

CITY OF BISHOP

Parks and Recreation Commission Minutes

July 28, 2010

**CALL TO ORDER:** The Parks and Recreation Commission met on July 28, 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,

**COMMISSIONERS  
ABSENT:** John Weatherford, Lee Cox

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Keith Caldwell, Community Services Director

**APPROVAL OF  
MINUTES:** Motion made by Commissioner McDermott to approve the minutes for June 16, 2010. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Commissioner Simpson, approval made, contingent upon corrections requested.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** None

**CORRESPONDENCE:** None

**OLD BUSINESS:** 2 Hour Parking Signs –  
Keith wanted to update the Commission on the requested two hour parking between Carls Jr. and Field 1. This was approved by the City Council and has been implemented. The signs have been in place and are being enforced. As of right now there has not been any complaints from the local business owners. Commissioner Simpson said that this was the common parking area for the kids who attend and ride the bus to Palisades Glacier HighSchool and wondered if they had been a problem, if there had been complaints regarding these students. Keith said that it was just implemented this summer so at this time there have not been complaints, though he can let him know after school starts. Commissioner Simpson just wanted to make sure that the kids were behaving and that they were not the reason for the two hour parking request. Keith said that it was due to local businesses employees parking in that area all day, which made it

difficult for those who wanted to picnic in the front of the park and those who came to use the pool and were only there for a short period of time.

#### Dog Park-

Keith shared that they have been working very closely with some very anxious and excited members of the community about creating this dog area. He wanted to share with the Commission as well as the audience where the area is being proposed. He did talk to the City Council about it on Monday night and they are for it, supposing that the Parks and Recreation Commission approve the area chosen and where we go thru with this. They are in the initial phases of this and would like to develop a conceptual design, have some missions and goals surrounding what the park will be and then have the outline so the Commission will know exactly what it will look like and a budget can be put together so that it can be built as funds become available. We are not looking to the City for any of the funds for this, we are looking to these organizations to help fund and support this dog area. The Commission has looked for a way to remedy the dog issues that we have had in the Park for quite a while, we see this as a solution, and certainly the members of these organizations involved also see this as a solution and an opportunity. This is a really good opportunity to have a dog area that can be promoted and encouraged as people are driving thru town, it can also be used for dog obedience classes and become a revenue generator. It can be used for pet adoption days, there are a lot of options. We have gotten a very positive response from the interested organizations. We also have another opportunity for a scout project. There is a young man looking for a project and is going to be working all the way thru the development process for the dog area. His portion will be doing the signs. This is new and exciting, there is both young and old involved in the planning of this process and he wants to make sure the Commission is behind what we would like to do with the conceptual design, with the budget and we will bring that forward for approval, for comments, and then on to City Council. Commissioner McDermott asked if there is a committee now meeting to talk about the wants and needs, fencing and size. Keith said there is, they have met for the last couple of months by request of the Commission to get it started. They are a good group of people and they encourage anyone to be a part of it as they grow, but right now they are working with ICARE, the pet adoption agency and the Boy Scouts as part of the project. It is the goal to get a baseline as to what the mission is, what it is going to look like. The Park staff has been involved as well. We want to get that first and then take it to the Community for feedback and then to the Parks and Rec Commission and the City Council. There may be some fund raising involved, it's possible that one or more of the interested organizations will pitch in and it will all be funded. The early estimate is between \$15,000 and \$20,000 for Phase 1, which will include the fencing, the signage, the large small dog area, maybe some ground cover, benches and trash cans. So he wants to make sure that everyone is fully aware of what it is going to cost, where it is going to be and how the money is going to be spent.

Keith shared the location on a map. They want to utilize the area behind the Forest Service, behind Fields 2 & 3 and across Bruce St. . They are looking at a little over an acre area tying into the Forest Service fence, following the street line, the small stream and back around to the street.

