



CITY OF COEUR D'ALENE

PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT

CITY HALL, 710 E. MULLAN AVENUE
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PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION MINUTES

July 19, 2021 – 5:30 p.m.
COMMUNITY ROOM - LIBRARY

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Scott Cranston, Chair
Jim Lien
Ginny Tate
Mike McDowell
Christie Wood

STAFF PRESENT:

Bill Greenwood, Parks & Recreation Director
Nick Goodwin, Urban Forester
Monte McCully, Trail Coordinator
Melissa Brandt, Transcriptionist

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Bridget Hill
Eleanor Tenbrink, Student Rep

GUESTS:

Dave Yadon
Dave Taylor

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

1. ROLL CALL

Five members present, resulting in a quorum.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Commissioner Lien led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. CONFLICT OF INTEREST

None.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – *Action Item*

Commissioner McDowell made a motion to approve the minutes of April 19, 2021.
Commissioner Tate seconded the motion, there being no discussion and all being in favor, motion passed unanimously.

5. STAFF COMMENTS

Director Greenwood: Recreation running strong, adult softball winding down with 1,200 participants, 300 participants in youth softball, had 25 kids taking golf lessons. Adult pickleball lessons started in June, second round going now with 90 total participants. Our next swim registration is on July 26. Recreation is planning a community yard sale on August 21 in the lower parking lot at city hall. Earlier this month the Inland Northwest Pickleball Club held a tournament at Cherry Hill with more than 300 participants. Park vandalism is at an all-time high; we've never seen it this bad. July 10 & 11 we had a rash of vandalism that took place, at Bluegrass fixtures were torn from the walls, at Landings people defecated in the sink, Atlas Mill Park women's restroom we've had someone smearing feces on the walls on an almost regular basis, someone

kicked in the restroom doors at McEuen and 15 sprinkler heads were pulled out at McEuen as well. We don't have enough staff to fix and repair all of these repairs in a timely manner so we have been bringing in porta-potties at many locations and locking up the restrooms. Person Field restroom has been shut down a couple times this year due to vandalism. We don't have cameras at outlying parks, we do have ability the ability to install them at Atlas Mill Park. Even with cameras on the outside of buildings it is difficult to track who is doing the damage. We keep in touch with our police department as there are some usual suspects that have been found doing the same type of damage, we are trying to figure out a way to catch these perpetrators. Restitution hasn't worked well quite often they are minors. Cameras may be the solution, but we are not currently able to afford them. We are outsourcing restroom lock up, they call us and report the damages. Our staff works really hard, and take a lot of pride in what they do, they treat the parks and facilities like their own, it is very discouraging for them, but they keep on. July 4th was good this year. Carnival rides set up on Thursday, tuned up on Friday, Saturday and Sunday were festivities, 104 overtime hours, regular hours of 96. Instead of doing their normal routine, staff were in City Park helping with the event. July 5th, we had overtime of 32 hours cleaning up the park. City Park recovers really well. We received recognition for Atlas Park at the 2021 Association of Idaho Counties, we were awarded the Garrett Nancolas City Achievement Award. We are working with Rotary on the Sherman square parcel the MOU is about complete so this will start moving forward, we hope to break some ground the end of this summer. We will utilize some of the parking spaces to bring the park out and power will be available. Our crew and the street department have been working on the two East Sherman parcels, the one near 15th is complete, the other is further down East Sherman near Moon Time. The sidewalk, parking lot, and light poles, and irrigation are complete, we are waiting for power to be onsite. A dozen or so trees will be planted in a couple weeks. We are watering every other day, so you may see some of the parks starting to look a little dry. There isn't a problem with the aquifer it's the demand on the system, hard to keep up.

Commissioner Cranston: Has there been any recreation softball taking place at memorial? Greenwood: It has been used internally and by NIC. Commissioner Cranston: Thank you and your team for all the work you do especially with the shortage of staff, and all the issues going on. Greenwood: our park superintendent has done a great job keep morale up.

Commissioner Wood: Is the parcel at 15th open? Greenwood: Not yet, trying to get the grass going in the heat has slowed growth down. Just green space at this time. The Moon Time location is further out by about a month, power should be on in about a week. Porta potty structure to build, we milled the wood ourselves and will use that wood to build the structure. Commissioner Wood: You have done an amazing job with the difficulties you faced.

6. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

None.

7. PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

8. TUBBS HILL AMBASSADORS – Information Item

Greenwood: Dave Yadon and Dave Taylor, President and Vice President of the Tubbs Hill Foundation. Came up with the idea of an ambassador program. Talked through this program and wanted to give some public awareness. Yadon: Tubbs Hill is loved to death, we had a discussion regarding ambassadors to educate the public about the hill, want to be partners with the city. Covid came along and the use of Tubbs was very busy. We started talking with folks and we put together some vests for folks to wear, went through some training, who to call if there are issues. We are there to give information and be the eyes on the hill. Identify for the city some areas that need some work, signage issues, trail erosion, patterns where dogs are taken off leash. In summer a lot of people want to hike there, fine tune the program over time. Amazing how many people hike the hill. We have been keeping the staff very busy, they have really stepped up and supported our efforts, kudos to them for helping us with few people. Greenwood: They have stepped up the game of what is going on at the hill. Cleared off trails, helped when trees came down from the windstorms.

Commissioner Wood: Fortunate to have the friends of Tubbs Hill in this community. Ambassador program seen as a huge resource for public safety. Helpful knowing where to find trails; meet the contacts at police and fire. Be good stewards of the hill.

Commissioner McDowell: How many hours will you have people on the hill? Volunteers during specific times? Yadon: Volunteers available a bit free form at the time. Some are out there for 6 hours or more picking up garbage. A lot of volunteer hours going into it. Taylor: Adjusting times that folks are on the hill so they are more available, heat has been an issue. Couple hours each day.

Commissioner Tate: Appreciate what you are doing with the heat and the fire danger. You are unknowingly heading off many problems.

Commissioner Cranston: Let us know how we can help, get the word out.

Commissioner McDowell: Do you need more volunteers? Yadon: We do have a mailing list we get the word out. We have folks who see us up there asking how they can help. After summer we may have an idea as to what we need to do to stay productive.

9. FERNAN FIRE REDUCTION – Information Item

Nick Goodwin: Update and overview of the Fernan fuel reduction work. Public safety in the event of wildfire. Urban interface program to keep fire risk down in this area. Multiple groups have been a part of this project, Idaho Department of Lands grant program, property owners including the City and private landowners. Objective is to help save lives and protect property. The project is taking place on 29 total acres with 13 acres slated to be mechanically treated and 14 acres of hand fuels treatments. We are creating a zone of protection. Weather and fire danger has hindered the mechanical treatments, we are hoping to complete this fall. This grant will go into 2023, if we have to postpone, we can do so. Assured by the county to file for extension. Burning will take place in the fall if safe to do so. Non-native species will be removed and follow up with planting of native species.

Commissioner Wood: Is this a federal grant and does it encompass any of the natural park? Goodwin: Yes, this is a grant and a multi-agency project. Does not encompass Veterans Centennial Park. The current area is the highest area of need.

10. CANCOURSE – Action Item

Commissioner Cranston read the staff report for the record.

McCully: Many people use the trails at Canfield to access the national forest. We had approached the former property owner about getting an easement through his property to join the city's trail system with the forest property, and, at one time there was a plan to develop the property. Jason Evans purchased the property and wanted to work with the city to give access and open the property up to the public. This area will act as a natural area for public use. Greenwood: We met with the HOA in that area and talked about the Cancourse and the natural park area that has been established for at least 15 years. The biggest concern is all the cars and parking on the street. We have added more informational signs in the neighborhood to give trail users ideas where to park, this has been agreeable with the neighbors we have talked to. McCully: Also, in regard to Fernan trails, we have been fortunate to have Mark Jones, a teacher with New Vision High School, bring his students and work on the trails all summer long, into the fall and winter, for the last 4 years helping; kudos to him.

Commissioner Wood: How far along is the discussion for the MOU with the Sheriff?
Greenwood: Covid put this on delay, we worked up this agreement with him, and I have been in contact with Sheriff Norris. They have a similar agreement with a park in Post Falls. Reviewed by our attorney to meet the needs of the city.

Commissioner McDowell: Nice view of the city, great addition of this property. Getting a lot of use, relatively unknown, somewhat like Fernan is now. Heightened use of the property and may take some pressure off Tubbs Hill.

Commissioner Cranston: Linking the trail to the forest a great piece for the public.

Commissioner McDowell made a motion to recommend that City Council enter into an MOU with Jason Evans to manage the Cancourse as a City natural park and Kootenai County Sheriff's Department for a law enforcement mutual aid agreement to enforce established rules, Commissioner Tate seconded the motion, there being no discussion and all being in favor, motion passed unanimously. This item will go to General Services next Monday.

11. MEETINGS / ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Cranston asked for any additional comments.

Upcoming meeting dates:

- Tuesday, August 3, 2021; 11:30 a.m., Workshop; Conf Rm 6 City Hall
- Monday, August 16, 2021: 5:30 p.m., Meeting; Library Community Room

Commissioner Lien made a motion to adjourn the meeting with Commissioner Wood seconding the motion. There being no further discussion, motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 6:37 pm.