

# PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

## MINUTES

January 8, 2014

Mick Nazerali called the regular meeting of the Pullman Parks and Recreation Commission to order at 6:30PM. Additional members present included Rod Schwartz, Tim McAleer, Zach Fredrickson, and Steve Meyer. Staff members present were: Alan Davis, Kurt Dahmen, and Judy Lees.

**AGENDA/MINUTES:** Zack made a motion to adopt the agenda and minutes for November 13, 2013; Steve seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

### REPORTS:

- A. Parks report for November and December:** Alan reported for November that all the Christmas lights were up. A donation was received to purchase more lights for the High Street Mall display. There was an issue with no electricity access on Fairmont and a wind problem at Bishop and Grand. He further stated that all of the lights would be removed and stored in the next 2 weeks now that it was after the season. He mentioned that the CCE (Center for Civic Engagement from WSU) had continued efforts at raking leaves and pine needles from City Playfield. Alan noted that the pickle ball players were still using the court at Sunnyside Park. Alan reported that the Cemetery Committee had met with the City planning staff concerning sidewalks adjacent to the City Cemetery. After listening to the Committee's concerns it was decided that a sidewalk would be installed only on the opposite side of the street (Wal-Mart). Alan said that staff is continuing to improve the area at Grand and Richie, and that a traffic light would be installed next year.
- B. Recreation report:** Kurt stated that November and December are quiet months in terms of new programs beginning; that most were winding down for the end of the year and the holiday season. The next brochure was available in December with registration beginning on the 18<sup>th</sup>. He noted that preschool numbers are strong and there will be an additional morning Tuesday/Thursday session added beginning in January for 3-4 year olds. He mentioned that the department as a whole financially is up \$20K from last year at this time. It was noted that within an hour of the WSU 2014 football schedule being released reservations were being made at the RV Park. There was a brief discussion about expansion of the RV Park and property near the railroad tracks. Mick stated that he thinks there may be a small parcel available for purchase. Alan thinks there is a small parcel that belongs to St. John telephone. Rod asked about cancelled programs/percentages. Kurt said that most were cancelled due to low enrollment.
- C. Senior Center Activity report:** Kurt reported that the seniors had a successful Holiday Bazaar serving 171 meals. They cleared about \$1,500. He stated that it has been a very strong year for programming and participation.
- D. Aquatic Center update:** Kurt reported that for the period August-December that membership usage scans were up considerably this year where they had been down last year at the same time. He said that there had been a very strong membership registration during the September "anniversary" sale. It was noted that WEX was about the same as last year and youth swim lessons were down about 25 children from previously. He said that the swim team was no longer renting the facility. Gordon Dowler, the interim aquatics coordinator, is initiating a Parks and Rec swim team for this new year and to date already has 17 enrolled. Gordon feels that this is a "feeder" program from the year around swim lessons that have been offered. Kurt said that this will be a registered team. Zach asked if there would be conflict with other clubs, but Kurt didn't think so. Kurt did mention that the summer Barracuda Swim Team would be a separate team. In other aquatic related issues, Kurt said that there would be another piece of fitness equipment purchased. There had been a \$3,500 donation from the public for this specific piece.

**OLD BUSINESS**

- A. Reaney Pool update:** Kurt said there had been a series of meetings with the City staff and Design West going over plans for the Reaney Pool updates/additions. He indicated that there would be additions and modifications to the decking and fencing surrounding the area (both old and new). The shade structure would be moved. The Board of Adjustment is requiring the addition of 14-20 parking spaces due to the proposed increase size to the facility as currently being discussed. The additional parking may be incorporated at the current turn-around area. There may be some major sewer work done in the area at the same time as the pool construction. There has also been discussion of shared parking with WSU.
- B. Review of 5-year plan:** after a brief discussion, Mick moved and Steve second to approve the plan in its revised form. Motion passed unanimously
- C. City Cemetery/Clearwater Ave. sidewalk update:** Alan stated that he was glad that the Committee had met at on site at the City Cemetery to see and discuss the sidewalk location situation. The group felt that it looked very different on site than on paper. They were in agreement that they did not feel it was appropriate to have the sidewalk adjacent to the Cemetery. After meeting with Park and Planning staff it was agreed that with Council approval, the sidewalk would only be constructed on the opposite side.
- D. Tree City update:** Data has been sent to apply for the designation for the 16<sup>th</sup> year running. Alan reported that there was no monetary consideration included with the recognition.
- E. Mary’s Park annexation update:** Alan reported that the area including the Hospital extended property, the Kirkman addition, and Mary’s Park would be included for approval by City Council in January. He indicated that he felt all was in good shape and wasn’t anticipating any issues with the approval.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

- A. Land donation/Sunnyside Park:** Alan noted in the last 5-Year Plan the area in question was incorrect. Eleanor McCluskey has offered to donate property between the current boundary of Sunnyside Park and the homeowners parallel to Skyline Drive. The intention is to leave it as a “natural buffer” between the 2 areas. There may be the addition of path(s) and a bench(s). Alan will meet in January to discuss a land trust easement. Alan estimates that the area is 3-4 acres. There was a specific request to not include this area in the disc golf pattern. Steve asked who tends to the Farr Cemetery. Alan said that the intent is to leave it very natural and that Scouts schedule a clean-up project there every 2-3 years. The plan is to keep this area in a “Pioneer Cemetery setting”. Alan added that the actual area is much larger than indicated by the fencing.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Meeting was adjourned at 7:05PM

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Mick Nazerali, Chairperson

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Kurt Dahmen, Recreation Superintendent

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Alan Davis, Parks Superintendent