There is a tree there that will provide some shade. He feels this is adequate for what they want to do in Phase 1. Commissioner McDermott asked if there would be parking in the other space in that area. Keith said that yes it would be for the dog area as well as overflow for the soccer and softball field use. The area will be signed so that it is accessible and alleviate the dogs in the Softball fields and the park. Commissioner McDermott asked if we need to get DWP approval for this. Keith said that this is actually part of the Master Plan that was approved as part of the lease, but they will be made aware of everything we do. We will probably have to get the Department of Fish and Game's approval as well, or fence before. Keith said that if that is necessary that there may be some added expense to getting water to that area. We have talked about irrigation and just having spray irrigation, but we didn't want to go into full irrigation in Phase 1 because the park is a fluid design, and this area was approved as a ballfeild. If money becomes available to move toward the original plan, they we may have to move the dog park. Commissioner McDermott made the comment that it will be a good test, move forward with this and see how it goes. Keith agreed that it will good to see how much of a response it gets from the locals as well as the traveling public. It's a good opportunity for us to see if a dog park is going to work. Even if its minimal there was a whole lot of money put out for it and its not wasted.

Commissioner Hallenbeck asked Keith how soon he saw this happening. Keith said that he would like to shoot for this Fall, he thinks this is everyones goal, on the committee as well as park staff to keep the momentum going. Until the money becomes available for the larger projects, that we continue to make improvements and offer opportunities. He thinks that this is a good way to do this. He sees fundraising opportunities as well as funding from the local organizations that see this as part of their mission, money could be available pretty quick. They are also thinking about doing a Dog Walk fundraiser. He still feels that fundraising is appropriate and see what kind of support comes from the Community. Commissioner McDermott also suggested the committee broach the Motel owners who are affected. Keith agreed that it was a good idea.

Community Garden - Mary McGurke –

Keith introduced Mary McGurke with UCCE, who has come to represent the Community Garden. Mary put together a power point presentation for the Commissioners. The presentation gave a project overview as well as proposed temporary and permanent garden sites. She shared that the first optimum site was not possible so they went back to the drawing board for this new proposal. The original site on the park conceptual design was quickly decided that this was not the best site due to lack of water and disconnection to the rest of the park. The temporary site area will have additional costs when it does need to be moved and they don't feel that its appropriate to ask the Community for funds that they will have to ask for again to move it, as well as the stress to the Community members who have invested in that garden area. They are proposing an area in the northeast corner that will be adjacent to the park and the arboretum as well as the Pine to Park path and is easily accessible for the nearby residences that may want to utilize the garden area. She shared an outline of plan of the garden in this area.

Commissioner McDermott asked Park Supervisor, Dan McElroy about the water source in this area. Dan said a water source is feasible in this particular corner, he said that if the area was in the original place that it could be affected by the other projects going on. He likes the area they have chosen in the corner for irrigation purposes. A discussion arose that this may be a good buffer for the residences in the area that did not want the ball fields so close and people walking the fence right behind their homes. Commissioner McDermott mentioned that no trees would be affected in this area. The presentation went over the details of goals, preparation and phases for the community garden. She also provided a possible timeline, a proposed budget and possible fundraiser to help offset the costs of the garden. She said that they are ready as a group and hope to be able to break ground this fall. She said that the current budget does not include any accessories they may want to put in down the road, they have only included the necessities to get started and Keith has given her a dollar amount for the Park Staff to do what they need to go to help get the area ready for them. She said that she is not sure what fundraising options are there. Commissioner McDermott asked if the Master Gardeners have any funds available. Mary said they do have a little bit to help get started and then they have some ideas for fundraising that would focus on the site and the community. It will be a good way to let people know the garden is coming and get some money raised as well. She said they would like to have some benches, put down some pavers and be able to allow the community to be able to buy them in memory/honor of someone.

