

CITY OF BISHOP

Parks and Recreation Commission Minutes

December 16, 2009

CALL TO ORDER: The Parks and Recreation Commission met on December 16, 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, Barry Simpson

COMMISSIONERS  
ABSENT: Kellie Hallenbeck

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Motion made by Commissioner McDermott to approve the minutes for October 21, 2009. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Commissioner Weatherford, approved by unanimous vote.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

CORRESPONDENCE: Public Correspondence regarding the City Park Master Plan

OLD BUSINESS: City Park Master Plan – Conceptual Design

Keith introduced Rob Anderson from R.O. Anderson the consulting group that has been working on the conceptual design according to the Master Plan. Step one was the signing of the lease with DWP, the second phase is to bring the conceptual design to the Commission to review and comment on and will have several opportunities for the public to comment on it as well. He wants to be certain that the Commission is kept in the loop on everything that has been done. Public interests have been expressed in what the community would like to see. There has now been additional requests for additional facilities for other needs and potential activities. We will move forward from discussion tonight to get feedback from the City Council in January to talk about grant opportunities. We are working

with the staff from R.O. Anderson to complete a State Grant so that it will hopefully have some funding opportunities in the future.

Rob Anderson gave a brief introduction about his business and moved on to discuss the three maps that have been provided with different designs according to the Master Plan. In his review of the designs he explained that the ball fields will be lit with premium lighting to avoid broadcasting the light and maintaining the dark skys that the community enjoys. Parking has been estimated according to the facilities near those areas and requirements. He thoroughly pointed out each difference in each of the designs.

Commissioner McDermott asked about the Tennis Courts at Hanby and Yaney and whether or not the plan is to have it lighted. Rob stated that is the intention. Her concern is that there are homeowners near that area as well that have objected to lights.

Keith explained that on the 3<sup>rd</sup> design that one of the old tennis courts could potentially be turned into an indoor soccer/hockey area.

Commissioner Weatherford pointed out that the areas chosen for the dog park may not be the best as he feels that they need to be closer to parking. Rob stated that the area chosen was because it was pointed out that many of those who are bringing dogs into the park are coming from the local hotel that is near the park with a gate that is currently between the properties. Commissioner McDermott pointed out that many out-of-towners are attracted to Schats Bakery, which is across the street from the front of the park, and they bring their dogs right into the front area of the park. She feels that it is important the the area chosen is where it will be used or its not going to be worth the time. Rob confirmed that her feeling was that it needed to be moved closer to the front of the park.

Commissioner Cox asked more about the lighting for the ball fields because the regulations are fairly strict. Rob explained that the lights are regulation they are special to place light directly on the field without over broadcasting. Commissioner Cox also said that noise may be another issue regarding having ball fields so close to residences.

Keith reminded the Commissioners that the current design ideas are based on what the Community initially asked for and there is room for change if the needs and interests arise.

Commissioner McDermott expressed her concern for space for parking along Park St and the facilities that may be there. Keith assured the Commission that when a design is decided on that parking will again be reviewed to make sure that the required spaces for the facilities and usage of areas will be adequate.

Jim Gabriel, Bishop Citizen, pointed out a conflict with the pathway going to Hanby Street, Rob agreed that this will be corrected at R.O. Anderson.

Skandar, Bishop Citizen, came forward and explained the interest in the Community for Bocce Ball is rising. He explained how similar it is to

lawn bowling and what the optimum court would look like. He also stated that there are leagues in other cities that have courts available at their parks to play.

Commissioner Weatherford asked what kind of surface it was made of, Skandar explained that it is usually crushed Oyster shells, but that it doesn't have to be.

Commissioner McDermott asked where they currently have to play, Skandar explained that it is currently played in backyards and dirt roads. Keith shared some information that Skandar put together to share with the Commission.

Charles Mulligan, Bishop Citizen, explained that he is an Independent designer and landscaper, he knows how expensive it can be to build a new community center and wanted to know what size and costs are and what is the the need for such a building.

