

CITY OF BISHOP

Parks and Recreation Commission Minutes

September 23, 2009

CALL TO ORDER: The Parks and Recreation Commission met on September 23, 2009, the meeting was called to order at 5:15pm in the City Council Chambers.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

**COMMISSIONERS
ABSENT:**

OTHERS PRESENT: Keith Caldwell, Community Services Director, Karey Poole, Recording Secretary

**APPROVAL OF
MINUTES:** Motion made by Commissioner Cox to approve the minutes for August 26, 2009. 2nd by Commissioner McDermott-Stanford, approved by unanimous vote.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

CORRESPONDENCE: Park Path Project correspondence, included in Commissioner Information Folder for review.
Commissioner Hallenbeck states that she noticed that there are some things mentioned in the letter that are not set in stone, preferably the ball fields and the lights.
Keith confirmed that the letter received that had some perceptions of what the Park build might actually become. For the public's information, the City does not have a conceptual design other than the Master Plan. The Master Plan process began about 2 years ago with the Parks and Recreation Commission. It was simply an idea for a blue print for the things that the community wanted. As we move forward with the LA DWP lease, and other things that will allow the City to be able to build that Master Plan the way that the Community sees fit, then we will create a conceptual design and will invite the public to be a part of that process. We do want to encourage the public to continue getting their input to the City.
Commissioner McDermott asked if the Master Plan is online for people to look at for some clarification on the misconception of the letter.
Keith confirmed that the Master Plan is available online. He encourages the public to call if there are any questions about what the commission or the City Council has approved in regards to needs assessment of the park, what has been done in the last couple of years in terms of improvements

and opportunities for setting up a priority list for what is really important to the public.

Commissioner Simpson would like to mention one thing from a letter in the correspondence regarding the concern about the school fields not being used for athletics and youth sports, where there is actually a lot going on everyday. He wants the people understand that the School does support that and they are doing their best to have as much on their campuses as possible.

Keith backed that up stating that a Youth Sports Commission was started about 7 months ago including the High school, Middle School and youth organizations to the same table to work together. Everyone knows where and when all teams will play, he invited the public to the next meeting on Wednesday September 30th if anyone is interested.

Commissioner McDermott asked if the first letter was responded to.

Keith said that he placed a personal call and left a message, but had not yet received a call back.

Keith had another piece of correspondence that was not included in the folder. Clarence Martin from LA DWP called to let us know that the Park Lease had gone thru their portion of the approval process and is now in the Energy and Environment Committee with the City of Los Angeles and then will move on to the City Council.

Commissioner Hallenbeck asked how many years the Lease would be for now.

Keith stated that we asked for an additional 20 years, putting us close to 40 years.

OLD BUSINESS:

Park Path project-Public Comment

David Grah from Public Works provided a presentation and explanation of the current status of where the progress for the project currently stands using graphics and photo maps.

Commissioner McDermott stated that lighting seems to be an issue for a lot of the neighbors and asked if it has to be lighted.

Dave said that it is only an option and does not have to be a lit path.

Commissioner Weatherford made the statement that the park is only open from dusk till dawn, 10pm.

Commissioner Hallenbeck stated that it is also patrolled a lot by the Police Department.

Keith stated the path project is set for discussion with the City Council and that the focus should remain on the recreational piece of the project. And the community is encouraged to share their ideas and concerns, and how that would impact the Master Plan for the path project. At this time he invited any public in the attendance that wanted to speak to come forward.

No public for comment.

NEW BUSINESS:

Year Round Pool Facility- Public Comment

Keith started by saying that we have a group in our community that is excited to have the possible opportunity for year round swimming at our local facility and as of right now the discussion is for an indoor pool setting. This is an informational setting from this local group to allow the Commission to decide if they want to move forward to a more formal

presentation that would be appropriate for our community. At this time public attendees were invited to come forward to give comment.

Randy Van Tassell and Melissa Beard together spoke regarding their idea for a cover for the local pool. They provided notebooks that provided the product information and specifications for a dome system that could be a possibility. This would necessitate removing the base of the slide as well as the diving board to allow for only coverage of the large pool, not the children's pool. This would allow the pool to be utilized for Swim Team practice, Lap Swimmers and physical therapy uses, and not for public swimming. In order for public swim to utilize this they would have to look elsewhere as the system that they are looking at does not provide walkways and areas for parents to watch their children. This system would cost approximately \$50,000 installed, Solar Panels about \$30,000 for year round heating and they want to try to raise \$100,000 from the community to complete the entire project.