Commissioner Hallenbeck asked if it was their intention to make the pathway with the pavers rather than crushed granite. She said no, there are options for example there is a section where there is a small pathway, they will probably go with what is the most economical and most accessible. Right now they have priced out a few different varieties of materials for a pathway and she chose to go in middle price range. Dan pointed out that pavers are actually a very good choice and they are looking at doing the same thing for the Arboretum. It limits the skateboard activity in those areas because they can't really skateboard on that, he also suggested that if they were going to build any type of concrete structures to get in contact with him, they have some "keep away things" to keep the kids off and keep them from getting ruined. She said cost and functionality are their main concerns.

Commissioner Hallenbeck pointed out to the design and asked what would be in the planter areas while there were no vegetables or were they going to try to keep them going year round. Roseanne Howard from the Master Gardeners got up and pointed out that the plants and seeds are beneficial to the birds, insects and the environment, even if they have died from the frost. During the winter the garden is an attractant to Finches and Sparrows. It provides shelter and cover for these species, if in fact it would be allowed to keep some of the plants there. The Audubon Society goes into the classroom and gears a program towards the third grade and they have a walking field trip to the Park during migration. She feels a logical thing to do would be to have another walking field trip to the park in the winter so they can experience the wintering birds. She said the park is a huge educational tool and is easily accessed from the school.

Commissioner McDermott asked if there would be any fencing around it or if it would be left open. Mary said they talked about it and it depends on what it is. She said the plots would be the more likely area that would have fencing around them to create their own space. Commissioner McDermott said that she was curious as to how the plots were going to work. Mary said that she has been working with IMACA to find clients for the plots; initially it may be a cooperative experience until individuals learn how it works. She said they may also have groups come in for instance having a 4-H plot or a scout plot, until people get familiar and comfortable with the idea. They would have agreements for signing up for a plot; initially they would be free but may eventually have a charge that would go back into maintaining the garden area. Commissioner McDermott asked if IMACA would initially be in charge of coordinating and overseeing the plots for their clients. Mary said that she has been talking with Jane and Sandy at IMACA and it depends on their staffing, but they are definitely interested in getting their clients into gardening, they have a lot of clients interested and have already begun with their clients in the Lone Pine area at the Community Garden there. She feels that once everything is secure she believes they would be more willing to fight on a little harder. They feel like they can take a few plots immediately for clients. Roseanne said she feels that the Master Gardeners ultimate goal is to have another agency take over the administration of the plots allowing them to do what they know best and assist in the gardening. Commissioner McDermott agreed that the Master Gardeners need to do what they do and someone else does need to be in charge of administering it, its important that people have somewhere to go. Keith thinks that is important for the Commission and staff to know in the future so that is does not fall back on park staff to guess at what the community might want. It's going to be important that we all work together. He thinks it's terrific that their mission is education and that we can continue that through the Arboretum and the Master Gardeners being there and involved. He thinks from our end from a practical stand point that we would want to know that it's done and in place, how do we make it sustainable. Mary pointed out the first four steps in Phase 1, the third step is the Memorandum of Understanding of which they wouldn't move forward until they moved into an official agreement with IMACA, at this point it has been conversation only, but they are very interested. Mary said that she hoped every one knew the benefits of having a Community Garden, which are wide spread. One of the things she really wants to highlight is the proposal being created by the Master Gardner's but we don't just see the Master Gardeners involved in this; it's the Bishop Park Community Garden. It's a great opportunity to work with a lot of different residents, agencies, organizations, and the City.

Commissioner McDermott asked if the Farmers Market group works with them or if they are separate. Mary said they are their own group; the Master Gardeners table is set up at the market for information for the community to understand what they do. Keith asked if IMACA wanted to take their harvest to the market and sell them and put the money back into their garden, if that would be appropriate. Mary said yes, absolutely. She said that they have discussed the possibility of using a plot for demonstration and then harvesting it and taking it to market and putting the money out for a donation to the Senior Center or IMACA.

