

Pullman Parks & Recreation Commission

MINUTES: July 27, 2016

Rod Schwartz called the special meeting of the Pullman Parks & Recreation Commission to order at 6:34PM. Additional members present included Kelly Forsyth, Zachary Fredrickson, Lynda Hamilton, Carole Johnson, and Rod Schwartz. Staff members present were: Alan Davis, Kurt Dahmen, and Kristin Lincoln (recorder).

AGENDA/MINUTES:

- A. **MOTION:** Lynda Hamilton made a motion to adopt the agenda for the July 27, 2016 special meeting; Kelly Forsyth seconded. Passed unanimously.
- B. **MOTION:** Lynda Hamilton moved to accept the minutes from the March 9, 2016 regular meeting; Kelly Forsyth seconded. Passed unanimously.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- A. Kurt Dahmen made the announcement that Kristin Lincoln is the new Administrative Specialist in the Parks and Recreation office. She has replaced Afton Bond.

REPORTS:

- A. **Parks Report:** (Appendix A: 7-27-16)
 - Alan Davis reported the following:
 - a. Tree and shrub orders arrived and were planted at Sunrise Park and along Stadium Way. Crew also started to remove junipers along the north side of stadium way. Trees were also trimmed and flyers were distributed that in future the pruning would be the responsibility of the property owners.
 - b. Crew is deep into mowing and its going well.
 - c. Downtown businesses reported problems with ants and thought they were coming from the trees. Trees were pruned back but the ant problem may originate from the mimosa building.
 - d. Crew will be removing a large maple tree at California st and B st.
 - e. The plumbing restock materials have already almost been exhausted.
 - f. The "College Hill Clean Up" and the "Annual Spring Cleanup" went well.
 - g. Inspected playgrounds. Dealing with wasps nests currently.
 - h. The Reaney Park Pool took effort to clean but was completed.
 - i. Cemetery repairs going well.
 - j. There have been a number of burials that have exceeded the budget for contractual grave openings.
 - k. Memorial Day went well.
 - l. Put together materials for Mary's Park to move forward with equipment for both children of need and others. Horse tail was found in the pasture when the area was excavated. It will take some hand work to remove before it goes to seed.
 - m. Currently holding on to four (4) sculptures for the Grand Avenue Greenway. The first will most likely be installed at the Chamber of Commerce.
 - n. Todd Heitstuman is our new irrigation specialist. Todd came on board in May.

- o. Met with Backyard Harvest and Community Action regarding the ADA garden for Mary's Park. Talked about making the garden also a place for community members to see how various plants grow in the area for their own garden.
- p. Met with the Kiwanis, Rotary, Lions Club and League of Women's Voters regarding Lawson Gardens and the new Garden House. An Open House was also held in the Garden on June 23rd and got positive feedback and some donors looking at putting Lawson in their estate. The new garden house would provide another source of income and would add restrooms to the park. The biggest concern seems to be regarding traffic and parking. Events sizes will be limited to alleviate these concerns.
- q. There are a number of scouts projects currently being undertaken including the renovation of the Conservation Park pergola, the extension of the Itani Linear Path into Sunnyside Park, construction of bat boxes for Mary's Park wetland mitigation, and rebuilding and painting of the soccer, softball and baseball boxes.

Rod Schwartz asked how much money in what timeframe is needed for the Garden House at Lawson Gardens. Alan answered that \$700,000 needs to be raised within 2.5 years.

B. Recreation Report – Pioneer Center (Appendix B: 7-27-16)

Kurt Dahmen reported the following:

- a. Spring was successful.
- b. Soccer enrollment was up 20-25%.
- c. The egg hunt in April had good attendance. Thank you to the Senior Center for stuffing the plastic eggs for the event.
- d. Participation in youth softball was the highest seen in number of years. There were 36 teams combined with Moscow and a number of small towns in the area.
- e. Same amount of teams in adult softball as last year. The Moscow field was out of commission starting in June so they played at the City Playfields. None of the Men's games were rained out and only one of the Women's. The Women's leagues are struggling with only three (3) teams this year. The Coed teams were down two (2) from last year.
- f. Introduced badminton for the first time and was popular.
- g. This is the 2nd year that adult golf has been full.
- h. The kids summer camps have been successful with an average of 20 enrolled per week.
- i. Scotts Bike Camp is very popular. There was concern about the kids on bikes around traffic but Scott does have an assistant to help him watch his group.
- j. Offered Horse and Pony Camp at Wonder Stables this summer. Two (2) of the sessions were full and one session had five (5) participants.
- k. Rafting trips were offered for July and August. The weather for the July trip was bad but everyone still seemed to have a good time.
- l. Concerts and Movies in the Park are currently running. The first Movie in the Park was rained out and was rescheduled for July 29. Approximately 400 people have attended the Movies in the Park each night.
- m. Staff is currently working on the Fall Brochure.