Commissioner Hallenbeck asked how much it would cost to uninstall the dome.

Beard stated that it is filled with air using blowers, using 4 people to remove the fabric cover from the pool. Currently they have some people who are willing to volunteer with the set up and take down process. Some of the issues that do come in to question are where to store it and where to place the solar panels. Van Tassell said that they do have some groups who would commit to consistent use. Beard stated that Cerro Coso was also interested in the possibility of setting up a program.

Commissioner McDermott asked if they have checked out any other areas that already have this dome.

Beard stated that it is on the list, but they have yet to make it there. There is one in Hemet and one Bear Valley is putting up this year. Beard called the facility in Hemet and she was told their heating and chemical costs were lowered and that it was the best thing that they have ever done and they would not do anything different. Van Tassell stated there is also one in San Mateo Liz Mazzu is going to look at, that it has been installed for about 5 years, and they can get some usage numbers and costs.

Commissioner McDermott asked if there was anything in Carson City.

They stated not that they were aware of, that they have an actually have a large facility with about 8 pools that is permanent. Beard stated that she felt that this would fit into the Master Plan and that this system would allow the local teams and program to utilize it as early as next winter. The solar would dramatically cut the energy costs that would normally accrue.

Commissioner McDermott asked if they got actual costs from somebody for the solar panels for \$30,000.

Keith and Van Tassell confirmed this for the panels.

Commissioner McDermott asked if they had a cost of what it would be to get them up and running.

Keith believed this was the cost completely installed.

Commissioner Hallenbeck asked where the panels would be placed.

Keith stated that they have looked at a couple of different areas, one may be on the other side of the Maintenance Shed along the fence on the other side of the tennis courts, the other possibility is the area just outside of the pool pump room adjacent to the pool. They are too heavy to put on the roof and will have to be placed on the ground and they would need to be enclosed in a fence.

Commissioner Simpson asked how feasible it would be to remove the slide and the diving board each year.

Beard said that she spoke with Steve at the park and that the base of the slide is just screwed on, so it is only the two panels at the base of the slide, and the same with the diving board, it unscrews and the handles come off, so it's not too difficult.

Commissioner McDermott made the comment that if a part on the slide breaks that we would be out of luck because it is hard to get parts for the slide.

Commissioner Simpson commented on the life of the dome being 9-10 years, and asked if there was a plan for replacement.

Beard said that it would be the Community Center as part of the Master Plan in 10 years, which would be a permanent building.

Beard expressed again that the local swim teams only get to practice for the few summer months that the pool is open. Some of them have good potential to move on, but no where to continue practice after the summer is over and therefore continue to be at the bottom at the winter meets they may attend, so to have the ability to practice year round would be good for them.

Commissioner Hallenbeck asked about the ventilation system.

Beard said that because it is the blower system the air constantly circulates alleviating the moisture that could build up otherwise.

Commissioner Hallenbeck asked about repairs.

Beard stated that there is a portion in the notebook that talks about the repairs and parts.

Van Tassell stated that right now they may not have all the answers and they will continue to research this idea. They just wanted to make the Commission aware that they are trying to get the idea going within the community and get some feedback from the Commission for the formal presentation.

Commissioner Hallenbeck commented that costs are a big issue.

Commissioner McDermott stated maintenance and upkeep as well.

Commissioner Weatherford asked if when it goes up, it will stay up all the time.

Beard said that it will come down nightly, or as needed, you just turn the blowers off.

Commissioner Hallenbeck questioned wind issues.

Beard said that if the winds get to be more than the system specifications allow that you simply turn off the blowers, it takes about 45-60 minutes for it to come down all the way to allow time for people to exit the pool safely. Van Tassell added that it can withstand winds up to 80 mph.

Commissioner Hallenbeck asked if it had to come down for winds and then there was a huge rain, will it be able to get itself back up.

Van Tassell stated, within thirty minutes.

Commissioner McDermott wanted to confirm the time that it will be up, and whether or not they planned to leave it up at the end of the days use.

Beard said that they would bring it down at night, it is suggested by the manufacturer, but that it would remain in place. She stated that eye screws would secure the system to the pool deck and it will deflate back down on to the pool acting as solar covers.

Keith suggested that the Commission review the information they have been given and maybe do some research on their own. Figures for current operation costs annually will be provided so that the Commissioners can

have the whole picture before they move forward. Other things that could come into play would be whether or not additional staff would be needed, year round Life Guards and other operational costs for the year round idea.

