

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MINUTES

DECEMBER 9, 2015

Members present: Tiffany Quilter, Char Rios, Charles Maynard, David Estudillo, Larry Dennis, Bette Lang and Connor Lange
 Members absent: None
 Staff present: Spencer Grigg, Lori Moholt-Phillips and Kerri Smoot
 Guests present: Mayor Deane and many members of the community

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	C	X
Quilter, T	C	X	X	C	X	C	C	X	C	X	C	X
Lang, B	C	X	X	C	X	C	C	E	C	E	C	X
Maynard, C	C	X	X	C	E	C	C	X	C	X	C	X
Rios, C	C	X	X	C	X	C	C	X	C	X	C	X
Enquist, D	C	X	E	C	E	R	----	----	----	----	----	----
Lange, C	C	E	E	C	X	C	C	X	C	E	C	X
Estudillo, D	----	----	----	----	----	----	C	X	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 7:03 p.m.

Introduction of Guests/Visitors

Mr. Dennis welcomed Mayor Deane and all of the members of the community present for the Comprehensive Plan Update Public Input Session.

Approval of Minutes of Prior Meeting

Mr. Maynard moved the draft minutes of October 14, 2015, be approved as submitted; seconded by Ms. Quilter. Unanimously approved and passed.

Communication/Correspondence

Mr. Grigg reviewed a letter received from the Moses Lake Adult Hockey Association requesting to host a hockey tournament with a beer garden at the Ice Rink the weekend of January 29-31. This matter already went before City Council last night, where it was approved.

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

None.

Director’s Report

Prescription for Play/Green Prescription – Update

This is a nationwide program where doctors can issue a prescription for physical activity for obesity and other health issues. Mr. Grigg has attended two meetings with Confluence Health, Samaritan Healthcare and some independent healthcare providers on establishing this program for our community. Ms. Lang asked about low income families being able to afford a class. Mr. Grigg explained that because we are a municipality we cannot waive program fees or give away anything for free because the state considers that gifting of public funds. However, we can contact local service clubs and charitable organizations to see if they would be willing to sponsor a scholarship program. Brief discussion held.

Ice Rink – Update

Mr. Grigg passed out the 2015 Financial Recap for the Ice Rink showing accrued expenditures and revenue since the rink opened this year. Some amounts are projected due to the lag time between when the amounts are accrued and when they are entered into the city’s financial software. Because we are very early in the season, the maintenance expenses are much higher than revenue because it cost so much to get the chiller and the rink itself

back into working order so we could reopen it. Barring any unforeseen emergency maintenance expenses, we are hopeful that the revenue from the new admission fees and the hockey tournaments will help offset the maintenance costs and the costs for the additional staff required at the rink this year. We won't know until after the season is over whether or not we will break even. We don't have any concession revenue this year because the Larson Recreation Center is still closed. Discussion held regarding concessions, rink signage, how last year's rink closure affected the hockey leagues, and possibly holding a themed event at the rink. Mr. Grigg answered a few questions from community members regarding concessions and hockey tournaments.

Museum & Art Center Membership Drive – Update

The Museum & Art Center had their "Feed the Mammoth" opening night event on November 20th. The community so far has donated an entire truck load of food for the Food Bank. In addition, the Museum has hit a historic high in the amount of membership funds they have received: \$13,270.00, which equates to 244 active members. Both the food drive and membership drive will run through January. This weekend is the "Do You Want to Build a Snowman?" contest where kids can bring in an entry of a snowman and enter their ticket to win a bike donated by John Laughery of Specialty Welding. We will do a mini gallery opening for the kids with cookies and treats, and then do the bike drawings so the winning kids can go home with a bike.

Comprehensive Plan Update Public Input Session

Mr. Grigg explained what the Comprehensive Plan is, why we need one, and why community input on the survey and at the input sessions is so critical. He thanked everyone for coming out to participate in the input session.

Each of the community members present introduced themselves and shared what they like about our parks and recreation system. Responses included: activity and biking trails; all of the various sports programs we offer for children and adults; the many parks in our community; the Surf 'n Slide Water Park for its swimming programs and for providing jobs for our community's youth; the BMX Track and Skate Park; the Larson Recreation Center, Batting Cages, LOFT and Ice Rink; the hockey program and tournaments; the fiscal responsibility of the Parks and Recreation Department; and the many great places for fishing.

