



CITY OF COEUR D'ALENE

PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT

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PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION MINUTES

April 15, 2019 – 5:30 p.m.
COMMUNITY ROOM - LIBRARY

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Scott Cranston, Chair
Mike McDowell
Bridget Hill (*arrival at 5:36 pm*)
Jim Lien
Christie Wood
Jim Kinnard, Student Rep

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Ginny Tate
Ron Edinger

STAFF PRESENT:

Bill Greenwood, Parks & Recreation Director
Nick Goodwin, Urban Forester
Melissa Brandt, Administrative Assistant

GUESTS:

Jon Mueller, Architects West

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

1. ROLL CALL

Five members present, resulting in a quorum. (Commissioner Hill arrived at 5:36 p.m., after roll call.)

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Commissioner Kinnard led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. CONFLICT OF INTEREST

None.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - Action

Commissioner Wood made a motion to approve the minutes of March 18, 2019. Commissioner Lien seconded the motion, there being no discussion and all being in favor, motion passed unanimously.

5. STAFF COMMENTS

Director Greenwood: Just completed registration for soccer and swim. Soccer user groups are out on the fields, Easter egg hunts take place this weekend and restrooms are open. Our Park Superintendent, Jeff Erickson, came across a piece at Forest Steel that he knew had been removed from the Atlas Mill site. He contacted the Forest family and asked about a flywheel he had seen, it was delivered to the mill site in 1906 by wagon and weighed 15,000 lbs. The family salvaged the piece and will gift it to the

City for use at the Atlas Mill site. Jeff Crowe with CDATV took video of Mr. Forest telling about the piece it will be shared once completed.

6. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

None.

7. PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

8. ARBOR DAY ACTIVITIES - Information

Greenwood: Introduction of Nick Goodwin, new Urban Forester, to tell about Arbor Day activities. Goodwin: On Saturday, April 27, we will be planting trees at the newly constructed Worker's Memorial at City Park, presented by the North Idaho Labor Council. The dedication ceremony for the Worker's Memorial takes place on Sunday, April 28. Tree planting will start at 11 a.m. on a bank behind the memorial wall. We have a number of volunteers from various tree companies. Our Arbor Day celebration will take place at the picnic shelter across Fort Ground Drive at Memorial Park starting at 12:30 with food donated by Sun Valley Tree Service. We will have the artwork on display from the poster contest and seedling give-away. In 2018, the City planted 565 public trees, 200 seedlings, and removed 224 damaged or unhealthy public trees were removed and/or pruned. Other Arbor Day activities include packing seedlings on April 23rd at the Idaho Department of Lands warehouse starting at 9 am, hosting a children's library program at 10:30 am on April 24th, and tree planting on Tubbs Hill this spring will be ongoing. Our winner this year for buttons and stickers was Lakeland High School student, Chelsea Wrotenberg. We had six overall winners: 2nd place Natasha Reams, Coeur d'Alene High School, 3rd place Valencia Fresques, 4th place Abby Makowski, Coeur d'Alene High School, 5th place Jozee Russell, Coeur d'Alene High School, and 6th place Cloie Barron, Lake City High School. This contest is put on in conjunction with Arbor Day Organization of North Idaho. The sticker contest submissions are voted on by local 4th grade students. The poster contest is for 5th grade students, with the Urban Forestry Committee choosing the winners. The 1st place winner is River Kermelis of Dalton Elementary, with 2nd place going to Allison Carrico of Dalton Elementary, and 3rd place going to Evan Magrini of Borah Elementary. The button art winners' art work is on display at the library, the poster art will be on display at the Arbor Day Celebration on Saturday, April 27.

Commissioner Cranston: Are there any new projects you are working on? Goodwin: Putting together materials to educate the public on what is required for to work on public trees, beginning with a monthly press release program for homeowners and businesses. We are continuing our Re-Leaf CDA program with tree giveaways to home owners, with 70 trees being planted, and lining out Volunteers in Pruning to work on trees at McEuen.

9. BMX AGREEMENT RENEWAL - Action

Commissioner Cranston read the staff report for the record.

Greenwood: BMX has been at Cherry Hill for more than 15 years. It started with Terrence Northington and Randy King. Randy has since passed away. The program has been a great

partner to our department and we've maintained a good working dialogue. This spring, in conjunction with their national organization, they are providing lessons to little kids, registering them through our Recreation office. This agreement is the same, just an update of dates.

Commissioner McDowell: Recall when this program first came into being, a lot of concerns by neighbors, it is worthy to note that there has been nothing but positive things as a part of this agreement and this addition to our parks, it's a great program.

Motion by Commissioner McDowell to recommend City Council renew the agreement for three more years with the option for an additional three year renewal provided that everything runs smoothly with BMX Association's responsibilities, Commissioner Wood seconded the motion, there being no discussion and all being in favor, motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Cranston: This item will go to General Services for their meeting next Monday.

