

CITY OF BISHOP

Parks and Recreation Commission Minutes

October 10, 2007

CALL TO ORDER: The Parks and Recreation Commission met on October 10, 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, Barry Simpson and Kellie Hallenbeck

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT: John Weatherford, excused

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

PUBLIC COMMENT: Peter Pumphrey, Eastern Sierra Audubon Society, would like to see a butterfly garden in the park. It would be a valuable opportunity for children to identify the different types of plants and butterflies. A great location would be on the north bank of the stream near the second bridge behind field 1. This location is near ideal parking and a path. Would like to see an interpretative sign for the flowers and butterflies. Could collaborate with City to help find and recruit funds. Most plants are perennials and would not have to be replanted. Dimensions would be 50-70' X 10'. Butterflies also like rocks. Would like to plant native plants but they might not be compatible.

CORRESPONDENCE: None

STAFF REPORT: 1. Skate Park was closed due to on going vandalism and bullying. Commissioner McDermott inquired if the skate park would be closed until the installation of the security system. Director Caldwell advised that the skate park may open prior to that installation.  
2. City Council approved the bid from ADT for the Surveillance System of \$14,401.40 and a service plan of \$140.70 per month. There will be 4 cameras which can record 24 hours a day.

OLD BUSINESS: The Commissioners voted unanimously to continue with the same officers; Barry Simpson as Chairperson and Kellie Hallenbeck as Vice Chair.

NEW BUSINESS: Director Caldwell advised representatives on 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. We are planning a retreat to prioritize and organize the ideas for the 5 Year Master Plan.

Lynn Cooper, Inyo Council for the Arts, would like to see a Community Center/Performing Arts Center with about 5,000 sq. ft. area to seat 300. Presently there is seating for 100 and sell out regularly. We have about a dozen concerts per year. We could attract twice if the facility were larger. This would enhance the quality of life in the community as well as the tourists. Commissioner McDermott inquired whether or not the facility would be completely enclosed inside or could it be open. Ms. Cooper said it could be open like an amphitheater but there is a policy in the park of no amplified music in the park. Also we do best with concerts between November and April. In the summer months people are out doing other activities.

Patty Cummings, BUHS Tennis Coach, would like to see the tennis courts on the east side of the park repaired or redone. There are currently only 4 tennis courts. Mammoth plays on the Bishop courts and it is extremely difficult to get a court. The high school and local tennis club uses the courts as well. Our local tennis club had a tennis tournament and were unable to get all the matches played and people had to leave. Tennis is increasing again. There are 17 players in BUHS and hopefully more junior programs in the future. Between the local tennis club (100 members), visitors, and high school we do not have enough tennis courts. There is a grant that you can apply for through USTA to get the courts resurfaced.

Also, there has been a lot of trouble with the skatepark. Personally, I have had a lot of trouble with the boarders. Would be great to have the other courts to get away from the skateboarders and the problems. Not only are the girls harassed but myself as well. We had visitors come and requested to have tables at the courts for us. The boys said that I couldn't have the tables and called me names. I got a park employee and the boys started harassing him. We had these visitors in our community and had to deal a that situation like that. This was not the first time an incident like that has occurred and is extremely embarrassing. And now the soccer players are also using the tennis courts.

Kathy Henderson spoke for the need of a community center. The committee would like to have an area of 20,000 square feet in a multi purpose building which the whole community could utilize. We envision at least 6 or so good size meeting room with sliding walls so you could use larger or small rooms as needed. These rooms could be used for meetings, arts and crafts, youth and adult activities, seniors and organizations. These rooms could be used for Parks and Recreation programs. We vision the center room at least 5,000 sq. ft. for art shows, performances, small plays, dances, dinners to accommodate 300-500 people. Stage would be needed when there are performances. Storage closets that could be locked for organizations that use the facility regularly to be able leave their supplies there. Chamber of Commerce would like to have a 4,000 sq. ft. facility.

Nancy Hardy talked of the positive aspect of having a dog park. There are many dogs that cannot be off lease. They could be dangerous to livestock, people and other dogs. Sometime they need a place to go. The thing about dog parks that it is a positive aspect in the community to be able to have a safe, fenced place for dogs. Another aspect for dog park is socialization for dogs to learn to play with other dogs which makes for a safer dog. I do not know of any dog parks that have breed restrictions although City's may have a ban on certain breeds.

Keith Glidewell spoke on the need for more tennis courts. Also would be nice to have more courts in the back of the park, away from the problems of the skate park. And there is a large interest in having tennis lessons.

Kerry Lozito would like to see a vegetable garden on the east side of the park. Not only would this provide vegetables for community members but could provide training for children.

Shirley Ono supports the tennis programs and facilities. The existing tennis courts need to be maintained. Would like you to consider funding for the back courts and maybe dual usage sport courts or basketball courts. 2 more courts would be helpful and tennis programs for youth.

Director Caldwell thanked everyone for their valuable comments. The Commission will be having a retreat in early November to prioritize and discuss items that has been presented.

ITEMS FROM THE  
COMMISSION:

Commissioner McDermott would like to thank the park crew for planting the landscaping in front of City Hall. It really looks great.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no other items on the agenda, the meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission adjourned at 6:09 p.m. to November 28, 2007 at 5:15 p.m.

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Barry Simpson, Chairperson

ATTEST:

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Annette Blackwood, Community Services  
Secretary