

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

MINUTES

July 9, 2014

Acting chair Rod Schwartz called the regular meeting of the Pullman Parks and Recreation Commission to order at 6:35PM. Additional members present included Tim McAleer, Zach Fredrickson, and Carole Johnson. Staff members present were: Alan Davis, Kurt Dahmen, and Judy Lees.

AGENDA/MINUTES: Carole moved and Zack seconded the approval of the agenda; Zack moved and Tim seconded the approval of the minutes. Both motions passed unanimously.

REPORTS:

- A. Parks report:** Alan reported that there had been a lot of graffiti to deal with this year though it had begun to taper off a bit. The Center for Civic Engagement volunteers and the park crew members worked hard to correct. He noted that the usual spring work had been completed. Staff prepared for and worked through the PCEI stream cleanup and the annual spring cleanup at Pullman Disposal. Staffed worked hard to prepare the City for WSU Mom's Weekend in April and graduation in May. The garden plots at Sunnyside were prepared. There was a bit of an issue with a returning renter who had switched numbers last year and then rented space again this year not realizing that the original numbered plots were again being assigned. Unfortunately he did not want a site tilled that contained plant material that was wintered over. He put in a claim to the city for damages to his plants which was denied. As the bid for the improvement to the Reaney Pool complex was rejected, the staff hurriedly prepared the pool for a June 25th opening that had not been scheduled to open this summer. They also worked hard towards the end of June (and first 3 days in July) getting Sunnyside Park ready for the annual 4th of July celebration. Alan also mentioned that there are a number of Scout projects that are being developed or completed including steps and a pergola to define an entrance to the garden plots at Sunnyside Park, mileage markers on the path at the City Playfields, Itani Park improvements, and working on updates to the Kruegel and McGee Park shelters. Alan also reported that a copy of the Parks and Rec Five Year Plan that was adopted by City Council was sent to the Recreation and Conservation office as required for State Grant funding.
- B. Recreation report:** Kurt reported that preschool finished strong for the year with an additional Tuesday/Thursday morning group added in January; that there was good weather for the 53rd annual egg hunt with approximately 6-800 attendees. Staff was able to offer a new program/compound box instruction that was very well received. Summer program began in early June after school was out. The first 3 weeks of the Adventure camps have been fairly well attended, tennis and golf lessons have strong enrollment and Scott's Bike Camp and Art Club have been full.
- C. Senior Center Activity report:** Kurt reported that the Seniors once again were very helpful with the stuffing the eggs with prizes and candy for the egg hunt. Carole reported on the highly successful mystery theatre luncheon. Rod mentioned that he thought the Senior booth at Palouse Expo was a wonderful addition.
- D. Aquatics:** Kurt announced that Gordon Dowler was now officially the Aquatics Coordinator (no longer interim). He also stated that swim lessons were in full swing for summer and that Reaney Park Pool DID open after all with a very short prep time.

OLD BUSINESS

- A. Reaney Pool Update:** Kurt explained that the improvements to the Reaney Park Pool didn't take place as expected this summer. The plan was to improve the decking, restrooms (park side), and the addition of a splash pad for the younger child. The bid process was started a bit late and as a result there was only 1 bid received that came in too high. There is some thought as to trying again and splitting apart some of the components. It is hope2d that if successful

that the pool could open later in the summer next year. Alan noted that the pool liner is in need of replacing; it is past warranty.

- B. Veterans' Memorial at the City Cemetery:** Cemetery Committee met with Ted Weatherly and other veterans concerning the Veterans' Memorial. The obelisk will stay at its present location but there is discussion about building some kind of memorial at the City Cemetery as well.
- C. Metropolitan Park District update:** Kurt reported that there would be some loss of funding next year due to the passage of the levies this year. The Park District is a junior district to others. It was mentioned that the last 2 years have been strong for construction within the city that helps to balance a bit. Rod asked what might not happen. He was told that it could influence the spray pad and Reaney renovation. CIP projects at Mary's Park could also be pushed back. Rod stated that he felt the Department was highly regarded and that a bond might be possible. Alan noted that the council is not very receptive to additional bonds.

NEW BUSINESS:

- A. Lawson Garden Teahouse/lodging tax:** Alan reported that the design work is 60-70% completed. Mark, Bill, and Alan from the City met to discuss the project and funding through lodging tax funds. The current estimate is \$700K to 1 million for the structure. It is hoped that approximately half of that would be met with state matching funds and other major donors. ***Carole moved and Zach seconded" that lodging tax monies be used for the construction of a versatile facility at Lawson Gardens that could be used for community functions such as concerts, plays, exhibitions, meetings, weddings, and other celebrations"***. This motion passed unanimously.
- B. Playgrounds for Pullman Group:** There was a brief discussion about playground space for the Whispering Hills development. Zach asked if new developments were required to set aside space. Kurt indicated that he thought a small amount of the real estate excise tax could go to funding outdoor space. Alan noted that there is a growing concern about sport field space for the future. The school district as well as club sports leaders are discussing available space. Alan questioned whether there might be space on the WSU campus near the nuclear reactor. Zach said that there is 3 acres at the end of Clifford that might be a possible donation site.

ADJOURNMENT: Carol move and Zach seconded that the meeting be adjourned. Passed unanimously. Meeting was adjourned at 7:55PM

Recorded by: _____