

CITY OF BISHOP

Parks and Recreation Commission Minutes

May 19, 2010

**CALL TO ORDER:** The Parks and Recreation Commission met on May 19, 2010, the meeting was called to order at 5:15pm in the City Council Chambers.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

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

**COMMISSIONERS  
ABSENT:**

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

**APPROVAL OF  
MINUTES:** Motion made by Commissioner McDermott to approve the minutes for April 28, 2010. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Commissioner Weatherford, approved by unanimous vote.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** Keith stated that comment for the Community Garden will be moved to the Staff report.

**CORRESPONDENCE:** Keith shared an email that had been received from a local community member regarding the wear of the T-Ball field on the back side of Field 1. Suggestions were made as to how to clean it up and make it a safer and better playing area for the children. Dan and Waylon from Park staff were in the audience and said that the Staff is currently working on it to get it back where it needs to be.

**OLD BUSINESS:** None

NEW BUSINESS: None

STAFF REPORT: Community Garden – Keith introduced Mary McGurke an east Bishop Community member and Master Gardener graduate. Mary is the Representative for the U. C. Cooperative Extension Inyo/Mono Master Gardeners Group. She stated she is here on behalf of the Bishop Park Community Garden Committee. She wants to give status on their progress and get a commitment from the Commission on the location of the Community Garden. The goal is to serve as an educational tool and learn best practices for gardening and hopefully become a tourist attraction for our area. They would also like to provide space for residents who do not have their own land to plant a garden of their own. It was decided to do the Community Garden in phases. First phase has prioritized three areas, with a native plant demonstration garden, the next would be a vegetable demonstration garden area, and the third would be to provide an area with spots for local residents to utilize for their own gardens. The demonstration garden will include interpretative materials and on site classes for residents and visitors.

For phase one preparation stage and they are looking to the commission for a more defined area for the Community Garden. According to the Master Plan the garden is to be placed in the furthest corner area, which the group doesn't find the most appropriate. They have selected an area more near the Arboretum area where the plant material is more conducive to the needs of the garden and will more support the needs for a vegetable garden. She said they have also been working with IMACA to select families who have the need for a garden pot. She said the group is willing to do some fundraising and IMACA is willing to do some volunteer support thru some programs they have available. They want to plant the Native plants in the fall and have ground ready for planting in the spring of 2011.

Commissioner Hallenbeck shared her concern with moving the area due to the fact that the City Council chose this area on the plans. Commissioner Weatherford shared that things can still be moved around a little bit. Commissioner Hallenbeck said that she did not believe that they would want to move the garden once they got it established. Ms. McGurke stated that they would not and that they were to the understanding that there was potentially some flexibility in the ball parks and parking areas, as they were not completely decided. They were planning on going before the City Council with their plans but wanted the guidance and response from the Park Commission first to see if they had any concerns.

The Commissioners requested to see a map. It was decided the current area set aside for the Garden is the south-east section across from the Senior Center. She would like it put over into the adjacent corner closer to the residential area. Keith shared the reason why they came to the conclusion on the area chosen. He said that one of the main concerns is the removal of trees and we would have to move gently on that. He

reiterated that the plan is fluid, but maybe to set up the garden in a temporary place as the water line is coming in from Hanby Street and he felt that maybe once the construction on Hanby is complete they can move their way back closer to Hanby Street where the ground is relatively flat and it provides shade and sun. He wanted to be sure that they understood the area she had chosen where several trees currently stand is a very sensitive area. He said they are also aware that there are residents who are sensitive to the excess lights and noise in that area and that will also be addressed as the plan moves forward.

Ms. McGurke asked if the Commission would be comfortable in allocating any of the areas suggested so that they may move forward while they have the resources and man power. Commissioner Simpson asked if a fence or other enclosure has been discussed due to wildlife or other unwanted intruders. Ms. McGurke said they general consensus that there are creative ways to protect some plants however it wouldn't create the same welcoming feel they were trying to achieve. Keith asked if this meeting was just an informational and request for Commission to move forward on something and they can share with the Council or were they looking for a definite answer. She said that they hope was that there would be some idea of where the garden might go so that they can plan around what they will have to work with. Keith asked the Commission if they wanted to take time to think about where they would like to see it go. Commissioner Simpson said he would like to see something going, however he was not prepared to say "This is the definitive spot". Commissioner Cox agreed with this statement. Commissioner Weatherford shared that it was important that the fields were not impacted, also the area was chosen because they were protected from those who wanted to come and steal the vegetables being grown here or disrupt the natural flow of the garden. Ms. McGurke said that these concerns were also discussed and that they felt maybe the ball fields could be turned to allow the space requested for the garden and be more adjacent to the Arboretum and the natural flow of the park. She also shared that if someone felt the need to steal a tomato they would be thrilled.

