

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MINUTES

AUGUST 12, 2015

Members present: Tiffany Quilter, Char Rios, Connor Lange, Charles Maynard and David Estudillo
 Members absent: Larry Dennis and Bette Lang
 Staff present: Spencer Grigg, Lori Moholt-Phillips and Kerri Smoot
 Guests present: Mayor Dick Deane

2015 MEETING ATTENDANCE RECORD

Name	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
Dennis, L	C	X	X	C	X	C	C	E				
Quilter, T	C	X	X	C	X	C	C	X				
Lang, B	C	X	X	C	X	C	C	E				
Maynard, C	C	X	X	C	E	C	C	X				
Rios, C	C	X	X	C	X	C	C	X				
Enquist, D	C	X	E	C	E	R	----	----	----	----	----	----
Lange, C	C	E	E	C	X	C	C	X				
Estudillo, D	----	----	----	----	----	----	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 interim Vice-Chairman Char Rios at 7:02 p.m.

Introduction of Guests/Visitors

David Estudillo, our new Parks and Recreation Commission member, was introduced and welcomed. Mayor Dick Deane was also present for some of the meeting.

Approval of Minutes of Prior Meeting

Mr. Lange moved the draft minutes of May 13, 2015, 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

Craig’s First Short Plat – Final Plat –

With most residential lot plats, this one included, the developer will pay approximately \$1,500 in fee-in-lieu costs. The fee-in-lieu fund has nothing in it currently because it was all used on the Lower Peninsula Park project, so it will be good to have funds in that account again for park development. Mr. Grigg explained the fee-in-lieu process to Mr. Estudillo.

Crossroads North 1 Major Plat – Final Plat –

This project will consist of five phases, one per year. The developer, Hayden Homes, will be doing some of the park development themselves which will save themselves and the City money and will result in the park being completed faster. The first phase of development is under way now and there will be an additional phase developed each year at approximately \$50,000 in fee-in-lieu costs per year.

Poth 1 Major Plat & Shoreline Permit – Preliminary –

This project will consist of two phases. According to the City’s Senior Planner, the fee-in-lieu costs on this plat will be closer to \$1,700 based on the property value and where it’s located. The developer has five years to pay.

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Director's Report

Mr. Grigg approved for Ms. Quilter to add two items to the agenda. Ms. Quilter showed members a National Recreation and Park Association video entitled The Power of Parks. She would like to show this video to the Moses Lake City Council and possibly other communities as well. Commission members liked the video and support Ms. Quilter presenting it to our City Council and any other communities she would like.

Ms. Quilter knows a local Boy Scout who would like to develop a StoryWalk project here in Moses Lake like the one in Ephrata. He would like our help with his project, which would need to be completed by October 31st. Ms. Quilter showed a video highlighting the Ephrata project. It consists of pages of a book that are mounted along a walking trail so people can stop and read them as they walk. Mr. Grigg explained that the time limit of October 31st would be extremely hard to meet due to our limited resources and budget restrictions. He advised that the Boy Scout should contact Roland Gonzales to talk to him about the feasibility of the project. It may have to be considered for another year.

2016 Budget Update (including software request) –

We have submitted our budget requests for 2016 and are requesting funds for three big ticket items: 1) We have had money set aside in the budget for new program registration software for about five years now but we have never been approved to purchase it. Our current registration software, Class, will soon be obsolete and will no longer be supported after next year. Class is transitioning to Active Network, an online registration program which will allow our patrons to register for programs themselves online and also make reservations for our picnic shelters and campground online. The new software will cost approximately \$30,000; 2) The heaters at the pool are now 20 years old and need to be replaced. The cost will be around \$60,000; and 3) The semi-automated pool cleaner also needs to be replaced, at a cost of \$5,000.

Crossroads Park Project –

This topic was already discussed under plat reviews.

2016-2021 Comprehensive Plan –

Our Comprehensive Plan has to be updated every five years for us to qualify for grants. In the past five years we have obtained well over \$1,000,000 in grants. \$1,000,000 went to the Museum and Art Center and \$150,000 to the Heron Bluff Trail, to name a few. The City's Growth Management Comp Plan has a section on Parks and Recreation but it does not have enough information to meet the requirements for grant eligibility. The previous City Manager agreed with us that the most cost-effective approach would be to have Community Development enhance the Parks and Recreation section in the City's existing plan. However, we found out that Community Development will not have time to do this so we have to update the stand-alone plan ourselves. We have contacted the consultant who helped us with the previous plan to see if she can assist us but we have not heard back from her yet. If we are not able to get a new plan completed by February, 2016, we will be ineligible to apply for any grants in 2016 and will have to wait at least two years before we are able to apply again.

