



# CITY OF COEUR D'ALENE

PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT

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## PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION MINUTES

March 18, 2019 – 5:30 p.m.  
COMMUNITY ROOM - LIBRARY

### **MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Scott Cranston, Chair  
Mike McDowell  
Bridget Hill  
Ginny Tate  
Christie Wood  
Jim Kinnard, Student Rep

### **MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Jim Lien  
Ron Edinger

### **STAFF PRESENT:**

Bill Greenwood, Parks & Recreation Director  
Melissa Brandt, Administrative Assistant

### **GUESTS:**

Phil Boyd, Welch Comer  
Dell Hatch, Bernardo Wills Architects

**CALL TO ORDER:** Commissioner Cranston called the meeting to order at 5:32 p.m.

### **1. ROLL CALL**

Six members present, resulting in a quorum.

### **2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Commissioner Tate led the Pledge of Allegiance.

### **3. CONFLICT OF INTEREST**

None.

### **4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Commissioner Hill made a motion to approve the minutes of November 19, 2018.  
Commissioner Wood seconded the motion, there being no discussion and all being in favor, motion passed unanimously.

### **5. STAFF COMMENTS**

Director Greenwood: We will list priorities as directed by Council from the workshop last week, and summarize the minutes from tonight and summarize a staff report for City Council. The Panhandle Parks Foundation has also offered that they can assist with solicitation and marking for corporate grants, private donations, and in-kind donations, just as they did for McEuen Park. The snowball fight at McEuen this past weekend went pretty well, Dustin Ainsworth organized the event. There were about 300 people that had a good time, no record was broken, but it was a success will offer the event next year if conditions are right. Recreation is finishing up soccer

registrations with more than 600 kids registered to start practices the first week of April. Swim registrations for the next round classes will be in April. We are making some changes that would see classes capped at 9 years old to allow for more classes for younger kids and encouraging older kids to be placed in advanced classes. A 4-week class called Your Vibrant Family will be held at Jewett House on Thursday mornings starting in April, the class will teach families about whole foods. Adult softball teams are registering, with limited numbers, until Memorial Field is available then we can increase the number of softball teams.

## **6. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS**

Commissioner Wood: When will nominations for the Rock of Fame take place?  
Greenwood: Once the nominations are complete, we have two now, but would like to do three, we will act on those at the next meeting in April.

Commissioner McDowell: Thank you to everyone who has been working so hard on the Atlas Waterfront project; the design architects and the public input.

## **7. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Dwight McCain-Coeur d'Alene: Current president of Kayak Club, we don't need a facility to launch from, just a parking lot and the ability to get to the beach for standard kayakers. An ADA kayak launch could be put at Independence Point there is already a ramp going down. A straight path from the parking lot down to the beach is all that is required. Greenwood: During the presentation, this will be part of the discussion.

John Partridge-Coeur d'Alene: Thank you for your service and appreciate what you do and appreciate the parks and recreation facilities we enjoy. Two issues: The 3<sup>rd</sup> street docks seem to be in disrepair, there is splintering wood, some slipping down the ramp, bumpers at the corners are slipping off, and there are protruding nails. Greenwood: We did replace abrasive material and put new material in; those docks get used a lot. We appreciate the public giving us helpful information. We will be doing some maintenance this spring. Partridge: Who oversees the beach along the college campus? I feel it's negative to feed wild birds, interferes with their nature, but they have been allowing it. Commissioner Wood: NIC does the maintenance and oversees the beach. If you have concerns you can come to the NIC board meeting the next one is Wednesday, March 27.

## **8. ATLAS WATERFRONT PRIORITY LIST PRESENTATION**

Greenwood: Phil Boyd with Welch Comer and Dell Hatch from Bernardo Wills are here to expand on what was covered at our workshop with City Council on Friday. This will be televised where the workshop was not. This will be the third time this is being presented to the Commission.

Phil Boyd: Major Widmyer convened the March 15 workshop to allow this Commission to provide their input to Council on potential Lake District park projects and to provide an opportunity for public input. At the March 15 workshop conclusion, Mayor Widmyer asked Chairman Cranston to put together a prioritization list that would be forwarded to the ignite CDA meeting on March 28. We will review the Atlas and BLM corridor projects. Receive public input, and then prioritize the projects.

As public comments have been received, conceptual drawings have changed to accommodate a parking area closer to the waterfront for accessible kayak launchers, and an accessible swimming area, the Clean and Green project is funded for this area. This version also includes a southbound trail to connect with the Centennial Trail, a paved pedestrian route, and compressed gravel for a majority of the trail, a picnic shelter and restroom, some turf, lots of natural landscaping and water access.

Currently the priority list for the Atlas Waterfront include improvements that total nearly \$2.8 million, broken down as follows: pedestrian accesses to river \$1.3 million; beach with accessible beach areas \$650,000; accessible kayak/stand up paddle board launch \$250,000; water access dog park \$65,000; natural style playground \$75,000; food truck vendor area \$50,000; park maintenance building \$115,000; vendor/police building \$115,000; Suzanne Trail crossing with calming efforts \$100,000.

