

**PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MINUTES**

**MAY 14, 2014**

Members present: Larry Dennis, Charles Maynard, Tiffany Quilter, Char Rios and Connor Lange  
 Members absent: Bette Lang and David Enquist  
 Staff present: Spencer Grigg and Kerri Smoot  
 Guests present: High School Seniors

2014 MEETING ATTENDANCE RECORD

Name	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
Dennis, L	X	C	X	C	X							
Quilter, T	X	C	X	C	X							
Lang, B	X	C	X	C	E							
Maynard, C	X	C	X	C	X							
Rios, C	E	C	X	C	X							
Enquist, D	X	C	E	C	O							
Lange, C	X	C	E	C	X							

C=Meeting Cancelled X=Present O=Absent E=Excused R=Resigned

Call Meeting to Order

The regular meeting was called to order by Chair Larry Dennis at 7:01p.m.

Introduction of Guests/Visitors

Several High School Seniors present.

Approval of Minutes of Prior Meeting

Ms. Rios moved the draft minutes of March 12, 2014 be approved as submitted, seconded by Mr. Maynard. Unanimously approved and passed.

Communication/Correspondence

None.

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

*Sun Terrace Short Plat – Final*

Members reviewed the Sun Terrace Final Short Plat documentation. Brief discussion held.

*Lower Peninsula Park Project*

Construction of this 6-acre park project just began. This park will be similar to Montlake Park. It will initially be a little smaller than Montlake Park, but there will be plenty of room for it to grow in the future.

Director’s Report

*Exercise Stations (Update)*

We have purchased and received the exercise equipment. It will be installed at Yonezawa Park in the near future once the design layout is completed.

*Deane Family Park Element*

We are progressing through the permitting process for this project. The permits required for this project are more extensive than many projects due to it being located next to wetlands.

*Surf ‘n Slide Water Park*

The pool had a fresh coat of paint and has been completely filled. We are getting the pumps and other equipment up and running as well. The Water Park opens to the public on Saturday of Memorial Day weekend. Brief discussion held regarding the maintenance expenses incurred last year, the repair process for the main pumps, and

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the cost of the chlorine needed to keep the pool water clear and hygienic. A lot of the additional expenses stemmed from the increase in the minimum wage, which greatly affected our labor budget for the 150 plus seasonal staff we have.

### *Heron Bluff Trail*

The Blue Heron Bluff Trail was addressed at last night's City Council meeting. People from Cove West, a housing development located next to where the trail will be, appeared at the Council meeting to express their opposition to the trail being near their homes because they feel it would bring crime and undesirable people to their neighborhood. There were a number of people from the community of Moses Lake who were also present at the meeting and expressed their support of the trail because they feel having a nature trail will be a benefit and asset to the Moses Lake community as a whole. The City Council had a split vote, but did approve the trail project. Significant discussion held.

### *Cascade Park Swim Area*

Mr. Grigg passed out a drawing of the new swimming area we are working on at Cascade Park. It will be similar to the swim area we currently have at Blue Heron Park. We hope to complete the project this year.

### Commission Questions/Comments

An audience member asked if the signage we will be using at the Deane Family Park Element will be in different languages. Mr. Grigg explained that we have considered English, Spanish and Russian languages. However, due to the high cost of the materials needed for the signage we may have to limit the wording on the signage and print them only in English, but we won't know for sure until we are further along in the project.

Mr. Maynard asked who is responsible for cleaning up the trees that were downed into the lake at Neppel Landing in the wind storm we had earlier this year. Mr. Grigg explained that on the lakefront there are multiple federal, state or local agencies which could take responsibility, but the consensus seems to be that most of the time it is just left alone because it's a natural process and natural habitat going into the water. The City does have a limited permit to do some maintenance along the shoreline. City maintenance staff did initially clean up some of the trees that were identified as hazardous to people, but there may still be unknown hazards and some trees may just remain in the water where it's safe to do so. Mr. Grigg also explained that the City does not own the property, we just rent it from the railroad. The City would like to own it in the future, but the current lease expires June 1<sup>st</sup>. The City Manager is currently reviewing this issue because if we can't renew the lease, the railroad may take over the land.

The Chevys and Schwinn's event will be this Saturday. Mr. Maynard asked that we request that law enforcement personnel wear brightly colored clothing since they will be standing out in the street and traffic. He was concerned for their safety last year because they were wearing black clothing. Discussion held regarding maybe having someone come to the event to air up bike tires when necessary.

Ms. Quilter expressed her happiness at how the City Council meeting was handled last night and how both sides presented their opinions and views regarding the trail project.

The Triathlon is coming up on June 7<sup>th</sup> and volunteers are needed. The Triathlon typically donates money back to the trails fund.

The Fishing Kids event will be at Cascade Park on the last Saturday of this month, May 31. Some of the grant funding has dried up, so kids will no longer be able to keep their fishing rods. Volunteers are needed for this event as well.

### Adjournment

Ms. Rios moved to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Maynard. Meeting adjourned at 7:55 pm.