Ice Rink –

The City Council approved last night to open the ice rink but not the Larson Rec Center, so we will only have a chemical toilet available for patrons and we will not operate concessions. We will try to work with a non-profit youth program to have a mobile concessions unit to provide hot chocolate and the basics. Council also imposed a \$3 admission fee, so we have to make some physical alterations to the rink so there is one main entrance. We will require additional staff so the entrance is manned at all times. Youth Hockey will now have to pay \$100 per hour to use the rink, Adult Hockey will have to pay \$115 per hour, and visiting teams will have to pay \$275 per hour. Mr. Grigg would like to readdress the imposed fees with the City Council because some of them do not seem appropriate for the rink and equipment we have. Our skates are very old and users already have to pay \$5 a pair to rent them. In addition, the projected expenditure and revenue costs presented at the City Council meeting were not consistent with our records, so that will be readdressed as well. The good news is we will have hockey and recreational skating again this year. Significant discussion held regarding the rink and proposed fee increases. Many feel the imposed fees are too high.

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Surf 'n Slide Water Park –

We've had a great summer this year. Our attendance in June was probably the best we've ever had. We are around \$150,000 in the black right now. The pool is the only place we operated concessions this year and they have already taken in over \$100,000 in concession sales. We also had 1,008 participants in our swim lessons this year. Discussion held regarding some of last year's maintenance expenses and possible expenses for the upcoming year. One reason we are in the black this year is because we have not had the costly maintenance repair expenses we had last year. However, the pool and equipment is over 20 years old now and we have to rebuild the flow rider pumps about every other year.

Employee Accomplishments –

Our Customer Service Representative, Steven Kinser, just met his 1-year probation period. We had some other employees who received service pins at last night's City Council meeting: Scott Allsbrook for 20 years, Don Garrett for 15 years, and Mr. Grigg for 25 years.

Ballfield Tournament Summary –

Mr. Grigg handed out a summary of statistics from the ball tournaments held at our ballfields this year. The statistics amount to about a 2.2 million dollar economic impact to our community. We had approximately 316 teams participate in the tournaments this year. Many night games could not be held due to the failing lights at the fields. We potentially lost around \$660,000 in revenue from these lost games. Mr. Grigg has presented this issue at the City Retreat two years in a row. Previously, the cost to replace the lighting was around \$500,000. However, there are improved lighting options available now that may not cost as much. We will continue to apply for grants and will hopefully receive one with matching funds.

City Manager Search –

No one present attended the community meeting that was held Monday night to discuss the search for a new City Manager. The meeting was apparently very small and short. According to Greg Prothman, there are 13 applicants so far and he expects 30-50 total applicants. Mr. Lange asked if Gilbert Alvarado, the interim City Manager, has applied. Mr. Grigg stated that he doesn't know if he has applied or if he intends to apply.

Ms. Moholt-Phillips' Report

Camp Fire Robo Girls did concessions at Larson and Lauzier ballfields this year. We had a great working relationship with them. They brought in over \$4,000 and we got 10% of that. With their help, we were able to provide a valuable service to our patrons.

Manta Rays have paid their bill in full for their use of the pool for their swim meet this year. They have informed us they are debt free and plan to be around for a while.

The Museum and Art Center and the Moses Lake Public Library have teamed up to hold a free Comi-Con event on August 13th. There will be events for the kids at the library and in Civic Center Park from 2-4 pm. The museum will show the movie Guardians of the Galaxy at 3pm.

The Museum and Art Center will be at the Grant County Fair Tuesday – Saturday next week. Freya Liggett, the Museum Manager, had a good idea to do a "Pop-Up Museum" for kids. They will have a different theme each day and different activities for the kids.

Commission Questions/Comments

Mr. Maynard discussed multiple issues he has seen at the parks that he feels need to be addressed. Mr. Grigg discussed the issues with him. Mr. Maynard also feels we need more trees in the parks and less grass.

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Ms. Rios asked about the poor condition of the asphalt at Blue Heron Park. Mr. Grigg explained that the Public Works Department manages and maintains the asphalt and they plan to make repairs, but it may be a while due to the size of the project. Ms. Rios reported that BuDu Racing may have to hold their runs somewhere else in the future. Attendance was really low this year and some of it may be because it's hard for the runners to run on the deteriorating asphalt.

Mr. Grigg commented that Char is acting as Vice-Chairman because Mr. Dennis could not attend and our last Vice-Chairman was Jonathon Brooks, who is no longer on the Commission. We will address this in the future when all members are present to elect a formal Vice-Chairman.

Mayor Deane introduced himself to our new member, Mr. Estudillo. Mayor Deane shared that he received a letter from the Mayor of Bonney Lake and 80% of the letter has to do with parks and recreation. The letter relayed that the community of Bonney Lake was doing extremely well until things slowed down around 2007. The community is now back up to where it used to be and he attributes their success to what they have done with their parks to enhance the quality of life in their community. Mayor Deane shared highlights of this week's City Council meeting and commended Commission members on the part they play in the quality of life of our community.

Adjournment

Ms. Quilter moved to adjourn; seconded by Mr. Lange. Meeting adjourned at 8:36 p.m.