

CITY OF BISHOP

Parks and Recreation Commission Minutes

September 26, 2007

CALL TO ORDER: The Parks and Recreation Commission met on September 26, 2007, the meeting was called to order at 5:15 p.m. in the City of Bishop Council Chambers

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

COMMISSIONERS Cheryl McDermott, Lee Cox, John Weatherford, Barry Simpson and Kellie Hallenbeck

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT:

OTHERS PRESENT: Keith Caldwell, Community Services Director, and Annette Blackwood, Recording Secretary

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

The minutes of the August 29, 2007, Park and Recreation Commission were approved as written.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Brian Dressler, Bishop, said that the City Park Pool should be utilized year round. It is a beautiful facility and a shame that it is used only 4 months out of the year.

Melanie Beard, Bishop, suggested that the pool should be open more than 4 months out of the year, offer more swimming programs and competitive programs throughout the year. This would give the children a different opportunity than the contact sports.

Alix Ellis, Bishop, inquired if a recreational gymnastic program for children from 18 months through 13 years could be sponsored through the City. Would like you to consider that this be included in the 5 Year Plan.

CORRESPONDENCE: None

STAFF REPORT:

1. The year end softball meeting had a small turn out and was very productive with ideas for the next season.
2. Surveillance System is out for bid and will open bids October 2, 2007.
3. Pool Re-Plastering project is complete. The pool was filled on Tuesday, September 25, 2007 and took approximately 4 hours to fill.

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS:

Director Caldwell advised representatives the procedure for speaking before the Commission in regards to the 5 Year Master Plan and what their organization would like the Commission to consider.

Bill Tindall, President of Bishop Community Concert Association, advised that they have been in business for over 50 years. The concerts are currently at the Bishop Union High School Auditorium. The Association would like to be able to use the facility for their concerts if the City decided to have a Community Center. Also would need storage area for a 9 foot grand piano. There are 300 members and the membership has been at that level for the past few years.

Dave Grah, Public Works Director, addressed the Commission with two items. 1) Lack of access to the City Park for bikes and pedestrians from the south has been an issue. There are only two accesses, one from Main Street and the other from North Third. There is a strip of land off North Third that could be valuable for an access. 2) Natural areas in the park. There is an old creek bed of Bishop Creek that goes through the park and some consideration should be made to rewater it. That would provide some natural values to the City Park and would be a great asset.

Barbara Laughon & Shary Dishion spoke of the need for aquatics year round. Barbara Laughon advised that low impact exercising seems to be a great option. Would like you to consider having the pool open longer or year round. There are about 40 individuals that attend these classes on Tuesday and Thursday evenings.

Shary Dishion advised that she can tailor water aerobics for children.

Greg Alexander advised that American Youth Soccer organization has 640 players; spring select teams 75 players; high school 60 players; men's adult league consists of 50 players. Projected 5% per year with a cap of 750. There are as many players in Bishop as there are in Carson Valley. The men's league is growing and there is talk about having a co-ed league. BUHS is a great field to play on but not wide or long enough for soccer. Needs for fields: consolidation into one area for a majority of games, location to hold tournaments where everyone plays, and fan friendly areas for access to restrooms.

Jeff Pratt, Playhouse 395 has between 50 and 150 volunteers, depending on the production. There are 2 children's workshop theaters which 30 children participate in. If there were a Performing Arts Center there could be more productions which would be enriched life in Bishop. Playhouse 395 has produced 12 page business plan written specifically to the Park Commission. This document presents a compelling arts complex designed and construction for a multi-use facility on City Park property. Multi use areas could be a performing arts center.

Steve Tordoff, Bishop, does not know if the City Park is a place for a disk golf course. Disk golf is a great activity both for adults as well as children. If there would be a place for this activity there is a link on the internet for matching funding to purchase baskets.

Arnie Palu, Bishop Little League, advised there were 284 children last year and this year 358. They from 5 to 15 years old. Little League's dream would be to have a field added that was discussed with the Commission before at the corner of Yaney and Spruce. That area would fit a regulation size field. Also, T-ball and AA currently shares a field which is 1A and is shared with softball. Field 4 area would be nice area to add a small field for these little guys. Field 4 could be developed with grass infields, better seating for spectators, and restrooms. Batting cages and a pitching area would be great and the installation of lights would help on scheduling and field situation. Bishop Little League has had a proud tradition at the Bishop City Park for the past 50 years and couldn't have been here that long without the support from the City. The upkeep of the fields has been immaculate. We appreciate that and look forward to working with the City in the future.

Chris Riesen, Bishop Youth Football President, advised that it should be called Inyo County Football since participates are from all of Inyo County. Bishop Youth Football is volunteer run, non-profit organization that was formed in 1992. Provided is full contact football and cheerleading and cheerleading competition. The age group was for boys and girls 8 to eighth and was just expanded to include 6 and 7 year olds. There are currently 5 football divisions (100 players) and 4 cheerleading groups (40 participants). There has been steady growth in the past few years. Currently we are averaging 20 players per team, can carry 30 per our league rules and full expect to reach that goal in the next couple of years. Our travel extensive. We recently played Rim of the World in Bishop that had 150 football players, 80 cheerleaders and all the parents. They stayed over night and made a weekend of it. Every year we are sked if Rim of the World can play in Bishop since they enjoy coming to Bishop area. All our competition that we play comes here and usually stays over night. Our request is permanent facilities. We practice on Home St School and play on the High School. Our gear is stored in a container at the Y. We charge a participation fee and we supply the all gear which is about \$500 for each player. Dream facility: 2 football fields could be shared with soccer, one lighted, storage facility for the gear, restroom facility, and foodservice facility.

Alix Ellis would like to see in a Community Center would be a multi purpose area for gymnastics, karate and yoga. I have done summer/day camps that the children really love it, something different.

Director Caldwell advised that he was very impressed and grateful that the community cares and is interested in the growth of the park. The City is working on trying to purchase the land from DWP and then would be able move forward with the different projects. Our goal is to try and provide the best facility, programs and services to our community.

ITEMS FROM THE

COMMISSION:

Commissioner Weatherford advised that he is glad to be moving forward with the 5 year master plan. This is a good opportunity to take into consideration what the Community has to offer and their plans.

Commissioner McDermott advised that at the next meeting elections should be held.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no other items on the agenda, the meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission adjourned at 6:10 p.m. to October 10, 2007 at 5:15 p.m.

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Barry Simpson, Chairperson

ATTEST:

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Annette Blackwood, Community Services  
Secretary