commissioner McDowell made a motion to recommend to General Services the installation of a fenced off-leash dog park at G.O. Phippeny Park. Commissioner Tate seconded the motion, all were in favor, motion passed.

10. DOG PARK ART

Bill noted that the Park & Recreation Commissioners had viewed the proposed art piece prior to tonight's meeting. He explained that Kootenai County Dog Park Association (KCDPA) is requesting the Art Commission place this piece of art at the McEuen Dog Park. Bob MacDonald spoke about the location for the art piece, the meaning behind the art piece, the construction and design of the art piece, and how this location was chosen. He explained it is an added feature for pet owners. Bob introduced the artist, Jason, and he spoke about the construction, materials and treatments to the metal. There was a question about maintenance costs and Bill advised the commission that the Arts Commission has funds for these purposes. Commissioner Lien made a motion to approve the recommended location and accept the art and Councilmen Edinger seconded with all being in favor.

11. CITY/COUNTY PARKING AT BLM/4 CORNERS

Bill gave the history of this request and the partnership with the county. He added that this will change some elements in the existing plan and introduced Phil Boyd to give a power point presentation and inform the commission of the changes. He spoke about the # of parking spaces, funding by the County for the construction and that the City would collect the revenue after hours. There was a lengthy discussion about the use, # of spaces, hours of county use, entrance/exit areas, and that a traffic study is needed. There were major concerns vocalized about pedestrian crossings, exiting the parking area onto NW Blvd, and the various options that are being looked at. Phil showed the reorientation of uses in the BLM area and a discussion about layout, design and orientation of Memorial Field. There was also a discussion about a parking garage versus linear parking. Phil spoke about the safety items that would be built into the access points across NW Blvd. He explained that the first step is to take it to the County with the cost estimate. And if they support it then it would go to City Council. Phil anticipated that this would occur mid to late August. Commissioner Hill and Commissioner Cranston thanked Phil for his presentation and the detail in the work.

12. ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Cranston announced the upcoming meetings:

- Tuesday July 5th, 2016 – Workshop – Caruso’s Deli – Coeur d’Alene
- Monday July 18th, 2016 – Meeting - Community Room at the Library – 5:30 p.m.

Commissioner Edinger made a motion to adjourn the meeting with Commissioner Lien seconding the motion. All were in favor, motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 7:43 p.m.