

**CHILDCARE COMMISSION MINUTES**  
**September 21, 2020**  
**City of Coeur d' Alene- Conference Room 6**  
**Zoom Meeting**  
**6:30 pm**

**Commissioners Present**

Iris Siegler, Chair  
Samantha Tuskan  
Kim Torgerson  
Jolie Wenglikowski  
Susie Freligh  
Beth Ann Fuller

**Staff Present**

Kelley Setters, Deputy City Clerk  
Renata McLeod, City Clerk

**Commissioner Absent**

None.

**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 November 25, 2019 meeting (action item)**

**Motion** by Wenglikowski **second** by Freligh to approve the minutes from the November 25, 2019 meeting;  
**Motion carried.**

**Commission Comments** – Iris Siegler welcomed new commissioner Beth Ann Fuller to her first meeting. Beth Ann shared upcoming continuing education webinar classes available free of charge provided by The Early Learning Academies. On September 26<sup>th</sup> 9-11am “Celebrating Developmental Milestones and Addressing Concerns,” October 10<sup>th</sup> 9-11 a.m. “Understanding Trauma and Its Impact on Early Learning” and “Promoting Literacy in the Early Years” October 24, 9-11 a.m. Upon completion of the classes each participate will receive \$500.00 worth of educational materials. To register go to [idahoeyc.org](http://idahoeyc.org).

Jolie Wenglikowski commented on the State of Idaho CPS background check and wanted an explanation on the agency ID# if it applied to the non-state facilities. The agency ID # applies to all facilities within the City of Coeur d' Alene.

**Public Comments** – Renata McLeod informed the Commission of the “CARES Act funding for small business relief grants.” This grant would cover expenditures to purchase PPE, furniture, fixtures, and equipment necessary to continue business operation in light to the coronavirus, and youth services daycare/childcare for newborns to school-age children. For more information, contact Stephanie Padilla (208) 769-2221, or [spadilla@cdaid.org](mailto:spadilla@cdaid.org)

**Temporary Childcare license and amendment to code section 5.68.030 (Action item)** - Kelley Setters presented the staff report stating the possible need for Emergency Child Care Licensing and recommendation to the City Council. The United Way task force has been looking at options and doing a survey to collect information in partnership with the Idaho AEYC to improve local systems in early education. It was identified that the City of Coeur d' Alene can help by creating a temporary 12-week license similar to the state code established program. A temporary childcare license could allow flexibility for the building occupancy to exceed the playground occupancy outdoor play area. The current city code requires 75 sq. ft. of outdoor play area per child. The idea is that the provider would submit plans and/or schedules on how they will have playground shifts to ensure all groups are getting adequate outdoor time and are meeting the occupancy for the space by taking turns on the playground. All facility safety inspections would remain the same, such as the Health District review and fire safety inspection. Individual provider licenses would still be required to submit a cleared TB test, current CPR-First Aid and background checks. Under this program the City would not require the 10 hours of required education for renewals nor the safe sleep course for school aged childcare. She also noted that the Childcare Commission could consider the following temporary and/or permanent wording for the outdoor play area requirement so existing facilities could be allowed to increase occupancy of the building while being allowed to schedule shifts of outdoor area usage. *"If the facility cannot fully meet the seventy-five (75) square feet per child area, but does have an outdoor area that can be split among the children to go out in shifts, they may submit a plan to the City Clerk or designee for approval of a variance."*

Renata McLeod stated this was something the state is doing for a temporary 12-week license. The background checks, and fire and health inspections would remain to ensure the safety of the proposed facility. The Wastewater Department stated that since this would be a temporary use with a sunset clause of 12-weeks, they would not collect a sewer cap fee for the temporary licenses. Ms. McLeod noted that she and Kelley would have one on one discussions with any applicant to clarify that the sewer cap fees would have to be paid at the 12-week mark and will reach out to each group throughout the program to see if they are considering a permanent license.

Sam Tuskan stated that the state childcare has an exemption in code already that allows for anyone under 12 weeks to operate a childcare for 4-year-old and up without a license. Within Coeur d' Alene there is currently not such an exemption. COVID has shined the light on capacity issue and she felt it was time for the Commission to look at a temporary license, while still making sure their children are safe. She concurred that waiving the continuing education and safe sleep for school aged care providers and minimizing the outdoor play area would make sense. One program example would be if a church wanted to be a temporary facility in one of their Sunday classroom spaces, but does not have the required outdoor space to meet the requirements. They could provide care to school aged children and have a retired teacher come in and tutor then and use the gym area for motor skills. She suggested that an outdoor play schedule be presented to staff for approval, rather than bringing it back to the Commission to expedite approval. The license would only be good for 12 consecutive weeks. If they stopped or are doing it longer, they would need to apply for a permanent license.

Iris Siegler asked how long it would take to receive a license? Kelley Setters stated it would be at most a week to approve.

Beth Ann Fuller asked if the outdoor space reduction is a temporary or permanent change.

Renata McLeod explained that Kelley would present a resolution to City Council requesting a temporary childcare license for 12 weeks only. She suggested the Commission could put in an exception for the outdoor space staggering use plans into the Municipal Code, so that full time existing daycare providers could also increase capacity, which would take a code amendment via Ordinance. Otherwise they would not be allowed the same option during this emergency period.

**Motion** by Tuskan **second** by Freligh to approve the temporary childcare license and amendment to Municipal code section 5.68.030 as presented in the staff report with the exception of submitted outdoor area plans will be approved by the City Clerk or designee.

**Motion carried.**

#### **Representative Reports**

**IAEYC** – Sam Tuskan stated working on the strategic plan for the PPG grant.

**NAFCC** – None.

**CENTER** – None.

**STUDENT** – None.

**PANHANDLE HEALTH** – None.

**Next Meeting October 26, 2020**

#### **Adjournment**

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

**Meeting adjourned at 7:50 pm**