Commissioner Hallenbeck asked how wide and long each of the planting areas will be. Mary said right now, they are about 10' x 20'. She said it's a nice size plot. Commissioner Hallenbeck asked if there would be guidelines for these planting areas, for instance organic gardening or pesticide use. Mary said there are a lot of different methods, but they will have ground rules. They said that one of the major purposes is to teach people the best practices for gardening. It is very easy to go into a local store and buy a can of bug spray which is poisons to everything that is alive, so it isn't the best practice. Their hope in doing this is to educate people on great alternatives like sticky pest strips that don't hurt anything.

Commissioner Hallenbeck asked if it has to be engineered at all for the flow of the water, or is it just going to be leveled to get started. Waylon said that it will be pretty simple irrigation system. Commissioner Simpson asked Keith what needed to be done to help this move along. Keith said that if the Commissioners believe all their questions have been answered and they are ready to move forward to City Council. Commissioner McDermott said that she is ready to move forward and agrees with their proposed location, as with Commissioner Hallenbeck. Commissioner Simpson liked it as well. Keith shared with Mary that the next Council meeting is on August 9<sup>th</sup> and if she is ready he can let Denise know and Denise will contact her. Mary said they are ready to move forward.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

None

**STAFF REPORT:**

Programs Update –

4<sup>th</sup> of July Celebration-

The Big Day in the Park was very successful. He wants to recognize the hard work of the Park Staff for a job well done, he introduced Dan Luzny, a part-time park staff employee. Things were done a little differently this year, the Council was gracious enough to approve a free day at the pool. There was a One-Pitch Softball Tournament, Farmers Market in the morning, a few live bands that played throughout the evening. Inyo Council for the Arts helped sponsor this and payed for the bands to come in. There was the annual pie, ice cream and watermelon and that went well. He believes they served 175 pieces of pie.

Pool-

The pool is beginning to wind down. He shared that we now have two Certified Pool Operators, Waylon and Dan. They are also Certified Playground Inspectors. Having them around to make sure everything at the park runs properly is a great relief and a tremendous liability off of the City. We are in the last session of our swim lessons. We had only planned for two this year and ended up filling up three sessions. We had a large group from TANF this session and are still reaching out to those who may have difficulty paying that are being offered discounted lessons. Commissioner McDermott asked if there were any adult lessons. He thought there were only one or two. She then asked how the lap swimming

was going. Keith said it was very popular, we sold season passes this year and it went very well.

**Arboretum-**

Our Phase 1 is scheduled to start in the Fall. We are in the process of doing the conceptual design for that. Also the Children's Christmas Tree that will go in front. Dan and Waylon are working closely with our Tree Community designating people to move this next phase forward. It's the hope this Fall that they will have the conceptual design and be able to plant the Christmas tree and put in the first part of the Arboretum. Carrie Lozito is in attendance tonight and had a tree dedicated in her honor by the Master Gardeners which will be a part of the Arboretum.

**Softball-**

We are in Week 8 of Softball. The season is going very well. Patty and Jim Cummings, our Coordinators, are doing a great job. It has been limited to one league a night, which has been working out pretty well. We now have been part of 8 weekend Tournaments and its going really well.

**Summer Programs/Events-**

We have had 7 Summer Camps, Baseball, Basketball, Tennis Camp, two Summer Fun Camps, and the Girls Softball camp that will be coming up that had to be rescheduled. Again we are very thankful to the Highschool for want they do for us, so all of the funds go back into those programs that are putting those camps on. We are happy to help do that and think it's a good partnership. We have had Gymnastics classes that were full this summer. We have had over 200 use requests for that back Pavilion. He gave praise to the Park Staff for being able to keep up with everything that has been thrown at them. Bishop hosted the Regional All-Stars for Little League and received some great comments.

**ITEMS FROM THE COMMISSION:**

Commissioner McDermott felt that it would be a good thing to put out in the Media what is going on, they are aware of the meeting for future projects. She also like to see the recycling that is now going on at the park.

**ADJOURMENT**

Meeting adjourned at 6:11pm to Wednesday August 25<sup>th</sup> at 5:15pm in the City Council Chambers.

  
Kellie Hallenbeck, Chair

ATTEST:   
Karey Poole, Comm. Serv. Secretary