

CHILDCARE COMMISSION MINUTES
October 24, 2022
City of Coeur d' Alene- Conference Room 6
Zoom Meeting
6:30 pm

Commissioners Present

Iris Siegler, Chair
Kim Torgerson
Beth Ann Fuller
Susie Freligh
Stephanie Goss
Jolie Wenglikowski

Staff Present

Kelley Setters Deputy City Clerk

Commissioner Absent

Call to Order -

Chairman Siegler called the meeting to order at 6:40 p.m.

Roll Call – All Commissioners present.

Approval of the Minutes from the May 23, 2022 meeting (Action item)

Motion by Torgerson **to approve** the May 23, 2022 meeting minutes **second** by Freligh; **Motion carried.**

Commission Comments – None.

Public Comments – None.

Nominate Childcare Commission Chair (Action Item)

Jolie Wenglikowski nominated Iris Siegler to continue as the Child Commission Chair.

Motion by Wenglikowski **to appoint Iris Siegler as Child Commission Chair second** by Freligh; **Motion carried.**

Outdoor Play Area Discussion (Action item)

Kelley Setters stated at the May 24th meeting the Childcare Commission discussed potential code changes to Municipal Code 5.68.030 (4). Discussion included the need to add section (d) to read as follows:

“Children that are being cared for in a facility that operates more than 2 hours shall be given the opportunity to spend time outdoors, in a developmentally appropriate outdoor play space. Outdoor play spaces allow children to participate in functional gross motor, and active play outdoors. In spaces that include various ground scapes, areas to run, climb, and play freely.”

The City Attorney reviewed the language and stated that “useable” is too vague and additional language is needed to make sure the requirement could be enforced and proposed the following:

4. ~~As of June 1, 1999, a~~All new applicants for a facility license must have a safe, fenced, outdoor play area. Fences must be built of suitable material to contain the ages of children being cared for. The outdoor fenced play area should be ~~useable~~ for developmentally appropriate activities at a minimum of seventy five (75) square feet per child. If the outdoor fenced play area cannot meet the seventy-five (75) square feet per child requirement, but the facility has a reasonable plan to allow for the children to use the ~~useable~~ outdoor fenced play area for developmentally appropriate activities in shifts such that there is at least seventy-five square feet per child actually using the area at any one time, the facility may submit its plan to the City Clerk or designee and request a variance. Facilities where care is intended to be two (2) hours or less and the parent is on site, such as in health clubs, grocery stores, etc. are exempt from the outdoor fence play area requirements.

~~d. Children that who receive more than two (2) hours of care per day in a facility shall be are being cared for in a facility that operates more than two (2) hours shall be given the opportunity to spend time outdoors, in a developmentally appropriate outdoor play space. Outdoor play spaces must allow children to participate in functional gross motor, and active play outdoors. In spaces that include various ground scapes, and areas to run, climb, and play freely.~~

Kelley Setters shared staff recommendations/items to be considered. Which included; How would the outdoor space modification be enforced? What definition would be used to determine developmentally appropriate outdoor play space and functional gross motor skills?

Discussion included the fire and health department could not enforce playground equipment. Jolie suggested adding the following definition for developmentally appropriate outdoor play space and functional gross motor skills: *Equipment and materials to accommodate gross motor experiences, such as running, climbing, balancing, riding, jumping, crawling, scooting, or swinging.* Also, under the operator license requirements adding that the applicant must submit proof of completion of an outdoor play space education class. The discussion will continue at the November 28th meeting.

Representative Reports

IDAHOSTARS –

NAFCC – None.

CENTER – None.

STUDENT – Iris shared that two students have been appointed to the commission Anna Betts and Taleya Jones and will attend the November 28th meeting.

PANHANDLE HEALTH – None.

Beth Ann Fuller shared that Tonya Sears from NIC has been approved for free in-person 2-hour training for Positive Behavior Guidance, Using Loose Parts to Support Early Learning and Exploration, TBRI-Trust Based Relational Intervention-Connecting-Empowering-Correcting with Care, and Inclusion for All. Registration for these classes is through the Idaho Stars rise system.

Next Meeting November 28, 2022

Adjournment

Motion by Freligh to adjourn, seconded by Torgerson Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.