



CITY OF COEUR D'ALENE

PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT

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PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION MINUTES

December 19, 2016 – 5:30 p.m.
COMMUNITY ROOM - LIBRARY

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Scott Cranston, Chair
Mike McDowell
Ginny Tate
Lily Foster, Alt Student Representative

STAFF PRESENT:

Bill Greenwood, Parks & Rec Director
Katie Kosanke, Urban Forestry Coordinator
Monte McCully, Trails Coordinator
Melissa Brandt, Administrative Assistant

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Ron Edinger
Bridget Hill
Jim Lien
Christie Wood

GUESTS:

CALL TO ORDER: Commissioner Cranston called the meeting to order at 5:33 p.m.

1. ROLL CALL

Four members present, resulting in an official quorum.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Commissioner McDowell led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. CONFLICT OF INTEREST

None

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commissioner McDowell made a motion to approve the minutes of September 19, and November 14, 2016. Commissioner Tate seconded the motion, there being no discussion and all being in favor, motion passed.

5. STAFF COMMENTS

Recreation finishing up basketball 60 teams, youth wrestling camp sponsored with NIC, continue to expand dance program and registration for kindergarten and elementary school basketball starts January 3, 2017.

We had been getting requests for winter activities in the park. In response, and in just a couple days, Park staff built a snow hill and created a cross country ski trail in McEuen Park. Comments have been positive and the community has really been enjoying these additions.

Three staff members went to Everett, Washington for playground safety certification; DeEtte Haralson, Mike Kempton, and Sam LaPresta.

6. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Commissioner Tate welcomed Lily Foster as the Alternate Student Representative to the commission. Commissioner McDowell wishes everyone at the Parks and Recreation Department a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year and voiced appreciation for all their extra efforts for our citizens.

7. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

8. URBAN FORESTRY UPDATE

Katie Kosanke updated the Commission on fall and winter activities. This fall, 22 park trees and 16 cemetery trees were planted, and 110 street trees were planted. Street trees are made possible from fees paid by contractors. Building contractors pay fees to ensure trees are planted at new construction sites. Some forfeit the fee and ask the City to go ahead and take care of it. Those funds help cover cost share program that helps offset abutting property for homeowners. This fall, 124 street trees were pruned and 36 poor condition trees were removed after inspection by the Urban Forestry Committee. With volunteers and staff, 300 seedlings were planted on Tubbs Hill. The seedlings are paid for through the Parks department budget and the Tubbs Hill Foundation. Contract work helped remove dead trees; two were removed from City Park. The stumps were left for possible art carvings. We also removed a dead tree at Bryan Park, and high risk trees were removed from Forest Cemetery. Winter pruning will also take place in street overlay areas where street work is taking place. Community Canopy VIPs have assisted our community in pruning 1,800 street trees. Pruning services of numerous trees in the Government Way islands was donated by Ken Roberge with Specialty Tree Service and his crew; we thank him for his time and efforts. In the New Year, we will be proposing ordinance changes in regards to tree preservation standards during construction, and a possible fuel reduction grant for the Fernan Natural Area. We have submitted our Tree City USA application and will begin planning for Arbor Day and kick off planning and organizing community programs, and spring street tree planting will get underway wherein we hope to plant another 100 or so trees. There was discussion of the variety of trees planted and their location with assurance that native species are being planted in the areas that will be most beneficial to the tree.

9. BIKE STATUS

Monte McCully updated the Commission on our city's Bike Friendly Status. Eight years ago we applied for Bike Friendly status through the League of American Bicyclists. We have been at the bronze level since that first year. This year, we submitted our application in September and received news that we have reached the Silver level. We are only one of four cities who moved up a level. There was discussion as to what we would need to do to reach gold status; improve education and enforcement components.