The current conceptual plan has numerous locations for public access to the waterfront, the \$1.3 million cost would be for all of those access points to include shoreline stabilization, steps, and seating, to allow for safe access to the river. Access to the water adds to the value and desirability of the commercial lot. The commercial lot is one of two that is surrounded by public property. The original financial feasibility included some commercial lots to add opportunities to help fund and add vibrancy.

Restoring the beach to be similar to NICs beach will require most of the soil to be taken offsite as it is full of organic materials and there will be construction to allow for an accessible swim beach for those in wheelchairs. There would be a hard surface on the beach and underwater that would create a place that is navigable and is part of the budget. There was a lot of discussion with the Ped/Bike committee about the area that ties into Riverstone as there is some congestion two separate intersections have been incorporated, one for bicycles and one for pedestrians to help with the congestion.

Commissioner Cranston: It is important to discuss how construction should take place, water access elements would be harder to accomplish if they aren't done at the beginning of the project. Boyd: we would want to stub in power, wastewater, water, plant grass, etc., be prepped for future building, we could do the same for docks, build a bulkhead and it could be used as an overlook with potential for dock construction at a later date. Vendor locations could be prepped but not necessarily included at this time. Boyd: Day use docks could generate an estimated revenue stream of \$120,000-150,000 that will help pay for the park maintenance.

Commissioner Hill: The price list shows kayak access at \$250,000. Could you describe what that would include for a walk from the parking lot to the beach? Boyd: Hardscape access and there is an existing ramp there now, add concrete, there is some earthwork and retaining walls to be installed. Commissioner Wood: This would be for those who need help with access. Boyd: Those who are standard kayakers would park at the lot and carry their kayaks down to the swim beach area. The accessible launch will get closer to the water with an ADA grade. These are early concepts that will be refined.

Priorities for the BLM Corridor, if we secure additional funding, this land has been a part of the four corners area, with the remodel of Memorial field, Memorial park, and the skate park have all been completed. Currently there is a bike pump track on the BLM land under and around the 95 bridge. The costs at this time for a park at Lacrosse total nearly \$4.8 million and include: Lacrosse road and signal bases and

conduits \$850,000; a parking lot \$280,000; site remediation with dryland native grasses \$390,000; Lacrosse park restroom and picnic shelter \$300,000; gravel walking paths \$40,000; and a Spokane River picnic shelter \$150,000. This development would be part of the Lake District Area that is due to sunset in 2021. Funding and plans to develop this land need to be addressed at this time with infrastructure put into place for future soccer fields, pickle ball courts, etc.; added down the road, a commuter trail, bike park, and walking path included and usable park space.

Dell Hatch presented concept plans for the restroom facility at the Atlas Waterfront. One concept is not as traditional made with metal materials and wood accents, these concepts are about the same square footage as the restroom facility at Memorial Park. It would include a mechanical room and a covered area for picnicking. The other concept is something that picks up on the historical structure and shape of what the mill buildings would have looked like and made with metal and wood trim.

Commissioner Wood: We talked about the timber theme to honor the area, the first one is too modern and the second looks like a barn. Hatch: We're trying to create the look of the mill buildings that had height. There isn't much cost difference between the two; \$300,000 has been set aside for the structure.

Commissioner Cranston: We will open up the meeting at this time for public comment.

Dwight McCain-Coeur d'Alene: First opportunity to look at this, kayaks going down to the beach the slope is pretty great at 45 degrees, if that is cut into that would be okay. Are you putting in parking for boats to launch? Boyd: There won't be a boat launch.

Lloyd Stewart-Coeur d'Alene: Park loop road coming down from Riverstone comes down to the handicap accessible swim area, gravel walkway beyond that, how would someone in a wheelchair be able to continue on gravel? ADA laws passed in 1992 state gravel is not accessible and not a good surface. I've been yelled at for slowing traffic down, I slow down due to poor dog control, they don't leash their dogs, I can't enjoy a view of the river, if I try, I end up with dog feces all over, how will the dog park be policed. And you are creating a problem the trail is being referred to as a wheeled trail, the bike riders get upset at wheelchairs, put us on the pedestrian trail and don't call it a wheeled trail. It is discriminatory to be put on a wheeled trail. Trails should be for all pedestrians, not just capable or just people who can walk. Boyd: This will be compacted gravel not loose gravel, after you get off the Centennial Trail there is an accessible 12 foot wide trail that is paved. Greenwood: our staff will maintain the park daily and we ask dog owners to police themselves. We can't pick up all the feces along the trail, as the snow is thawing it is coming out very badly, as we get rain it will help wash some of it away. We have dog parks and ask dog owners to be responsible. Apologize the semantics have been wrong, from our departments position, this is a multi-use trail, we are advocates for all people. We are very aware of trying to include and provide for everyone. Commissioner Wood: there is a trail in Bend, Oregon that is very similar, they took an old mill site along the water and created areas for the public to get to the area, the trail is very compacted like a hard trail, those trails don't just belong to the bikers, we don't give up the trail to them, we all should share it and keep using it. Commissioner Tate: Can we see a ballpark number of what the hard pack gravel versus a paved trail would cost? Boyd: will send that to the commissioners. The packed gravel trail maintains the more natural look it will have ADA slopes and does require more maintenance to compact the materials. Greenwood: If the compacted trail doesn't work or perform due to maintenance etc., the pedestrian paths and trails

