

CITY OF BISHOP

Parks and Recreation Commission Minutes

May 18, 2011

CALL TO ORDER: The Parks and Recreation Commission met on May 18, 2011, the meeting was called to order at 5:15pm in the City Council Chambers.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT:

OTHERS PRESENT: Community Services Director, Keith Caldwell, Karey Poole, Recording Secretary, Dan McElroy, Parks Supervisor, and Waylon Cleland, Parks Facility Maintenance

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Motion made by Commissioner Cox to approve the minutes for April 27, 2011. 2nd by Commissioner McDermott, approved unanimously.

PUBLIC HEARING: The Public Hearing opened at 5:16 pm for discussion regarding the Remote Controlled Vehicle Track request to be allowed space to be built at the rear of the City property behind the City Park.

supporting Track at the City Several members of the community spoke in positive response the possibility of having a Remote Control Vehicle Park. There was no negative Public response.

Commissioner Simpson asked what needed to be done to move forward with this project. Keith stated that it would need to begin with a plan approved by the Building Department. Then based on recommendation from the Commission request the City Council to include the project in the Master Plan as it is currently temporary, but may be permanent at a later time depending on how well it goes. There would need to be letters sent out to all the residents. Today, other than from those who spoke, there was no correspondence from those residents. It would need to go on the next agenda for action to be taken, with plans and a budget. Keith stood and shared on a map exactly where the track would go in an area where local community kids have a hand built track. Some of the Commission Members had concerns of the bikes going on the track and ruining it. RC Club members said the bikes wouldn't hurt the track and they would be willing to find a happy medium to allow the kids a place

to go. Signs with Rules and Regulations for track use would need to be posted for all track users. The track would actually be small for bikes and interest would probably dissipate.

The Public Hearing was closed at 5:31pm with a request for item to be placed on the next agenda for action.

PUBLIC COMMENT: none

CORRESPONDENCE: Letter from the Dog Park Committee

OLD BUSINESS: Dogs in the City Park-

Keith let the Commission know that the City Council did not approve for the recommendation for a probationary period for a leash law in the City Park. They did however; decide to have a Dog Relief Area set up in the front of the park just west of the Band Stand for locals and visitors to have a place to take their dog. Staff has already begun the ground work and it will be ready for the Mule Days weekend. Flyers can be made to pass out to local hotels and restaurants. Commissioner Simpson asked if the City Council was just not interested in changing the ordinance at this time, Keith said yes that was correct.

Many of the Commissioners shared unhappy feelings regarding this decision as it is an unenforceable law with continued dog issues in the Park everyday. Discussion went into how many dogs are currently seen in the park on a daily basis and how to put signage thru the park to direct those with dogs to the right place. There are still concerns about dogs near the playground area. Commissioner Hallenbeck stated that others will have to come forward to the City Council and request a leash law in order to bring it back to the table. Keith said at this point all they can do is move forward with the City Councils request.

NEW BUSINESS: Skate Park-

Keith shared with the Commission that he made a decision to close the Skate Park. He met with some of the kids there that day it closed and let them know that it was due to the consistent trash dumping and the matter of respect to the park and park users that have been going on since last summer. The comments to the girls at the tennis courts and a child that told parents about seeing a potential drug deal. Staff found broken alcohol bottles the morning of the closure. Keith met with them again that afternoon and they just sat there and hung out. There was one arrest from the weekend for ripping off one of the trespassing signs.

Commissioner Hallenbeck asked if there was some way someone could be hired for the summer to help police the Skate Park. Keith said that would be too big of a liability. There are cameras to help with that. He said the public needs to be encouraged to do something, say something or call the police when they see things going on. Commissioner McDermott shared that a lot of the public are afraid of repercussions. Commissioner Simpson asked if it could be moved to a more open area with lights. It could be costly. Keith said that hearing the comments from Parents and the Parents not saying anything to them is an issue. They really need to get involved in Community Policing. We need to change our mentality and make the effort to help clean it up and not be afraid of repercussions. We may try to get volunteers to be Ambassadors of the Park they can meet and greet visitors and be given a cell phone for emergencies. To get involved they can contact Keith. They will have to have a background check thru fingerprints which the city will cover the cost on. He shared that the Park already has a volunteer program getting off the ground thru the Master Gardeners at the Community Garden.

STAFF REPORT:

Fish Camp-

The Fish Camp was a success, with 20 slots available and ending with a total of 28 children. The Parents had just as much fun as the kids. There were some terrific volunteers that made it a success. Local businesses sponsored the camp so each child went away with a bundle of give-a-ways.

Softball-

The season is moving forward. They will take a break over the Memorial Holiday to make way for the Vietnam Memorial Wall which will place and have Opening Ceremonies on Friday at 7pm.

be in

Triathlon Camp-

There are fourteen participants and the camp is ran by Melanie Beard. They were out in the rain last week and loving it. The camp will prepare them for the upcoming Triathlon.

They

Pool-

The pool is currently open to lap swim and swim team. It will be available for Public Swim over the Memorial Day Holiday and open for the Season June 14th. We also have the Free Swim Lesson thru First 5 going well with almost 60 participants for this first session.

available
the Season
5 going well with

Volunteer Project-

As stated earlier, this has started with the Community Garden on Saturday for planting day and so far looks good.

Saturday

Farmers Market –

Amy and Brad Henderson are new to running this program. They want to move to a central location and are looking at Academy Street on Friday evenings. It may be a good addition to downtown, they are still working out the logistics. June 17th will be their first night.

Friday
working

ITEMS FROM THE
COMMISSION:

Commissioner Simpson said that his son and a group of friends have been using the Volleyball area and are enjoying it.

Commissioner Weatherford asked if the Mule Days Vendors were going to be told no dogs. Keith said they are and the Park staff is requesting the County Animal Control to come and ticket.

Commissioner McDermott had some thoughts about parking for the RC Track. Off Street parking would need to be provided. And the track would not only need to be built to specified standards, but would need proper fencing. Keith assured her that the building inspector would be involved to ensure it be built properly.

Commissioner Hallenbeck shared that the Dog Park Committee is excited to move forward. They had mixed feelings about the Dog Relief Area and didn't want the Community to tie it to them and question financing. They plan on purchasing a banner to place in the area where the Dog Park will be, they are still looking into fencing, they know it will be expensive.

ADJOURMENT

After discussion the meeting set for Wednesday, June 22, 2011 at 5:15 p.m. in the City Council Chambers, was changed to take place at the City Park, 700 N. Main St, Bishop at 12:30 p.m.

Kellie Hallenbeck, Chair
Secretary

ATTEST: _____
Karey Poole, Comm. Serv.