10. BIKE SHARE

Monte McCully stated that the bike share program was brought to the Commission earlier this year and after doing research for cities of our size and some even smaller, we found

that many cities gave up on the concept as they were trying to run it themselves. It costs a lot to build the stations and to figure out a way to keep the stations evened out with bikes, keeping the bikes repaired, tracking them, etc., and the software to monitor it all. There is one company in the world that provides the software and a ready-made bike share program; Zagster. The program is very expensive; they won't make any money on the bike rentals alone, but could hopefully break even. That's why they use a sponsorship model. Zagster solicits local companies for funding and sponsorships, allowing for multiple marketing and advertising opportunities. They hire individuals from local bike companies to balance stations and repair bicycles. Zagster coordinates the repair and replacement of the bikes when needed. We are looking at six stations with 6-8 bikes available at each one. Zagster will only commit to working with a City if they feel they have the backing of the government to ensure the program has support. Their company will install the hardware and maintain the software program. If we can't get funding or sponsors, they will remove everything. We are looking at locations at Riverstone, KMC, College-NIC, McEuen, mid-town. We are also exploring ways to make it easier for low income people to use the bikes. This bike share program is working in cities our size and smaller. Emails were sent out to bike companies in town to get their input all were favorable, except one, who voiced some concern as to how it would work. There was discussion that followed regarding other potential locations, whether this program would help toward gold status and further research of competing with private businesses.

Linda Wright, Coeur d'Alene resident, asked to address the Commission. She had a question about cities that dropped the program, did they share why? And, if Zagster is getting money from the use of the bikes and they are a business, why do they need to get sponsors? McCully responded that other cities have dropped self-funded bike share programs, not the Zagster package. The program is not set up to be a money maker, it is simply providing a government or city service to our citizens; it won't make money and hopefully will break even with program use and their profit will be from sponsorships.

Motion by Commissioner Tate for the Parks and Recreation Commission to recommend to General Services Committee that the city approve entering into an MOU agreement with Zagster to start a bike share program; seconded by Commissioner McDowell. Motion passed unanimously.

11. RECREATIONAL TRAIL PROGRAM GRANT APPLICATION FOR CENTENNIAL TRAIL

Monte McCully shared that back in 2012, the County applied for this grant that was received and over the last four years provided a lot of work on the trail. This year, the Parks Department will be completing the grant application. The trails need seal-coated every 5-6 years. In the last grant cycle we went through the whole trail and fixed the worst spots. This time we are sealing the cracks and working on areas with roots coming up through the pavement. The grant is due January 20, 2017, we usually know by April if we have been approved, and by June we seek bids for the contract work to get started by August. Funding will allow us to work on all 23 miles of the trail. Discussion ensued about the joint powers agreement and how well all entities have cooperated to ensure the trail is safe and user friendly.

Commissioner McDowell moved for the Parks and Recreation Commission to recommend to General Services Committee approval for the Parks Department to apply for a Recreational Trail Programs grant to repair and seal coat the Centennial Trail; seconded by Commissioner Tate. Motion passed unanimously.

12. 2017 BIKE TRAILS AND MASTER PLAN

Monte McCully stated that in 1980 the original master plan was written for the City, it had great information, but was basically sat on a shelf and not looked at – this plan needs to be a working document. This newer comprehensive plan was created in 2010 with the Ped/Bike committee in 2010 to create a comprehensive plan that needs updated at least every 5 years as things are changing so fast. There has been a recent recommendation to start looking at building sidewalks on the east part of town, down Sherman. If we get in all our proposed trails, lanes, we would have a much more comprehensive coverage throughout the city. Additional edits can be added before the plan goes to City Council. There was additional discussion on the importance of the master plan for future growth and planning and zoning requirements.

Commissioner McDowell; if we do get a program for building sidewalks then start with school. A good place to follow would be highly traveled areas like the Centennial Trail on Mullan. There is no sidewalk after 15th Street and pedestrians have to walk in the street. Fix sidewalks.

Commissioner Tate moved for the Parks and Recreation Commission to recommend to General Services Committee the adoption of the 2017 Trails and Bikeways Master Plan; seconded by Commissioner Foster. Motion passed unanimously.

13. ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Cranston asked for any further items, none were presented. Upcoming meeting dates:

- Tuesday January 3, 2017 – Workshop – Caruso's Deli – Coeur d'Alene – 11:30 a.m.
- Monday January 23, 2017 – Meeting - Community Room at the Library – 5:30 p.m.

Commissioner McDowell made a motion to adjourn the meeting with Commissioner Foster seconding the motion. All were in favor, motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 6:32 pm.