

**PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MINUTES**

**JUNE 13, 2012**

Members present: Charles Maynard, Larry Dennis, Char Rios, Hilda Grant, Bette Lang, Jonathon Brooks and Brian Dano  
 Members absent: Kim Ries-Ashley  
 Staff present: Spencer Grigg, Lori Moholt-Phillips and Kerri Fenner  
 Guests present: None

2012 MEETING ATTENDANCE RECORD

Name	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
Dano, B	X	C	E	X	C	X						
Brooks, J	X	C	X	E	C	X						
Dennis, L	X	C	X	X	C	X						
Grant, H	X	C	X	E	C	X						
Kirwan, B	E	C	E	E	C	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Lang, B	X	C	X	E	C	X						
Maynard, C	X	C	X	X	C	X						
Ries-Ashley, K	X	C	X	O	C	E						
Rios, C	X	C	X	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 7:03 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

Ms. Rios moved the minutes of March 14, 2012 and April 11, 2012 be approved as submitted, seconded by Mr. Maynard. Unanimously approved and passed.

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

*Blue Heron Park Preliminary Major Plat & Shoreline Permit –*

Mr. Grigg explained that the Blue Heron Park property was never platted when it was owned by the State of Washington, so it is being platted now. Brief discussion held.

*Columbia Basin Walleye Club Path, Floating Walkway & Fishing Platform; Shoreline Substantial Development Permit and C-R Zone Conditional Use Permit –*

The floating walkway and fishing platform was originally a \$150,000 project. The City Council approved neighborhood self-help funds in the amount of up to \$33,300.33, and the company that built the platform gave the Walleye Club a \$50,000 discount. The Club was then able to raise the remaining funds from within the community. Installation of the walkway and platform should be completed in the fall when the lake level is back down. The location is the little lagoon which runs parallel to I-90 on the edge of Blue Heron Park. Discussion held regarding dock anchors, leaving dock in the water year-round versus removing it for the winter, and signage.

Communication/Correspondence

None.

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### Director's Report

*Commission Term Renewals* – Brent Kirwan did not renew his term. Mr. Dennis and Ms. Rios both submitted letters requesting reappointment. One person has expressed interest in appointment to the Commission.

### *Concert & Movie Series Update* –

Mr. Grigg passed out posters showing the concert and movie series schedule of events. Brief discussion held.

### *Roller Rink Update* –

The Roller Rink will open this Friday. Skate rental fees will be the same as the ice rink. The rink will initially be open only on weekends to gauge the public's interest.

*Possible Additional New Restroom Update* – We have requested a third restroom. One location being considered is Blue Heron beach, to replace the restroom there that is pretty dilapidated. Mr. Dano suggested also considering Neppel Park. Discussion held.

*Kids Fishing Derby* – There were approximately 350 participants this year. Mr. Grigg was unable to attend, but was told the fishing was good.

*Farmer's Market Loop* – The City Council previously had us inform the Farmers Market they had three options to alleviate the damage being done to the park trees and turf: 1) They could pay to provide a concrete or asphalt loop in the park; 2) Councilman Dean could have some of his previous students who now work in the construction industry provide services with neighborhood self-help funding (this option will not work now due to not enough funds left this year, but may be addressed again next year); and 3) They could put booths up on each side of the existing asphalt maintenance trail which runs through the park. This option will allow us to take care of the roots and the trees and also the mobility challenge, so anyone with crutches, a wheelchair, a walker, a cane, or even someone pushing a stroller has something much more viable to walk across than wet grass. Most of the reports we have received so far indicate people like the Farmers Market set up this way, with just a few concerns expressed from the leadership within the Market. Brief discussion held regarding booth set up.

### Ms. Moholt-Phillips' Report

*MAC Endowment* – The Museum received a \$50,000 endowment from Dr. Ruby to go towards the Permanent Historical Collection Maintenance Fund. The money will be handled through the Northwest Foundation in Spokane. Starting in 2014 and continuing forever, we will receive a dividends check every year.

*Trails Grant* – We are applying for the RCO grant for the Heron Bluff Trail which goes through Blue Heron Park. Members of the Trails Planning Team have also been fund raising in the community. The Columbia Basin Foundation in Ephrata pledged \$25,000 if we get the grant. So far the Trails Planning Team has raised \$29,000 to go towards the \$197,000 that the City would have to provide. Discussion held regarding the Columbia Basin Foundation and the grant process.

*BMX Camping* – The number of campers was down this year, but there were more racers. The event was very positive, with no real problems.

*Surf n' Slide* – The water park has been up and running since Memorial Day, with only a few closures due to inclement weather and low patronage.

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*Chevys & Schwinn's* – Event was a success. Highlights of the event discussed. We will consider having this be an annual event.

*Family Triathlon* – Budu held race last weekend, with over 600 participants. This event was also a success.

### Commission Questions and Comments

Ms. Lang asked about the Museum's sales since they moved into the new Civic Center building and are no longer located downtown. Ms. Moholt-Phillips reported that they have suffered a decline, probably due to the location and also the museum staff has been focused on a few projects so they haven't had the time to concentrate on the inventory or new sales software. Mr. Grigg explained that a positive aspect of the move is that now people coming in to pay their utility bills have to walk right past the museum and exhibits, and many have commented that they didn't even know the City had a museum. Brief discussion held regarding the work being done on various museum exhibits and the museum staying open late at times for various groups using the Civic Center Auditorium and Council Chambers.

Ms. Rios commented that the new website is much improved over the prior website and is now very easy to navigate. She also stated that the new Learning Center building is very impressive.

### Adjournment

Ms. Rios moved to adjourn, seconded by Ms. Lang. Meeting adjourned at 7:48 p.m.