

Pullman Parks & Recreation Commission

MINUTES: March 9, 2016

Mick Nazerali called the regular meeting of the Pullman Parks & Recreation Commission to order at 6:32PM. Additional members present included Sam Fereidooni, Zach Fredrickson, and Rod Schwartz. Staff members present were: Afton Bond, Alan Davis, and Kurt Dahmen. Jessica Williams from the League of Women Voters was also in attendance as a guest.

AGENDA/MINUTES:

- A. MOTION:** Zach Fredrickson made a motion to adopt the agenda for the March 9, 2016 regular meeting; Rod Schwartz seconded. Passed unanimously.
- B. MOTION:** Zach Fredrickson moved to accept the minutes from the January 13, 2016 regular meeting; Rod Schwartz seconded. Passed unanimously.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- A.** Mick Nazerali made the announcement that there is a guest observer present for the meeting. Jessica Williams was in attendance from the League of Women Voters of Pullman.

REPORTS:

- A. Parks Report:** (Appendix A: 3-9-16)
 - Alan Davis reported the following:
 - a. Continued to clean up storm debris throughout the city and cemetery. Everything is close to be completely cleaned up from recent storms.
 - b. Big news from January and February is that all 50,000 bulbs for Bulbs on Bishop are in the ground; 7,000 pounds of bulbs and over 400 volunteers helped make it possible. Some bulbs are starting to bloom.
 - c. Entrance sign is up. Waiting for weather to clear up to begin working on stonework for the columns and landscaping. Pleased with the craftsmanship of the new sign compared to the condition of the byway signs. In the process of deciding how soon another entrance sign will begin process.
 - d. Making switch from plows to sweepers then to mowers.
 - e. Brick work was taken out for the holiday tree. Lights stayed up at library because they were red and white for Valentine's Day.
 - f. In process of getting yearly CEU's for weed control; working on getting inventory done in between rain storms; getting building cleaned up.
 - g. Met with a Scout and his father in regards to rebuilding the soccer boxes.
 - h. Broken digger at Sunnyside required repairs.
 - i. Confirmed 2016 tree order for the Stadium Way project.
 - j. Vandalism caused damage to the storm drain grate by first base at Upper Quann. There were garbage cans thrown into the drain. The individuals who vandalized the drain were caught and they will do community service for the Parks department.
 - k. There have been multiple burials lately. AOUW section is full; 5F is the only section that has lots for sale in the old cemetery. There is already about 50% filled at the new cemetery; deciding where new burials will be in the new section.

- I. Groundbreaking and ribbon cutting will be scheduled for early summer for Eleanor McCloskey's donation that was approved by council.

Zach Fredrickson made comment that there is a code that only allows decorative "festive" lighting up for 90 days. He wanted everyone to be aware of it. Alan confirmed that they do take down lights at the end of the season.

Rod Schwartz asked if there were any specific plans with the McCloskey donation at Sunnyside Park. Alan said everything that can be done with it is already done. He has worked with Palouse Trust and everything is to be as is.

B. Recreation Report (Appendix B: 3-9-16)

Kurt Dahmen reported the following:

- a. January kicked off a lot of the winter programs; fitness and youth sports.
- b. Youth dance program lead by Brooke Barner is continuing to grow as she has a good following of participants.
- c. Boys and girls basketball (2-5 grade) were up about 7 kids from last year.
- d. General recreation classes were good as usual.
- e. Sport programs have great attendance.
- f. With the new ordinance allowing the Pullman RV Park to be open year-round, there were 6 nights reserved.
- g. February was the start of some programs, but not as many as January.
- h. Some classes through Summit Therapy were offered for free with a Pay It Forward initiative.
- i. Adult volleyball was the same as last year.
- j. Senior Center had good members. There was a memorial for Elizabeth Gabe with a nice turnout. There were great events and good trips.
- k. Went through revenues and expenditures throughout the year. The monthly reports were graphed, showing recreation registration spikes, aquatic spikes, and comparable data between 2014 and 2015 reports.

