

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MINUTES

JANUARY 11, 2012

Members present: Charles Maynard, Larry Dennis, Hilda Grant, Bette Lang, Jonathon Brooks, Brian Dano, Char Rios and Kim Ries-Ashley
 Members absent: Brent Kirwan
 Staff present: Spencer Grigg, Lori Moholt-Phillips and Diana McKinsey
 Guest present: Jeffrey McKinsey, Amtgard Chapter of Stonehaven

2012 MEETING ATTENDANCE RECORD

Name	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
Dano, B	X											
Brooks, J	X											
Dennis, L	X											
Grant, H	X											
Kirwan, B	E											
Lang, B	X											
Maynard, C	X											
Ries-Ashley, K	X											
Rios, C	X											

C=meeting canceled X=present O=absent E=excused R=resigned

Call Meeting to Order

The regular meeting was called to order by Chair Larry Dennis at 7:03 p.m.

Introduction of Guests/Visitors

Mr. Dennis gave an quick overview of the night’s agenda for those in attendance.

Approval of Minutes of Prior Meeting

Mrs. Grant moved the minutes of November 8, 2011 be approved as submitted. Seconded by Mrs. Lang and passed unanimously.

Plat Reviews/Dedication, or Fee in Lieu of Land - Monthly Update

None

Event Request – Jeffrey McKinsey (Amtgard Chapter of Stormhaven)

Commissioners received a letter from Jeffrey McKinsey, Amtgard Chapter of Stormhaven Representative, requesting permission to hold their 12th Annual 1,000 Stars Campout at Blue Heron Park the weekend of May 17-20, 2012. The request included permission to camp in the park, utilize the restrooms and showers and for the responsible use of alcohol. Additional information on planned events during the campout and equipment construction were attached.

Jeff McKinsey addressed the commission on behalf of the Spokane Stormhaven Chapter of Amtgard, and explained that Amtgard is a Medieval Reenactment Society. The group would like to hold their 12th Annual 1,000 Stars Campout at Blue Heron Park because of Moses Lake’s unique location between Seattle, Spokane and Portland which allows more people to travel and participate in the event. Mr. McKinsey stated he came to answer any questions commissioners may have regarding the event.

Mr. Dennis inquired if there was jousting. Mr. McKinsey responded that there was no jousting. A padded weapon system is used. The entire idea is to have fun on the weekends and still be able to go to work Monday. The weapon system and rules are set around safety.

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Mr. Maynard and Mrs. Lang asked for an explanation of the terms ditching, juggling, bardic and feast. Mr. McKinsey explained that ditching is when individuals go to a set location to fight between events. Juggling is an organized sport, much like football. Bardic is held in the evening and consists of medieval instruments and songs. And the feast is when the group comes together the last night and has a meal together and winners are announced.

Mrs. Rios stated that the event sounded good and asked if there were any conflicts at the park.

Mr. Grigg responded that the challenge is that Municipal Code Chapter 9.18 prohibits camping on city property without expressed, advanced authorization of the City Council. If the commission chooses to forward a recommendation to council, council would still have to approve the request.

Mrs. Lang asked Mr. McKinsey how many people typically attend this type of event. He replied that they are estimating 120 participants. There are currently commitments from members in Portland, Seattle, Spokane, Edmonton, and Arizona. The majority of attendees will be tent camping, but some will stay in nearby hotels.

Discussion centered around the need for the group to work with staff prior to the event, if council grants them permission to camp in Blue Heron Park.

Mr. Dennis commented that with the acquisition of Blue Heron Park, it might be time to revisit the decision to prohibit camping at Blue Heron due to the size of the park. The park lends itself nicely to tent camping in either the lower or upper tier. Mr. Grigg noted that there is a 30% completed set of blue prints for a campground adjacent to the developed day use park, so the idea of camping in that general area is not such a strange thought.