At this time Keith invited those who filled out cards with interest in commenting to come forward.

Kathy Coakley, a Bishop resident, wanted to reiterate that there is a lot of talent in the pool and that it would be great to see them swim year round and be able to be more competitive. She also commented that whenever there is a swim invitational that it brings in a lot of revenue for the local businesses and there is a possibility if this works out that we may be able to hold a swim meet in the winter.

Brian Dressler, a Bishop resident, commented again on the great job that the Staff has done at the pool. He understands the concern of the costs and the current situation with propane, where he believes it should be solar and it needs the energy conversion. He stated that he can see the obvious talent that is out there on our local Swim Team that is college quality that can only swim 4 months out of the year which is not enough to move forward. He commented on the Public option which he feels could also include a program for aging adults. He also feels that a year round employee to remain on staff at the pool would be worth the money and that it would be an easy position to fill.

Ted Metz, a Bishop resident and a former competitive swimmer is now a current lap swimmer. He stated that he knows several others in the community that are also lap swimmers that would take advantage of the year round swim time that would support having the pool year round.

Cindy Wilson, a Crowley resident, has children on the Mammoth swim team. She stated that there is interest up in Mammoth with the possibility of car pooling down the hill to be able to have more practice time thru the winter.

Phyllis Minesis, assistant swim coach and former competitive swimmer, wanted to reiterate that she knows what it takes to be at a high level of swimming. She said that the talent is here, but 4 months of swimming isn't enough. She said that when our kids to get to the finals that you can see the frustration when they swim against the year round swimmers. She said that it would be great to see the kids have a place to go where they don't have to swim in the hot water every morning.

No further comment.

Keith thanked those for speaking and stated that research will continue to move forward for this project.

STAFF REPORT:

Program Update-

Keith shared that Flag Football has begun. There are four teams. He thanked the school system for the use of the High school football field for this.

AYSO is running full blast with literally hundreds of kids in the park and on school grounds, on Saturdays in particular.

There was a tennis tournament over the weekend. Commissioner McDermott said that it was a huge success with 43-45 players with some from as far a Malibu and Woodland Hills to Reno. Courts were full from morning till night.

Eastern Sierra Wildlife has an event this weekend with exhibits and vendors and possibly live animals.

Farmers Market is still going really well. Saturdays at the park have just been hopping.

Gymnastics first session is ending Friday and Saturday with a second session coming up with awards for the kids participating. And we are looking a holiday camp; it has been a very popular program.

There is also a Monday night Aerobics class, Tuesday and Thursday Cardio Club and the possibility of a dance program and Yoga in the winter months.

He would like to see some focus towards the Senior Development and some collaboration for some programs.

There will be interviews for the two park positions; Cheryl and John have expressed interest in being a part of the interview panel.

The community is excited about the possibilities being endless to them, this is how things happen, and he expressed his appreciated to the Commission for what they do here

ITEMS FROM THE COMMISSION:

Commissioner Weatherford said that he saw a lot of interest in the pool project and the solar issue will need some time spent in order to give back to the community what they have already put out. There is the possibility of the solar energy lasting a lifetime.

Keith stated that an expenditure report has been put together and can be provided, and more follow up can be done on the solar if the Commission wishes.

Commissioner Hallenbeck asked if there needed to be a separate meeting to go over the dome system or if it can go on the next agenda as Old Business.

Keith said that it can go either way. Further research will need to be provided to move forward and then there will need to be another meeting where the public is invited to hear what the Commission has decided.

Commissioner Weatherford suggested they research it on their own and discuss it again at the next meeting.

Keith again asked them to review the information that was already provided.

Commissioner Hallenbeck gave her concerns for the free labor that the group said they could provide because she remembered it being a problem with the ball fields.

Keith agreed that there is a liability issue on that and said that he felt the research that was provided back to them would help give them a full understanding of that. He said that he has tried to be as real as possible for the information provided to the group on the operational costs and that a \$200,000 per year budget for the pool is pretty reasonable, but ultimately the City Council will have to approve that budget, and then they will be asked how they will raise enough revenues to offset that cost or how much is it that will have to come out of the General Fund. They are very real and impertinent questions.

ADJOURNMENT:

This meeting was adjourned at 6:20pm. The meeting will reconvene Wednesday October 21, 2009 at the City Park at 5:15pm.



Kellie Hallenbeck
Kellie Hallenbeck, Chairperson

ATTEST:



Karey Poole
Karey Poole, Community Services Secretary