should be accessible in all areas and may end up paved. Our objective is to make this entire park accessible.

Chet Goedde-Mill River: Concerned about the docks, the first public meetings of the docks were scorned by the public this should not be a marina. Some Mill River homes have access to the river, the erosion is terrible. I would like to stress again, where the city is envisioning a commercial marina, you will need a lot of parking, a controlled intersection across the bike and pedestrian trail, to get to the docks. Please put low on the priority list. Regarding traffic studies about the Lacrosse entrance to Riverstone, why is there a gate at the end? Boyd: The gate would be at Bellerive there is a plan for a future public road that would extend through an existing city right of way along union pacific land. The public route would come down Lacrosse and then continue on to Lakewood and then down to Beebe. The road would be gated for fire access only at Bellerive.

Karen Hansen-Coeur d'Alene: Can't wait to get her bicycle on the trails, could the playground be moved near the commercial area and not near the parking lot; that seems like a better place. Why not put a restroom and picnic shelter in the BLM corridor near the 95 bridge area? Boyd: At Atlas, we wanted to put the playground near the restroom facility and group together where activities will take place. We could add more space between the parking lot and the playground. There may be some enhancement down by the Harbor Center that could include a restroom at a later date. We would stub in power, sewer, and water to do additional things at a later date. Will the projects be done simultaneously at the same time as Atlas? Boyd: Yes, since we will be mobilized, we may do some contouring and dirt removal that could be used at the Atlas site.

Commissioner Cranston: There being no further public comments, the public comment portion is closed.

Commissioner McDowell: The Clean and Green version is the piece already funded and is our base. After much discussion, the commission agreed to the following priority list:

Atlas Waterfront Priority One Elements: Desired park amenities that can't be cost efficiently constructed in the future. Additional pedestrian accesses to the river, beach with accessible beach area, accessible kayak/standup paddle board launch, water access dog park, natural style playground, park maintenance building, Suzanne Trail crossing, vendor/police building, food truck/vendor area.

Atlas Waterfront Priority Two Elements: Desired park amenities that can be cost efficiently constructed in the future. Day use dock, vendor docks, and vendor/day use docks. Vendor docks would require additional research for how they meet their customers. Commissioner Hill: These docks would be approached by water only, not by vehicle/parking lot, they would be different from marina docks. May need to do some research for day use docks and consider the comments from the public related to parking. Day use docks are easier to install than others, the infrastructure could be in place and the docks could be put into place. Impact to the existing park would be minimal. Any dock placement would require additional permitting and other steps to take place. Access is only through the water, no launching, no boat trailers and vehicles needing parking.

Atlas Waterfront Priority Three Elements: Potential park amenities that require additional cost analysis and public input. Annual lease docks, west day use docks, landscape water feature.

Lacrosse Park Priority One Elements: Desired park amenities that can't be cost efficiently constructed in the future. Lacrosse road and signal bases/conduits, parking lot, site remediation with dryland native grasses, and lacrosse park restroom and picnic shelter.

Lacrosse Park Priority Two Elements: Desired park amenities that can be cost efficiently constructed in the future. Gravel walking paths and a Spokane River picnic shelter.

It has been stated by ignite CDA that there is \$7.5 million available that does not include the clean and green items that are already funded and not a part of the overall budget. Consideration is also needed for collection of revenue to help pay for maintenance and some elements can be phased in, but phasing needs to be in line with the construction that will need to be done.

The presentation and priority lists will be emailed out to the commission tomorrow. Commission was given direction to come up with a priority list to be brought to City Council and the ignite board. Council and ignite will ultimately make the decision based on the list this commission comes forward with. This will not need to go to general services as the workshop included all those members and all of City Council.

## **9. ADJOURNMENT**

Commissioner Cranston asked for any additional comments.

Upcoming meeting dates:

- Tuesday, April 2, 2019: Workshop; Caruso's Deli, Coeur d'Alene – 11:30 am
- Monday, April 15, 2019: Meeting; Community Room at the Library – 5:30 p.m.

Commissioner McDowell made a motion to adjourn the meeting with Commissioner Kinnard seconding the motion. There being no further discussion, motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 7:56 pm.