Action Taken

Mr. Dano moved to recommend City Council approve Amtgard Chapter of Stormhaven's request to hold their 12th Annual 1,000 Stars Campout at Blue Heron Park (with the condition that the group comply with all reasonable requirements of the City of Moses Lake in regards to alcohol and other expenses incurred in hosting the event), and that they receive a favorable response regarding their request to camp. Seconded by Mrs. Ries-Ashley, motion passed unanimously.

Director's Report

Surf 'n Slide 2011 Year End Report – Mr. Grigg distributed an information packet entitled, *Aquatics in Moses Lake, A Journey from 1961 to Today*, put together by Tom Los, Recreation Supervisor. The report gives the history and an explanation of our facility, with a revenue and expenditure timeline dating from 1993 to 2011. The Surf 'n Slide Water Park netted \$94,916 in 2011, which was a pleasant surprise considering the weather and additional maintenance costs trying to detect and fix leaks.

Commissioners reviewed the report noting various changes due to the inclusion of electricity in 2009, periodic price adjustments, change from liquid chlorine to pulsar chlorine briquettes, the expansion, etc.

Commissioners discussed the ongoing costs to maintain the flowrider, the impact of the recent minimum wage increase and the possibility of Red Cross raising their rates in the near future.

Mrs. Grant praised the staff at the Surf 'n Slide stating they did a good job keeping the grounds and facility clean.

New Restrooms - 2012 Plans – The city has approved the purchase of two additional CXT restrooms for our park system. The first will replace the restroom and showers at Cascade Campground with the second replacing the middle restroom at Blue Heron Park. Originally a third

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facility was allocated for McCosh Park to be located by the amphitheater as a public restroom, dressing room and storage area. Due to shoreline management regulations the facility could not be placed in the desired area.

There was some discussion.

Tourism Trade Show – Tourism Commission is teaming with Grant County Tourism to create a dramatic display at the Washington Sportsmen’s Show held in Puyallup January 25-29, 2012.

Mrs. Moholt-Phillips reported that the Museum and Art Center’s permanent exhibit is up and should be completed soon. Pacific Studios will deliver the mammoth on January 17th. The MAC staff is increasing their lecture series and expanding their family Saturdays now that they have room to grow. Both Freya Hart and Ann Golden have done a great job moving in and getting things settled. The first Hockey Tournament is scheduled for January 27-29, 2012. Staff will meet with the group on Friday to go over final details. There are about 80 people taking ice skating lessons and approximately 120 students attended the New Year’s Eve party at the Larson Recreation Center. Parks and Recreation and the Trails Planning Team are planning a bike event for May 19th to help educate the community on sharrows. Concert and movie dates are set, ballfield tournaments are being scheduled, and the new city website should go live in March.

Commission Questions and Comments

Mr. Maynard asked if there were plans to put waste receptacles in the park along Marina Drive. Mr. Grigg will contact maintenance to see if it is feasible.

Mrs. Grant asked if a decision was made regarding pavers for the Farmers Market. Mr. Grigg replied that after it was taken to City Council the numbers came back higher than expected, making it a public works project and cost prohibitive. Staff is considering the idea of using the existing maintenance pathway and instead of the market set in a loop configuration, it would be linear, with parking at each end.

There was some discussion.

Mrs. Lang inquired if the city rents out the auditorium space. Mr. Grigg reported that the auditorium is available to non-profit organizations and costs depend on the time of day and staff involved for supervision and to run audio visual equipment.

Mrs. Rios asked if the new website would allow for online registration. Mrs. Moholt-Phillips replied that online registration is not available. The goal is to have online registration, but there is a need to find a program that can also handle reservations for Cascade Campground.

Election of Officers

Mr. Dennis asked for nominations for chair. Mrs. Lang moved to nominate Larry Dennis. Seconded by Mrs. Rios and passed unanimously.

Mr. Maynard nominated Jonathon Brooks for Vice Chair. Seconded by Mrs. Rios and passed unanimously.

Adjournment

Mrs. Rios moved to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Dano. Meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.