Keith explained that there is a Committee that has a concept in mind that has done some on sight visits. The needs of size of the building would be based on the potential usage of the building which exists of game room, large activity room, indoor swimming pool.

Mr. Mulligan shared his concerns with his knowledge of the costs of these types of buildings and whether or not there may be some grants or special funding to help offset some of these costs. He also shared his concerns with the area that is up against Sterling Heights and problems the activity it may bring as well as the fact that the Arboretum area is so small.

Skandar spoke again on behalf of those representing the birds that currently live in the rear area to the park and have made permanent homes in the trees that are already there. He also shared that it is the number one area for bird watching.

Commissioner Simpson asked what exactly is needed for Bocce Ball courts. He was thinking that there may be something that could be worked out on the school property.

Skandar said that is possible to have portable boards, however cost may be better to set up permanent courts.

Rob stated that he would like to get some input back from the Commission on which alternative they prefer at this point.

Commissioner McDermott reminded everyone that the Master Plan is online to review.

Commissioner Weatherford stated that a lot of things have come up since the initial Master Plan was put together.

Keith said that tonight would be the night to express those items.

Rob said that he would like constructive comments for possible changes.

Commissioners Simpson and Weatherford agreed that the far left corner with fields needs more room between the residences and the playing areas. Simpson asked how we came to that number of fields.

Keith said that the current demand by local leagues determined the amount of fields, between the Highschool teams, Little League teams, Girls Teams and City Adult league teams.

Commissioner Cox stated that he really likes the concept overall.

Commissioner McDermott again expressed her concerns with the activity and lights that will be in the area where the ball fields may go. She suggested moving some of the upper(eastern) areas more to the front of the park and move the Performing Art Center down. Keith reminded everyone that until that building goes up, there is a potential it will be parking until that time.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

None

**STAFF REPORT:**

**Program Update-**

Keith was excited to share the the Christmas Kids Night Out was successful as last year and hopefully the parents took advantage of it and did some shopping. Gymnastics Camp is coming up on December 28, 29 and 30<sup>th</sup> in the Auditorium. The Ski Program will be up and running soon and they are ready. Keith introduced Dan McElroy and Waylon Cleland, our new Park Staff members. He also shared Volleyball and Basketball will be starting at the Highschool with regular seasons starting the first week of January.

Keith thanked Dan, Waylon, Russell, Steve and the Public Works crew who put together the desert landscaping on the west side of the Auditorium. He also reminded the Commission that Steves retirement is coming this week and invited them to the office potluck to say "Farewell".

Keith also shared that there is an upcoming Arboretum meeting and that there will be discussion then of what the Arboretum may look like. Commissioner McDermott asked what exactly an Arboretum was. Keith explained it would be an outdoor plant and tree museum exhibition area that will highlight local and native plants. The idea is to create an image of the plants and trees that grow from the Sierras to the White Mountains.

**ITEMS FROM THE COMMISSION:**

Commissioner McDermott thanked the staff for their work on the website. And to Ana Cummings for her great work on the brochure. And she asked if there could possibly be something that could be done at the park in appreciation for Steve.

Commissioner Weatherford asked if there were any ideas possibility for more movement on the last design of the park. Maybe the movement of the Community Center to allow a larger area for the Arboretum and allow for more space between the residences and the active areas of the park.

Karey reminded everyone that the fact that more fields allotted in the plan than are currently in existence will allow for earlier games to be scheduled so the noise and lights will not have to be on as late as they currently are, especially during the City League Softball season.

Commissioner McDermott reminded everyone that this was just brought up with a visual plan to review. There is time to discuss this and many changes that can occur as is is not set in stone.

After brief discussion for upcoming schedules for the Commissioners, it was decided the next meeting will be changed and held January 20<sup>th</sup> at 5:15pm.

ADJOURNMENT:

This meeting was adjourned at 6:35pm. The meeting will reconvene January 20<sup>th</sup> at the City Council Chambers at 5:15pm.

  
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For Kellie Hallenbeck, Chair

ATTEST:   
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Karey Roole, Comm. Serv. Secretary