

**PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MINUTES**

**MARCH 14, 2012**

Members present: Charles Maynard, Larry Dennis, Hilda Grant, Bette Lang, Jonathon Brooks, Char Rios and Kim Ries-Ashley  
 Members absent: Brent Kirwan and Brian Dano  
 Staff present: Spencer Grigg and Kerri Fenner  
 Guest present: Jerry Johnston, Moses Lake Manta Rays Swim Team

2012 MEETING ATTENDANCE RECORD

Name	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
Dano, B	X	C	E									
Brooks, J	X	C	X									
Dennis, L	X	C	X									
Grant, H	X	C	X									
Kirwan, B	E	C	E									
Lang, B	X	C	X									
Maynard, C	X	C	X									
Ries-Ashley, K	X	C	X									
Rios, C	X	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 7:02 p.m.

Introduction of Guests/Visitors

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

Approval of Minutes of Prior Meeting

Mrs. Lang moved that the minutes of January 11, 2012 be approved as submitted. Seconded by Mr. Maynard and passed unanimously.

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

None.

Director’s Report

*Ice Rink* – Mr. Grigg reported that the City has approved the purchase of 180 pairs of roller skates so the ice rink can be used for roller skating in the off season. It will be open after school is out, initially just on Friday, Saturday and Sunday to gauge the public’s interest. In the event of high wind, dirt and debris may blow onto the rink from the BMX Track, so a possible future expense may be a concrete sweeping machine.

*Items discussed at City Council Staff Retreat:*

*New Restrooms* – The two new restrooms for Cascade Campground and Blue Heron Park have been purchased and are under construction by CXT in Spokane. They are pre-fabricated concrete units like we currently use. The first unit will replace the middle restroom at Blue Heron Park, with replacement of the other restrooms to follow in the future. The second unit is a restroom/shower unit and will be placed in Cascade Campground. We got both of them on state bid at good prices. Mr. Grigg believes the City is accepting bids from contractors to demolish the two existing buildings and do site prep for the new buildings. We are looking at the last week of April, starting with Cascade Campground because we have campers coming in the first week of May. The only campground reservations we are accepting until May 15, 2012, are RV’s, as they are self-contained. There is one other restroom in the park, but no showers.

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Layout of Farmer's Market – There have been complaints from the public regarding mobility issues. If someone is in a wheel chair or using a cane or crutches, it is difficult to navigate through grass. In addition, vehicles driving in and out of the park compact the soil into the roots and the trees get sick and die. We have lost a number of trees in parks where the Farmer's Market has been held in the past. Now we are seeing the same stressing of the trees in McCosh Park. We have been working with the Farmer's Market Board to significantly reduce the number of vehicles that drive on the grass, and ensure that vehicles that do need to drive on the grass are kept away from the canopy of the tree to avoid root damage. We created a loop last summer which was well accepted by the public, but it did not address the mobility issue. We were going to install previously purchased pavers to create the hard surface needed for mobility, but we couldn't do it due to budget and legal concerns.

Three possible scenarios were discussed at Retreat: 1) There is an existing asphalt maintenance path that connects both parking lots beyond the tennis courts and in front of the amphitheater. This path could be used as a route and booths could be placed on the sides of it. Council liked this scenario the best. There would be no cost to anyone because the path is already there. 2) Pursue the loop idea that we tried last summer, but with the costs to do it borne by the Farmer's Market. The Market did not like this idea. The cost of pavers came back more than we can legally do in-house. The other ideas were concrete or asphalt surface, which came back with an engineer's estimate of about \$25,000. 3) Councilman Dean said that after the article came out in the paper about how expensive it was to use pavers, he had several prior students who are now in the concrete industry and construction trades come to him and offer to donate labor. A concrete company also offered to donate concrete. We explained to the Market that if they want to pursue that, it would be their responsibility to set it up.

Mr. Grigg met with the general membership and Market Board last Saturday. One of the ideas kicked around was taking part or all of one of the parking lots and making it a hard surface area for the supply trucks. It was decided we couldn't take the parking out. Last night the City Council approved for the Market to use the park and suggested they continue to work with staff to iron out which approach they would like to take. If the donated labor and materials comes into play, it was suggested by the Council that if there is not enough donated materials they could apply for neighborhood self-help monies to help pay for the project. With neighborhood self-help monies, the City can share \$2 per capita every year, so \$40,000 a year can be spent in neighborhood self-help projects. The requirement is there has to be a tripling in value, and it's a 2-for-1 match, so if they give you \$10,000, when your project is done it has to be worth \$30,000. That fund has previously been used for a restroom at Larson Playfield and picnic shelters at Montlake Park and Cascade Park. The Council already committed \$30,000 to the Walleye Club to do a fishing pier at Blue Heron Park. The Council suggested to the Market that there's a potential of \$7,000-\$8,000 available for materials if they can come up with the labor. So we may still end up with the loop, which would benefit not only the Market, but the Spring Festival and all the other festivals and future events that may use McCosh Park.

