



# CITY OF COEUR D'ALENE

PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT

CITY HALL, 710 E. MULLAN AVENUE  
COEUR D'ALENE, IDAHO 83816-3964  
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## PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION MINUTES

October 17, 2022 – 5:30 p.m.  
COMMUNITY ROOM - LIBRARY

### **MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Mike McDowell, Co-Chair  
Jim Lien  
Ginny Tate  
Bridget Hill

### **ABSENT:**

Scott Cranston, Chair  
Warren Bakes  
Christie Wood

### **STAFF PRESENT:**

Bill Greenwood, Parks & Recreation Director  
Melissa Brandt, Transcriptionist

### **GUESTS:**

Tinka Schaffer, Panhandle Parks Foundation  
Sandy Young, Panhandle Parks Foundation

**CALL TO ORDER:** Commissioner McDowell called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

### **1. ROLL CALL**

Four 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 Lien made a motion to approve the minutes of July 18, 2022.  
Commissioner Tate seconded the motion, there being no discussion and all being in favor, motion passed unanimously.

### **5. STAFF COMMENTS**

Director Greenwood: Strike agenda item 9, we will move this to the November meeting. In coordination with Bryan Green of Aktiv Solutions they have donated, to the Panhandle Parks Foundation, some outdoor exercise equipment near Riverstone. A sign with a QR code will be added that allows users to obtain online instructions on use of the equipment. The restroom at Person Field is now open. It has been under construction for some time. It is similar to the City Park building. It includes an ADA ramp, drinking fountain, and we will install an ADA ramp off of Garden. In the future we will change the parking in that area as per our master plan, that has also included adding playground equipment and planting trees. In the cemetery we have installed two new niche walls. After elimination of an old cart path a couple years ago, we

anticipate being able to add another fifteen (15) walls over the next several years. We started selling the niches in September and have already sold twelve (12) niches. A citizen suggested to Councilman McEvers that a phone charger for at the skatepark would be a great addition. Our building maintenance staff, Adam Korytko and Tom Franklin turned an outlet into a USB hub and incorporated an old skateboard as part of the charging tower. The ice rink is being built and will be running the first weekend in November. Ignite helped with some repairs at the library, refurbished and resurfaced the stairs by the library. Last Saturday we recognized and dedicated a memorial bench area for Dwight Bershaw at the base of Tubbs Hill in McEuen park, it turned out very nice. Sunset Rotary spearheaded this with Sandy Emerson directing, all was completed with donations.

## **6. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS**

Commissioner McDowell: Is the vandalism subsiding at the parks and has anyone been caught? Director Greenwood: The kids who started a fire at the Bluegrass playground were caught, we will be seeking financial restitution. They burned one component that will be replaced this fall. We definitely saw an increase in vandalism this year, it was especially bad. Our staff is quick to clean up the messes so we don't usually make it public. This year we did speak to it more in the media, asking the public to keep their eyes and ears open and report anything they saw. Our staff are proud of what they do, they put their heart and soul into the work and vandalism is very discouraging. This year we had to lock up restrooms because we just didn't have the time to address the mess until later in the day or even the next day. We no longer try to work with the kids to pick up trash, etc., just doesn't seem to make an impact and it takes more staff time to keep them busy and motivated. Financial restitution works to get something in return. Commissioner McDowell: We appreciate what staff are dealing with and the great job they do.

Commissioner Tate: Just wanted to take a moment to recognize the loss of Chris Guggemos, knew him for a number of years. Not sure anyone can take his place in running the concert series. Director Greenwood: We have been approached by a number of people regarding Chris and the concert series. We are working with folks in the background to provide a memorial for Chris, and in regards to the concert series as well. We will keep you posted.

## **7. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Mike Gridley, 610 South Dollar Street, came to talk to Bill Greenwood complimenting the great job the department is doing and the dog park at Atlas Park. So much fun seeing small and big dogs playing in the water. Doing a great job. Also involved in a project to provide a riverfront water trail to Johnson Mill River, will stay in touch with Bill throughout the process. Thank you for a wonderful park system.

## **8. PANHANDLE PARKS FOUNDATION** – *Information Item*

Director Greenwood: Tinka Schaffer and Sandy Young are here from the Panhandle Parks Foundation to give an update. Sandy Young: This weekend we were able to watch people utilizing the new exercise equipment at Riverstone. Was great to see. The Foundation is dedicated to enhancing the parks, facilitating acquisitions of park open space, and work with the City to make sure we are giving a helping hand to the Parks Department for donors and donations. The board consists of Sandy Young, President, Shawn Bennett, Vice President, Corky Meyer, Erika Grubbs, Dr. Don Chisholm, Wes Beach, Bill Greenwood is our liaison, and

Tinka Schaffer is an ex-officio board member. Ninety-four percent (94%) of the money we bring in goes back into the mission. We have no overhead. There are no paid employees, we have a contracted bookkeeper, and a CPA files our tax return for us and Tinka is a volunteer. Land holdings are Veterans Centennial Park and the Fernan Natural area preserved open spaces into perpetuity. Land comes to the PPF we hold by deed, then the city applies for grants to make improvements. Land can be deeded to the city, or held by the Foundation. A future project will be a new park in Rathdrum, a few years out. Tinka Schaffer: Hear from folks who have traveled the world, they say that the City of Coeur d'Alene has the most beautiful parks ever seen. In the very beginning we had a memorandum of understanding, when we formed, the Foundation was formed when the Kroc Center was first being formed. We keep the city from having to pay for marketing, and the time necessary to process donations and memorial requests. We help with future needs of various projects and can help fundraise to see improvements and repairs made. North Idaho Skatepark Association was also a group we carry funds for future projects. The North Idaho Workers Memorial we also held funds for until their project was completed. As of the end of September we hold \$32,333.99 for the City of Coeur d'Alene. We work with the parks department when folks want to memorialize someone, we collect the funds and order and pay for the plaque, and the parks department installs. We also helped with fundraising for the shade cover for Riverstone, and we have an MOU with Thorco for naming rights at the ballfield. Major funding stream is the donor wall at McEuen, grants, and funding from the City. Director Greenwood: A big thank you to these folks, the foundation just about folded a couple years ago, and they, and we, didn't want to see that happen. They have come back even stronger.

Commissioner McDowell: Appreciate all the work you do for us and the savings to the City.

**9. Idaho Walk Bike Alliance – Information Item**

Moved to November meeting agenda.

**10. MEETINGS / ADJOURNMENT**

Commissioner McDowell asked for any additional comments.

Upcoming meeting dates:

- Tuesday, November 1, 2022; 11:30 a.m., Workshop; Conf Rm 6 City Hall
- Monday, November 14, 2022: 5:30 p.m., Meeting; Library Community Room

*Commissioner Tate made a motion to adjourn the meeting with Commissioner Hill seconding the motion. There being no further discussion, motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 6:09 pm.*