Mr. Grigg explained that our last plan was done five years ago, so the demographics have changed a lot since then. He went over all of the parks, facilities and trails we have established for our community since the last plan was done and explained how each project was funded (e.g.: by private donations, fee-in-lieu funds, grants or general fund money). The Ice Rink came about because of a brainstorming session just like the one we are having tonight. He explained the grant process and why it is imperative that we get a new comp plan submitted by the February 2016 deadline so we will still be eligible to apply for grants. Many of our facilities, parks and trails were made possible only because of grants we received. He listed facilities and programs that were affected by the recent budget cuts and discussed potential future projects and items we need as the budget permits. One of the most critical items we need is new registration software. The current software program we use expires after 2016 and will no longer have any type of support for it. The new software would enable customers to register for all of our programs online, make campground reservations online, and reserve picnic shelters online.

Community members broke up into four groups, each facilitated by a Parks and Recreation Commission member. Each group brainstormed and came up with a list of items for three topics: 1) "What has changed?" (e.g.: demographics, additions, wants & demands since 2009); 2) "What is needed?" (Programs? Facilities? Land/Open Space? Leadership?); and 3) "The Dreams" (Visions, Possibilities, Desires for Moses Lake Parks).

Mr. Grigg took a poll of how many people would use our facilities and programs more often if they could register online. Everyone raised their hands. He thanked everyone again for coming out and reminded everyone to take the survey if they haven't already. Ms. Moholt-Phillips reported that there will be two more community input sessions: one on Tuesday, January 12th, at 4:00 p.m. in the Annex building (the old City Hall building) at the Trails Planning Team meeting; and one on Friday, January 15th, at 5:00 p.m. at the Museum and Art Center. The Museum is having an opening that night, so we should be able to get a good cross-section of people.

Mr. Grigg asked each group moderator to give a quick summary of their top three ideas in each category. Their responses were:

1) WHAT HAS CHANGED?

Group 1 moderated by Charlene Rios: Moses Lake has a lot of young people in our population with low income, so we need to focus more attention on youth programs that are affordable; Parks need to be located close enough to neighborhoods that kids and families can safely walk to them and use them; We need to get kids away from social media and devices, and more involved in sports and family activities.

Group 2 moderated by Charles Maynard: Increased population; Families with higher incomes and more young children; Impediments to trail expansion, such as highways and the railroad.

Group 3 moderated by Tiffany Quilter: Increase in population resulting in more businesses, overcrowding in the school district, more jobs; Additions with sustainability (Tourism) – we have made additions to our parks but we also have to deal with the sustainability issues.

Group 4 moderated by Larry Dennis: Moses Lake is growing as a whole, not only in population but also with our aging society, our school system, and our businesses and industries.

2) WHAT IS NEEDED?

Group 1: More lighting in parks, on trails, on streets, in neighborhoods, and on the baseball/softball fields and soccer fields; More water activities such as a marina, paddle boarding and kayaking, with places where people can do these activities away from heavy boat traffic; a Community Center.

Group 2: Safe road crossing for trails, pedestrians and bikes; Modern lighting for all ballfields; Not using existing facilities to their full extent.

Group 3: A Community Center (could be a sports facility or a common play facility with lots of different amenities, or both); Enhance online availability for registrations and social media outlets; More leadership, involvement and community outreach.

Group 4: A Community Center; Reopening the Larson Recreation Center or maybe converting it into a Community Center; Online registration capabilities; An Adventure Park for all ages, not just focused on smaller kids.

3) DREAMS.

Group 1: A Community Center; Reinstatement of all the programs we lost over the past few years; Clean, clear water so more people will visit our community to participate in water activities.

Group 2: Link the trails together; Combination Library/Community Center; More all-weather facilities, beginning with the Ice Rink.

Group 3: A Community Center – could be similar to the Larson Recreation Center with amenities, or even an indoor sports complex; An over-water bridge possibly in Cascade Valley or Mae Valley; Connecting all of the trails so it's a complete system; Expanding the Surf 'n Slide Water Park; More art; Bike-share and bike rentals.

Group 4: Enclosing the Ice Rink so it can be used year-round and we don't have to fight the weather; Updating the lighting on all of the fields so we bring in more tournaments and revenue; Opening up the Skate Park to bikes and roller skates too so more people can utilize it; a Community Center.

Adjournment

Ms. Rios moved to adjourn; seconded by Ms. Lang. Meeting adjourned at 8:59 p.m.