Discussion held regarding questions that the Commission had concerning why the City cannot donate the pavers or construct a portion of the loop each year. Mr. Grigg stated that in the case of a neighborhood self-help project, the City is not supposed to be hands-on at all. The City can't construct the loop in separate projects because that would be considered bid splitting.

New TLC Building -- Due to the water system failure at the old TLC building/Adam East Museum located on Balsam Street, the TLC building is now located in the old Busby office/retail store at 701 Penn Street. Classes are already being held there. We may want to consider having our next meeting in the new building if it doesn't conflict with a class. Discussion held regarding the new building layout and the name of the building. Mrs. Lang asked what the old building is going to be used for now. Mr. Grigg stated that the Police Department will be using it for evidence storage.

Event Request – Jerry Johnston (Moses Lake Manta Ray Swim Team)

Commissioners received a letter from Jerry Johnston, Moses Lake Manta Ray Swim Team Head Coach, requesting permission to hold a swim meet in the Surf n' Slide water park 50 meter competition pool on July 13,

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14 and 15, 2012. The request included permission to have a trailer for concessions somewhere in the market area on the two days the market is closed, and permission to let swimmers and their families camp in McCosh Park.

Jerry Johnston addressed the commission on behalf of the Moses Lake Manta Ray Swim Team and explained their requests and financial concerns. Significant discussion held regarding camping in the park, the possibility of the swim meet going over schedule, concessions, and the feasibility of keeping the Flowrider and Lazy River open to the public during the swim meet.

Mr. Grigg stated there was one problem in the past where the meet went over schedule by 30 minutes, but the swim team has promised to be done by the 4:00pm opening on Saturday and Sunday, and they have managed to do that since then.

Mr. Johnston said the team cannot afford to run concessions, but they still need concessions. Mr. Grigg stated that last year the Farmer's Market got approval from the Council to be in the park on weekends when they thought a lot of people would be in the park. They had food booths set up with extended hours on Saturday and also Sunday, so concessions were available for the swim meet. The Market has not made that request this year though, so it was suggested the swim team contact the Farmer's Market Board and see if they can get that commitment from them. However, the City would still need to approve the Market's request. Mr. Johnston expressed concern about the patrons of the swim meet and the swimmers having access to water and other concessions during the long hours they are there, before and after the Farmer's Market and pool concessions close. Mr. Johnston stated that many of the parents put in long hours for the meet but don't see the meet as a fund raiser. Mrs. Lang proposed that we suggest to Council that we work with the swim team to give them exclusive rights to the concessions at certain times so the team could make a little bit of money. Mr. Grigg responded that the swim team could meet with the Market's Board and if the Market sticks to their schedule of being done by 2:00pm on Saturday, the team could kick in with their own concessions if that's what they want to do.

Regarding the Flowrider and Lazy River, Mr. Grigg stated they have not been open during the swim meet in the past. They attempted to leave parts of the pool open during the meet once, and Inland Empire Swim complained that the public swimmers caused ripples in the water and that it was chaotic. They threatened to refuse sanctioning the event if we did that again. Mr. Grigg said it is not feasible to have the Flowrider and Lazy River open during the meet. We have no way to gate them off though, so they both need to be supervised. The Flowrider does not have standing water where a child could fall into a puddle and drown, so there is no need for a trained lifeguard, just supervision. A parent or parents from the swim team could do this. The Lazy River would need multiple certified lifeguards or, at the very least, one certified lifeguard supplemented by a few parents to supervise and ensure children are not accessing the river at the various turns. This would save money for the swim team, as the City would have to be reimbursed for the cost of providing guards. The restrooms by the Lazy River will be closed because we will not be running concessions during the meet, so that end of the facility will be screened off.

### Action Taken

Mrs. Lang moved to recommend the City Council approve the Moses Lake Manta Ray Swim Team's request to hold their annual swim meet at the Surf n' Slide water park on July 13, 14 and 15, 2012, with the same hours, features and conditions that have been approved in previous years. The goal of the Commission is to try to remove any obstacles that would inhibit the swim team's ability to continue their annual swim meet.

Seconded by Mrs. Ries-Ashley and Mrs. Grant, motion passed unanimously.

### Commission Questions and Comments

None.

### Adjournment

Mrs. Grant moved to adjourn, seconded by Mrs. Lang. Meeting adjourned at 7:52 p.m.