

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MINUTES

OCTOBER 14, 2015

Members present: Tiffany Quilter, Char Rios, Charles Maynard, David Estudillo and Larry Dennis
 Members absent: Bette Lang and Connor Lange
 Staff present: Spencer Grigg, Lori Moholt-Phillips, Roland Gonzales 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	C	X		
Quilter, T	C	X	X	C	X	C	C	X	C	X		
Lang, B	C	X	X	C	X	C	C	E	C	E		
Maynard, C	C	X	X	C	E	C	C	X	C	X		
Rios, C	C	X	X	C	X	C	C	X	C	X		
Enquist, D	C	X	E	C	E	R	----	----	----	----	----	----
Lange, C	C	E	E	C	X	C	C	X	C	E		
Estudillo, D	----	----	----	----	----	----	C	X	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 7:02 p.m.

Introduction of Guests/Visitors

Mayor Dick Deane was present at the meeting.

Approval of Minutes of Prior Meeting

Mr. Maynard moved the draft minutes of August 12, 2015, be approved as submitted; seconded by Ms. Rios. Unanimously approved and passed.

Communication/Correspondence

None.

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

Parkview Planned Unit Development Major Plat – Final Plat

This plat consists of 21 units and will bring in approximately \$14,750.00 in fee in lieu funds.

Poth Major Plat I & II -- Preliminary

The Poth I Plat consists of 10 premium lakeshore lots and the Poth II Plat consists of 17 inland lots. The total potential fee in lieu revenue from these plats should be around \$55,788.00.

Director’s Report

Parks and Recreation Comprehensive Plan – Update

We got approval from the Interim City Manager to contract with Arvilla Ohlde to assist us with our new Comp Plan which is due in February. This is crucial because we can’t apply for any grants for two years if we don’t have an active plan. To help with the cost, staff will be assisting with the preparation process.

City Manager Search – Update

The selection of a new City Manager is in progress. The timeline for completion of the process is unknown.

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Ice Rink – Update

We are excited to reopen the Ice Rink the first week of November. The Larson Recreation Center is still closed though, so patrons will have no warm place to view the rink from. We will have an ADA accessible porta-potty and we may be able to work with a non-profit youth group for concessions. We are required to charge an admission fee now which means the rink must be staffed at all times when it is open. Therefore, we will no longer be able to offer unsupervised skating in the mornings because the rink cannot open until after school gets out. The rink will typically be open from 4-8 pm on most nights. Brief discussion held regarding upcoming hockey tournaments.

Crossroads Park – Update

The park looks incredible with green, sprouting grass. The City Council has accepted the Engineer's punch list and we will do a walk through with the developer on Friday. The developer would like to have a ribbon cutting ceremony and celebration, but because the grass is so new and fragile it may have to wait until the spring.

Maintenance Position – Update

Don Garrett just retired and we are interviewing for his successor. We currently have three openings in our Maintenance Department but are only allowed to fill one of them. In addition, two of our full time employees will be out for three months due to surgeries. If we have a harsh winter we are going to have a hard time keeping up with maintenance duties due to being so short-staffed.

Cascade Park Restroom – Vandalism/Arson

The day use restroom at Cascade Park was recently vandalized and set on fire. This restroom is used by a lot of people, including the participants of all of the youth sports held at Cascade Park. Our insurance adjuster advised that we should demolish the restroom and build a new one. However, the City determined a few years ago that the restroom should only be insured for the cost of the materials our department used to initially build the restroom. As a result, the limited insurance coverage leaves us \$120,000.00 short of what it would cost to demolish the restroom and rebuild it now. We are going to have to try to just do what we can with the limited budget and resources we have. This situation is very sad for the many patrons of Cascade Park who will now have to use a porta-potty.

Pioneer Meadows Project -- Update

If there is no dedication of land on this 170 unit apartment complex project, the fee in lieu funds will be approximately \$192,000.00. The Trails Planning Team is trying to get them to dedicate .6 of an acre of land to be used in the trail. If that happens, the fee in lieu funds will be around \$114,000.00. The project will go before the Planning Commission this week to review the Trails Planning Team's recommendation and it will then go before City Council. With the fee in lieu money and the existing funds in the trails and paths budget account, we can do a matching grant with RCO. Discussion held regarding material options for the pervious surface which is required because the trail will be located in a wetland. Ms. Moholt-Phillips and Anne Henning will be meeting with the Department of Natural Resources, the Washington State Department of Transportation and the Department of Ecology tomorrow. Significant discussion held regarding the trail and how beneficial it will be for the community to have a walkway connecting Division Street and Pioneer Way. Ms. Quilter made a motion that the Parks and Recreation Commission support the concept and eventual building of the Pioneer Meadows Trail. Mr. Estudillo seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Cascade Campground

We had our highest revenue from Cascade Campground this year due to a decrease in expenditures and the \$5.00 increase in our reservation fees for 2015.

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Blue Heron Fishing Pier

Mr. Grigg shared some of the history of how Gary Main and the Columbia Basin Walleye Club were instrumental in the development of the Blue Heron Fishing Pier and how they are continuing to support it by making a donation of \$1,834.19 at last night's City Council meeting to go towards the maintenance of the pier. The City Council adopted a Resolution accepting their donation and Mayor Deane thanked them for their contribution. Ms. Rios suggested that the Parks and Recreation Commission also send a thank you letter to the Walleye Club expressing their appreciation.

Ms. Moholt-Phillips' Report

We need to elect a Vice-Chair for the Commission since Jonathon Brooks is no longer a member. We will address this issue again once we have all of our members present.

Mr. Gonzales' Report

We are getting ready for winter and the reopening of the ice rink. We are also building a dog park on a 10-acre lot on the corner of Paxson and Central. We are working with Rick Serra and the Friends of the Moses Lake Dog Park non-profit group. We have installed turf, some hard surface, a kiosk and some 5' tall chain link fencing. There will be an area for small dogs and a separate area for large dogs. We are 2-3 weeks from completion. The Friends of the Moses Lake Dog Park have spent 3 years raising funds for the project and have been working with volunteers and Job Corp kids to complete the work. We will continue to add amenities to the park in the future as they have funds to do so. Mr. Gonzales also reported that he attended a really good WSU/Chelan County Extension seminar on mature tree care and maintenance, and he will be attending a Master Gardeners educational conference in November.

Commission Questions/Comments

Ms. Quilter shared about the national movement to make communities more "walkable". She also asked about sidewalks at the new development going in on Nelson Road by South Campus. Brief discussions held.

Mayor Deane shared that the representative from the Walleye Club who addressed the City Council last night spoke very highly of the Parks and Recreation Commission and Mr. Gonzales from the Parks and Recreation Department. He also shared that he is glad to see the dog park coming together because it was a grass-roots project and we need more projects like that in our community. He relayed that Monday night's candidates' forum included a question about the candidates' attitudes about closing parks. All of the candidates stated that they did not approve of closing down any of the parks. The REC tax situation and resulting cuts to the Parks Department was discussed. People are impressed with the way the Parks and Recreation Department has held together. Moses Lake is one of the leading cities in the Pacific Northwest for park facilities and recreation. It was presented at the forum that agriculture is the leading asset for the financial growth of our community, followed by manufacturing and then recreation. Mayor Deane also reported that the Guardian facility on Wheeler Road has been sold and the new occupant will be hiring a substantial number of employees.

Adjournment

Ms. Rios moved to adjourn; seconded by Ms. Quilter. Meeting adjourned at 8:08 p.m.