

CHILDCARE COMMISSION MINUTES
May 20, 2019
CITY HALL CONFERENCE ROOM 5
6:30pm

Commissioners Present

Iris Siegler, Chair
Samantha Tuskan
Kim Torgerson
Andy Bjurstrom
Chris Bjurstrom
Jolie Wenglikowski

Staff Present

Kelley Setters, Deputy City Clerk
Renata McLeod, City Clerk

Commissioner Absent

Kathleen Shriner
Susie Freligh

Guest in attendance is a senior from Coeur d' Alene High School, Lydia King is doing a project for her government class.

Call to Order -

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

Roll Call – All present with the exception of Kathleen Shiner and Suzie Freligh

Approval of the Minutes from April 29, 2019 meeting (action item)

Motion by Tuskan second by Torgerson to approve the minutes from the April 29, 2019 meeting;
Motion carried.

Commission Comments – Sam Tuskan shared with the commission that last Thursday representatives from the Idaho Department of Health-Childcare program and TANF, Idaho Child Care Program (ICCP) and Idaho Stars held a meeting with stake holders and childcare providers in District 1 to discuss the new proposed federal regulations on childcare licensing. There were 45 people in attendance and there was positive feedback on the proposed regulations. The topics discussed were: Pediatric CPR/First Aide, Fingerprint/background checks completed every 5 years, Health inspections posted on www.idahochildcarecheck.org, annual health and safety inspections, safe sleep, professional development training hours, and transportation. A recommendation that was discussed was to have training hours meet the ICCP requirement of 12 hours. If these changes are adopted the City of Coeur d' Alene would have to make that change from the current 10 hours to 12 hours of continuing education. Also, require an emergency preparedness plan.

Public Comments – None.

Discuss changes to the Municipal code section 5.68.030: Section I. Facility License Requirements:

Kelley Setters, Deputy City Clerk stated that the reason for this discuss is two facilities have come forward to receive approval to care for more children. However, the current code requires a 75% sq.

footage of outdoor play area per child. These two facilities currently do not have enough outdoor play area to meet the requirement. There is no exception in the code, however, the facilities state that they regulate the number of children in the play area at any given time to meet the amount of space they have. The confusion for these facilities is the City Fire Department determines the occupancy within the building area only. The childcare code determines the maximum number of children within the facility as a whole. The question proposed to the Commission is do they want to change the code to have a provision to have shifts on the playground and the plan submitted with their license for facilities that can not increase their playground space.

Discussion included: Coeur d' Alene has a childcare crisis currently and this change might help facilities accommodate more children. The question was posed how would this be regulated? One idea was visits from fire, health and code enforcement throughout the year.

Some Commissioners dislike childcare facilities in strip malls that have minimal outdoor areas. It was determined that the code should remain how it is written and not take any further action. Renata McLeod, City Clerk suggested a tri-fold informational hand-out to give providers some educational opportunities with the basic requirements opening a childcare facility, and a detailed outline of why outdoor play areas are important and what they should contain.

Representative Reports

NIAEYC – None.

NAFCC – None.

CENTER – None.

STUDENT – None.

PANHANDLE HEALTH – None.

No meetings until September 23rd.

Adjournment

Motion by Tuskan **to adjourn**, seconded Wenglikowski **by Motion carried.**

Meeting adjourned at 7:50pm