Carole Johnson made the comment that the seniors at the Senior Center enjoy stuffing the plastic eggs for the egg hunt and that it's a fun social event for them.

C. Recreation Report - Senior Center Report (Appendix C: 7-27-16)

Kurt Dahmen reported the following:

- a. Seniors took a trip to the Sandhill Crane Festival and an overnight trip to the Skagit Valley Tulip Festival.

- b. Last month Steve partnered with the Hilard Senior Center for an overnight trip to Portland and Mt. Rainier. Steve is planning another trip to Canada with the Hilard Senior Center in the fall.
- c. The Mystery Play and Dinner fundraiser had 67 attendees and raised more than \$1000.

D. Aquatics Report (Appendix D: 7-27-16)

Kurt Dahmen reported the following:

- a. Attendance and membership has stayed the same.
- b. Private swim lessons are increasing but group lessons are down.
- c. Reaney Park pool opened. The weather was bad for the opening ceremony and the pool had to be closed after the ribbon cutting.
- d. Weather this summer has not been good for Reaney Park Pool.
- e. Sold 140 memberships and 60 family. Kurt recommended doing another early bird sale for memberships next year.
- f. The Splash Pad has been working well and is popular.
- g. Barracudas Swim Team has approximately 60 participants.

Rod Schwartz asked if attendance was going up with the warmer weather. Kurt answered that this week was up but the season has been hit or miss with the weather.

OLD BUSINESS

A. Naming Rights

Kurt Dahmen reported the following:

- a. A request was received to have the disc golf course at Sunnyside Park named after a gentleman that was an avid user of the course and encouraged members of the community to also use the course. There is currently no policy in place for naming of parks, etc.
- b. The commission discussed standardizing a process for naming rights and if there should be a donation received in order to grant a naming request.
- c. Current faculties that have individual names include the Tennis Courts at Pullman High School, Lawson Gardens, and the City Playfields. The Tennis Courts were named by the School District and Lawson Gardens because of the large donation. When the Playfields were named, the commission took the request to the City Council. It was suggested that perhaps this would be the best method.
- d. A suggestion was made to open up nominations to the community for naming rights. Concern was raised that arbitrary or commercial nominations would be received.
- e. Commission concluded that any dedication should come with a donation to pay for new signage at the entrance to the course. Kurt will contact the group requesting the naming regarding the donation.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Dedications

- a. The Reaney Park Pool Splash Pad was dedicated in June.
- b. The land by Sunnyside Park donated by Elinor McCloskey was dedicated in June.
- c. Some of the property owners had been using the space to get waste off their property but an alternate route has been identified.
- d. Some suggestions were received to plant more trees or include it in the golf course but Elinor has requested the space stay the way it is. A sign and/or bench with dedication may, however, be added.

B. Bond Issue Projects (Appendix E: 7-27-16)

- a. The Parks and Paths bond expires next year and the commission discussed projects to propose for the next bond.
- b. The last bond was used for new bathrooms, ballfield lighting, paths, and the Splash Pad.
- c. Alan and Kurt put together a list of potential projects for review and asked for commission to comment and add or take away from list.
- d. Some of the top priorities on the list include upgrading bathrooms at Reaney Park to meet ADA standards, upgrades to the City Playfields, and ADA parking improvements and accessible route at Sunnyside Park.
- e. The commission also discussed alternatives to a permanent band shell at Sunnyside including a possible portable shell that could also be transported to Reaney Park for the Concerts in the Park series. Ideas for a portable shell included ones that could be transported by truck or inflatable shells.
- f. Price estimates on project list are rough estimates.
- g. Another project listed regarded the Encounter Ministries Building. The church is looking to either sale or lease their facilities as its much too large for their congregation. The building includes a large gym and multiple classrooms and offices. There would need to be additional upgrades made to the space but could be a potential new home for the Parks and Recreation department. Purchasing option could either come from the Parks and Paths Bond or perhaps a separate bond. Commission agreed should be taken to City Council. Funding may also be available through the State.
- h. The Commission overall agreed with the list created by Kurt and Alan but will continue to brainstorm more projects that could be included.

C. South Bypass Alignment

- a. The current conditional use permit for the South Bypass cuts through Mary's Park. The current permit would mean the house and barn would need to be torn down and the agricultural space in the park would become minimal. The park would need to be reconfigured if Bypass goes ahead as currently planned.
- b. Taylor Engineering has been hired to research possible alternatives.
- c. The development of the Park is on hold until the alignment of the Bypass is finalized.

ADJOURNMENT:

- A. MOTION:** Carole Johnson made a motion to adjourn; seconded by Zach Fredrickson. Passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 7:55PM.

Mick Nazerali
Chairperson

Kurt Dahmen
Recreation Manager

Alan Davis
Parks Manager