10. ROCK OF FAME NOMINATIONS - Action

Greenwood: We have three nominations for the Rock of Fame, they are: Ron Edinger, Charlie Nipp, and Scott Reed. These nominations originated from the Commission and all three have done remarkable things for this community.

Commission Wood: Nominated Scott Reed and Ron Edinger, Charlie Nipp was nominated by Sandy Emerson.

Commissioner Wood read the nominations for the record.

Motion by Christie Wood to approve all three nominees for inclusion on the Rock of Fame; Ron Edinger, Charlie Nipp, and Scott Reed, Commissioner Hill seconded the motion, there being no further discussion, and all being in favor, motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner McDowell: Each of these nominees set quite a standard for the folks we see on the Rock of Fame.

Commissioner Cranston: The three nominated last year have not been added yet due to the construction at Memorial Field, when will we see these added? Greenwood: We hope to have all names engraved and have the unveiling of Rock of Fame newly added names as part of the construction activities taking place at Memorial Field. Will keep the Commission posted.

11. CENTENNIAL TRAIL MIDWAY PROJECT

Greenwood: About a year and a half or so ago, Doug Eastwood and I met on site at Riverstone and we talked about the idea for a greenbelt, and he has recently had the opportunity to see a concept shared by Jon Mueller. That concept will be presented tonight.

Doug Eastwood: First a compliment to the staff for the condition of the library, it looks as good as it did when dedicated in 2007-2008, great job Jay Nutter and Howard Gould. Share some things regarding the North Idaho Centennial Trail. This trail has the fingerprints of three U.S. Presidents; President Ronald Reagan signed the budget appropriation in 1986 that gave us the seed money to purchase the land. Right after the election in 1989, President George Bush Sr., was invited by speaker of the house Tom Foley to stop in Spokane, while in the area he came out on the trail to cut the ribbon on the Spokane side. President Clinton wanted to celebrate the Millennium and asked states to provide the white house with to create a National

Millennium Trail, showing US trail connectivity in 2000 with Governor Phil Batt's assistance, the Centennial Trail was recognized as part of the Millennium Legacy. Upwards of 420,000 users annually use the trail between Coeur d'Alene and Stateline, and nearly 450,000 users annually along Coeur d'Alene Lake Drive. The Trail has a 1.2 million dollar annual economic impact just from the three North Idaho Centennial Trail Foundation events; the Coeur d'Alene Marathon, Ales for the Trail, and Coeur d'Alene Fondo. An economic impact study will be completed within the next 60 days with the help of an economics professor at the University of Idaho that will further demonstrate the benefits of this trail system. In 2006 we had a quitclaim deed from Union Pacific Railroad to the North Idaho Centennial Trail Foundation for a strip of land, this land was part of a deal being made involving quite a few parties; City of Coeur d'Alene, North Idaho Centennial Trail Foundation, North Idaho College, and Ignite. In 2012 the property was transferred to the City. In 2007, a greenbelt plan was put together that would flow through the area, however, that was a busy time with the construction of Riverstone Park. The trail was put in, but the greenbelt was not. Two years ago the greenbelt plan was updated. The corridor will include expanded parking, interpretive pieces, a drop off area, and diagonal parking along Tilford Lane, it would clean up the whole area and become an extension of Riverstone Park. The concept highlights the significance that railroads have had on the whole region. Everywhere you go on the trail there are remnants of the railroad. When the railroad was pulled up in 2004, railroad spikes were kept, cleaned up, and are available at the parks department for sale. In the early stages of the planning process, and before the appropriations were granted, then Governor Cecil Andrus took a tour of the trail route and said "Fifty years from now, people will look at this trail and think; what vision you people had when you put this trail in." Jon Mueller will come up and give information about this project.

Jon Mueller: We are calling this a "Midway" as it helps bring other areas together the concept has a history with world fairs. This is a long linear space with small activity areas along the connection that allows for flexibility for farmer's or craft markets, sculptures, essentially we would have a series of small spaces with concrete pads and activities, a place to stop and hang out, trees will be planted to create some shade. Once we completed this concept, we talked about where we would put a memorial, an area remembering railroads with common railroad images, shapes, and patterns, an at-grade plaza with archways and interpretive opportunities to tell the story of the transcontinental railroads. The concept was presented to the NICTF and they want to take it forward, they adopted this as a project to raise money to build, this is information at this point, no action required.

Commissioner Cranston: What is the cost to develop this concept as proposed? Mueller: The cost would be \$200,000-\$250,000 for basic landscape development with tree planting and restroom facility built. The price for the plaza piece, there are opportunities for 40 interpretive locations, would be \$350,000 if taken to full extent. Cranston: The current trail would remain or be realigned? Mueller: There will be no realigning of the trail. There was discussion about minimizing some of the development on one side. The area would give unimpeded flow for pedestrians and cyclists.

