

CITY OF BISHOP

Parks and Recreation Commission Minutes

February 24, 2010

- CALL TO ORDER:** The Parks and Recreation Commission met on February 24, 2010, the meeting was called to order at 5:15pm in the City Council Chambers.
- PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**
- COMMISSIONERS** Kellie Hallenbeck, Cheryl McDermott-Stanford, Lee Cox, Barry Simpson
- COMMISSIONERS ABSENT:** John Weatherford
- OTHERS PRESENT:** Keith Caldwell, Community Services Director
- APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Motion made by Commissioner Cox to approve the minutes for January 20, 2010. 2nd by Commissioner McDermott, approved by unanimous vote.
- PUBLIC COMMENT:** None
- CORRESPONDENCE:** Public Correspondence regarding Master Gardner's Class
- Keith shared that the Master Gardner's Class has a need for projects and has the interest in working at Sunrise and as part of the plan a Community Garden. The correspondence given to the Commissioners is a list of some service opportunities that they would like to do. Each graduate is asked to do 50 hours of Community Service. They will be looking to get involved in some of the projects that we may be doing thru the City.
- Commissioner Hallenbeck asked if they were interested in the Arboretum as well. Keith said they did not specifically say the Arboretum, he believes their focus is the Community Garden, although the garden could easily be part of the Arboretum in the planning process.
- Keith also shared that there has been a lot of shared interest throughout the community for a Dog Park and had some correspondence to share with the Commission for that.
- OLD BUSINESS:** Review of City Park Conceptual Design Workshop –

Keith was pleased to share that the Council approved our Conceptual Design; he wanted the Commission to understand however that the Council chose Alternate 3. The Master Plan is fluid and is not set in stone; it just gives us an idea of where things will go as we look for funding. They added additional comments on different aspects of the park, and they will continue to be discussed. It will be worked thru as money and opportunity arises. Now we have to look at the priorities throughout the Community, Commission and Council and try to put them all together to have a park that we can all be proud of.

Commissioner McDermott asked if we needed DWP's approval on the map. Keith said that he talked with a representative at DWP, Don McGee, and the hopes are that they will have no doubt that we are moving forward, but we will need approval prior to moving ahead with each phase and we should not have any problem at all. Its going to be a work in progress for a long time and we want to keep the momentum moving forward especially with those projects that may be less costly but still have an impact, one might be the Dog Park, one might be the Community Garden, those are two that we have local collaboration and we can make those happen. He gave the Commission recognition for their efforts in working with the community to get us where we are today.

Ted Schade came up to speak on behalf of ICARE, a nonprofit animal welfare program. He gave a brief overview of the ICARE program and its benefits in the community. He said as a citizen he is very excited about the possibility of a dog park in our community. He shared his idea regarding placement of the dog park, stating that it needs to be accessible with parking right by it. It had some correspondence that had been shared with the Commission that had some different guidelines for establishing a dog park.

Commission Hallenbeck asked if Mr. Schade felt that the park would need a separate area for training. He said that it had been discussed with other local community members. He said that it would be nice if there was somewhere where classes could be held within a fenced area. He stated that ICARE wouldn't necessarily use it for the program itself; however he is aware of many community members that would utilize the area. He felt that he may be able to assist with fundraising to help initiate funding opportunities.

Keith added that it would be great to have a fenced area for the dog park; currently the Park Staff is having to ask community members to remove themselves and their dogs from the areas that that are choosing to let their dogs run.

NEW BUSINESS:

Community Garden –

Keith said that there is currently no more to discuss on that that had not been discussed in the previous discussion with the Conceptual Design.

1. Review of Tree Committee Arboretum Meeting held Wednesday, February 24, 2010 –

Keith shared that following the Commission meeting tonight will be an Arboretum Meeting with the Tree Committee. He invited any of the Commissioners who were interested to stay and listen in on the meeting.

Program Update-

Keith gave an overview of the budget that is based on funding coming from the Transient Occupancy Tax and supports the budget for the park. He share that we have had to look outside the box on expenditures. We are currently making budget cuts to seasonal staff. He feels that this can be done safely and have enough coverage to carry the load at the park. He also shared that we will have fewer guards, previously at a staff of 27; we will cut that back to about 18. They will have more hours and we will have a set staff for the different responsibilities that they have to cover at the pool. He shared some ideas for cutting back hours during the week, but expanding for public swim on the weekend. He shared that the idea is to utilize the strong lap swimmers and see if they would like to volunteer as a life guard in return for swim time to possibly allow some lap swim time on Tuesdays without having to cost the City. We have to look at things a little differently to try to have as close to the same service as the community is used to. Prices will change by 50 cents, which is minimal.

Commissioner Hallenbeck asked if there is an age set for a child being dropped off unattended. Keith said he thought it was 10 years old; however he knows that the guards have ended up as babysitters in the past. He hoped that this may change with the two adults that will be on staff to work together to head things up at the pool.

Keith shared with the Commissioners that Park Staff has worked hard to refurbish the rear Pavilion and we will work with the Rotary to repaint it and finish it up.

He also added that the Prop 40 funding purchased a speed hump for the back drive area by the ball fields, also a crosswalk and stop sign will go in to help slow traffic and make it a safer area for the public and their children who utilize this area during the game seasons.

He stated that the Commissioners may have noticed more Police vehicles in the Park. Our priority is safety for our community members. We have been cracking down on any illegal activities that have been going on there. The Police department has been doing a great job in doing this.

High School has already begun ball practices and Little League will be starting soon as well. He thanked Public Works for their assistance in getting the stop sign up in preparation for the season.

As far as Kids programs go, we have tripled already in this Fiscal Year the amount of revenue that we anticipated, with more programs yet to go thru before the fiscal year is over. Gymnastics is still a big hit, with Birthday parties on the weekend, Cheer camps getting starting. It has been

very exciting and a lot of Community members wanting to get their children involved in these programs.

A member of the public asked to make a comment, Charles shared that there was going to be a garden tour to help with fundraising for the Bristlecone Forest Service building. He wanted to make mention that is a creative way to raise money in a financial shortfall. He also added that he has found a source for free rocks for sitting bench around the new Christmas tree, and that there was interest in donations from parties who need them removed off their property.

ITEMS FROM THE COMMISSION:

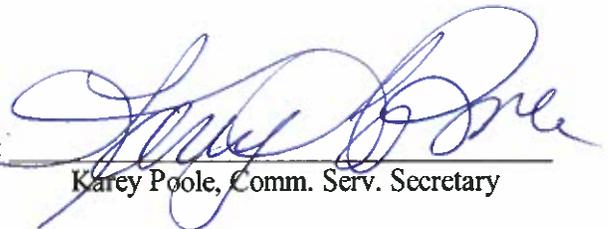
Commissioner Cox shared that there was an Umpires Clinic on the February 13th. He wanted to thank the Park Staff for having everything set up and ready to go.

ADJOURMENT

Meeting adjourned at 5:55pm to March 24th at 5:15 pm.



Kellie Hallenbeck, Chair

ATTEST: 

Karey Poole, Comm. Serv. Secretary