Commissioner McDermott stated that she would like to see continued forward movement. Commissioner Simpson asked if a waterline could be accessed. Dan, Park Supervisor, stated that it could be done but that it would require tree removal. He felt that were they run the Pine to Park Path, the water line would continue from this into the rear Park area. Keith shared along the same lines that the Arboretum would have a row of trees that would lead right to the Community Garden area. He shared that the thought was to create the whole park as an Arboretum. Commissioner Hallenbeck pointed out the current options really are to wait for water or to start at Hanby where there will be water soon. She also suggested that the group possibly rethink the order of the phases to get started sooner, they could do a vegetable garden first over by Hanby and if the location is required to change, they could do the Native garden in the permanent chosen area.

Keith asked that the group get back together create a basic plan, costs, size and needs from the City. He suggested that this would be a benefit to

them when they take this to the City Council so they have a full understanding of the whole project. She also questioned the difference between removing the trees for the them or the baseball fields. Keith asked her to point out the trees she thinks would need to be removed to enable the project to fit in the requested area. She said that she believes it will be close to the same square footage as the suggested area on the Conceptual Design map.

#### Park Pool-

Keith shared that the pool is up and running thanks to Dan and Waylon. The Intersquad meet was last weekend; lap swim is currently twice a day during the weekdays. The pool will be open for Memorial Day weekend, Friday, Saturday, Sunday and Monday and will close again on Tuesday and will reopen officially on Wednesday June 16<sup>th</sup>. Swim Lesson sign ups have been slow, there are currently two sessions with the possibility of a third, maybe for adult swim lessons.

#### Arboretum-

They are moving forward with the fund raising efforts. A big thanks to the Garden Tour this weekend, they are donating the proceeds to the Arboretum which will help move the project forward in phase one which will be creating the brochure and the funding will cover the cost of the brochure so that it is available to those who are interested in the information it will give on the trees. The Rotary is a sponsor and has donated \$1000 to get it started. So between the Garden Tour donation and the Rotary it should be a good start on that.

#### Dog Park-

Keith and Ted Schade from ICARE. The thought is to a create size and scope of what they want and to fundraise to help with the expenses based on that information. He had gotten ahead of himself with the Memorial Day deadline. It is really needed and they want to make sure it has the right signage and other details it made need. They were talking about having a Dog Walk to fundraise.

#### Softball-

The count is currently in upwards of 350 people. The games are every night, all night. The field is looking good and safe, thanks to our park staff. They spent a lot of time and effort in the off season to upgrade and do some things fix some things out there.

He also shared that the Summer Camp programs are lined up. July 3<sup>rd</sup> is the Big Day in the park, he is again going to City Council to waive the pool fee on this day, there will be live music, a chili cook-off and of course, watermelon, pie and ice cream. He also wanted to point out the new color in the main street planters and they are also working on the planters by fields 1 and 2.

ITEMS FROM THE  
COMMISSION:

Commissioner Cox wanted the Park Staff to know they are doing a good job.

Commissioner Weatherford said that it sounds like things are starting to happen a little quicker than planned. He suggested that they get together and start finding places for these projects to go that are the correct sizes so that when it comes time to construct other things that we're not trying to be careful of water or power, its time for fluid plans to gel up. Keith said that a special meeting can be set up anytime with the required notification time to the public. Commissioner Weatherford said they need to have well informed answers. Commissioner McDermott agreed, she also stated that the presence of staff in the park later in the day all weekend was noticed and was nice. She also shared that Keith Glidewell may be contacting the office regarding possible changes to his program.

ADJOURMENT

Meeting adjourned at 6:05 to June 16<sup>th</sup> at 5:15pm.

  
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Kellie Hallenbeck, Chair

ATTEST:   
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Karey Poole, Comm. Serv. Secretary