Commissioner Lien: Where is this in connection to Riverstone Park? Mueller: The southeast corner of the parking lot, from the edge of the road to edge of the trees. This location was chosen to allow for expanded parking and a drop off area next to Riverstone Park parking lot. Lien: The event area, how would that look? Mueller: We would create little pockets with trees and plantings and diagonal parking to fit in the space, and a drop off area to unload a bike, and include handicap parking. The pocket areas would be accessible from the trail side and the road side.

Commissioner Wood: The trees on Tilford Lane provide a lot of shade and it stays cold and frozen in the winter. Not sure that area needs more trees, it needs sunlight. Are you planning to get federal dollars? Eastwood: We are here tonight, because this property is in dual ownership with the City of Coeur d'Alene. We are asking that the property be encumbered for this greenbelt project. Our plan is to come back in about a month with a recommendation to encumber the Union Pacific Railroad right-of-way. We can't fundraise or get anything going without the City being on board. The North Idaho Centennial Trail Foundation also has property along this corridor, donated by John Stone, almost 900 linear feet of property, about 20 feet wide, this donation enables the NICTF to apply for a federal grant in the value of that land, the City of Coeur d'Alene portion is not eligible. The property will be held until such time NICTF can apply for that type of a grant that will be available in 2020. It will take some time to get this all in place. The value of the property will put them at 25-30% of the funding from the grant, the remainder will be through sponsorships, donors, and the railroad companies will be solicited. We are not here tonight asking for financial support, in-kind participation would be very helpful. We are asking to encumber the City's property into this greenbelt concept, they would take it from there and move forward with the project.

Commissioner Cranston: Is there a plat map that shows what sections are City owned, what ignite and North Idaho Centennial Trail has in relation to how this fits your plan? Eastwood: NICTF owns 20 feet from Tilford going south, City owns 60 feet going south, and ignite owns 60 feet going south. We would like to keep the trees, but they do need thinned out. Mueller: The City's online map shows ownership. Cranston: What other groups have you presented this to, beyond the Parks & Recreation Commission, and NICTF? Has it been presented to ignite? Eastwood: Shown to the Riverstone HOA, Riverstone LLC, no presentations other than what was presented at the NICTF the City is the next step as a property owner, being onboard is the next step.

Commissioner Lien: Riverstone Park does feel like it's not quite completed, I think this would tie everything together. Concept is beautiful. We would need to look at all the detail and costs.

Commissioner Cranston: The concept does appear to give completion and connectivity to all waterfront public spaces, the trails and Atlas Park.

Commissioner McDowell: It is a real good fit; don't see it as encumbering the land, more like reserving the property. Eastwood: What do you need from us to move forward with a recommendation?

Commissioner Lien: Would like more detail on the pads how it all fits in. Another walk down at the park would be helpful, someone showing where things will be located.

Commissioner Wood: A summary on financing of the project would be good, and that you are not asking the city for funding at this point. Would like to see where funds would come from in.

Commissioner McDowell: A plat map overlay to the site would be helpful as an exhibit relative to these properties, for clarity. Eastwood: Do you want a workshop to go over this in more detail?

Commissioner Cranston: You want this to be an action item at our next meeting, to get our endorsement and our recommendation for the city owned portion to be part of the concept as presented.

Greenwood: Staff would like to work more closely about this design, there has been no discussion about maintenance, costs, some ideas are very grand, need an opportunity to sit down and work through it before it is brought back before the PRC. Endorse this in concept. The idea has been discussed for years. There may be some cost saving ideas we can work through as well. The trail comes through the roundhouse area and needs some mitigation between folks looking at the interpretive pieces and the cyclists moving through. Understand they need solidification from us to go after grants, need to slow down and work on this with staff first.

Commissioner Wood: Agree with Director Greenwood, this needs staff input and involvement before it's brought to PRC for any kind of recommendation.

Commissioner Cranston: Staff will keep the PRC apprised and when it can come forward with a revised plan to address concerns. Greenwood: We may come back with a revised plan that addresses your concerns that gets closer to the goal of endorsement. Eastwood: We will get together with staff, NICTF, and then set up a workshop with this group. Timewise we are hopeful to come back to your meeting in June, to get a recommendation from you with an action item to move forward.

12. MEETINGS / ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Cranston asked for any additional comments.

Upcoming meeting dates:

- Tuesday, May 7, 2019: Workshop; Caruso's Deli, Coeur d'Alene – 11:30 am
- Monday, May 20, 2019: Meeting; Community Room at the Library – 5:30 p.m.

Commissioner McDowell made a motion to adjourn the meeting with Commissioner Hill seconding the motion. There being no further discussion, motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 6:59 pm.