C. Aquatics: Year-End Report (Appendix C: 3-9-16)

Kurt Dahmen reported the following:

- a. Year-end overview showed a revenue of \$266,000, which was down approximately 4.85%. The Aquatic Center was closed for 17 days when the HVAC was down, contributing to revenue loss.
- b. Other revenue sources were displayed and discussed; Programs, point of sale, memberships, events, rentals, etc.
- c. The contract with Pullman School District was discussed; Their contract equals \$70,709 per the Inter-local Agreement between the two entities.
- d. Expenditures were broken down. Display of 10 year comparison was shown.
- e. Discussed overhead costs from Government Buildings; Heating, utilities, garbage, custodian, supplies, subcontracted, etc.
- f. Reaney Park construction also contributed to revenue decrease.

Mick Nazerali asked about the huge revenue spike in October and if the membership special will continue. Kurt said the public has grown to expect the special rate and renew their membership during that month every year.

OLD BUSINESS

A. Mary's Park Update

Alan Davis reported the following:

- a. Mary's Park is quickly developing from an ADA Playground to Inclusive Playground to Universal Playground, meaning there is equipment for everyone to enjoy.
- b. Committee is meeting to approve small purchases for zip-line, diggers, swing sets, and cocoons.
- c. The Landscape 240 class has agreed to purchase the xylophone and chimes.
- d. The students produced artwork for potential park elements. Each blueprint concept showed elements such as insects, hobbit tunnels, agriculture, etc.
- e. Ideas for the orchard and gardening elements were discussed how it can be accessible to all.
- f. Hoping to move forward with plans quickly.

B. 2016 Parks & Recreation Goals & Budget

Kurt Dahmen reported the following:

- a. To recap, the City goals are submitted by employees, civic groups, and the public. The goals are then combined and evaluated. They are then categorized into administrative duties or City goals.
- b. The Parks & Path Bond was submitted for a City goal. The goal begins with identifying projects that would be a good fit for the bond.
- c. The HVAC and air quality issues at the Aquatic Center were also submitted. Over the years there has been some rust and corrosive issues, fitness equipment, repertory issues, etc. A full review should be done to determine if air is moving, water is turning, etc. Labor & Industries are coming to do an air test soon.
- d. Revisiting the traffic at City Playfields was also submitted. Warning to vehicles to slow down and watch for pedestrians as we start our busy season.
- e. The idea of a sports complex was also submitted.

Alan Davis reported the following:

- f. Grand Avenue Greenway project was submitted for continued support.
- g. Continue to coordinate with Civic Trust with the paths systems around town; some new, some continuing.
- h. Small satellite pocket parks were submitted.
- i. Expansion of the City's ADA transition plan, specifically as it relates to Parks. Sunnyside updates are included with that; pave ways, restrooms, shelters, etc.
- j. An additional Parks employee was also submitted for the required work needed from the Parks department. This has been submitted as a City goal for year after year. A new employee can become more pro-active in pruning street trees as a portion of their duties.
- k. Some minor cuts were made to save money in the budget; some projects were done in-house. The irrigation employee retired in January and that position has stayed open to also save money.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Lawson Gardens

- a. "Walking Washington's Gardens" named Lawson Gardens as the 29th best public garden in Washington. The book is available at the Pioneer Center. Rod Schwartz asked if there will be copies available at the Library. Alan said they have not ordered any at this time.

B. Naming of Frisbee Disc Course

- a. Kurt received an email asking how to go about naming the Frisbee Disc Course after an individual who has passed. Claud A. Faler was an avid user of the course and enjoyed playing and teaching others how to play. Kurt and Alan requested the committee's thoughts on how to proceed with the request.
- b. Rod Schwartz asked if other dedicated locations were accompanied with a check/donation. Alan said that some were and some weren't.
- c. Zach Fredrickson asked if Mr. Faler was known for any sort of public service. Alan went on to explain that most of the previous dedicated locations were all over the board. They are primarily looking for a standard policy on how to name locations and how to limit dedications so there isn't an over-abundance.
- d. It was mentioned that instead of naming the entire course after Mr. Faler, perhaps a bench would be reasonable since there is already a policy in place for benches.
- e. Rod Schwartz and the committee agreed that it is not unreasonable to come up with a standard policy and requirements, such as asking for a donation in order to dedicate a location. Everyone agreed to take the next month to formulate questions toward a location dedication policy.

ADJOURNMENT:

- A. MOTION:** Rod Schwartz made a motion to adjourn; seconded by Zach Fredrickson. Passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 7:34PM.

Mick Nazerali
Chairperson

Kurt Dahmen
Recreation Manager

Alan Davis
Parks Manager