



PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

May 12, 2016, 6:00 p.m.

Southridge Sports & Events Complex

I. CALL TO ORDER

- a. The meeting was called to order by Ben Rutledge, Chairman, at 5:59 p.m.
- b. Recorder, Sara Allington, called the roll and found the following:
 - i. Present: Chairman Ben Rutledge, Vice Chairman Mark Reed, Commissioners Dean Aeling, Jack Anderson, Ty Fischer, Ken Hahn, Diana Ruff
 - ii. Council Liaison:
 - iii. Excused:
 - iv. Unexcused:
 - v. Staff: Terry Walsh, Recreation & Community Services Executive Director, Greg Duffy, Interim Parks & Recreation Director, Facilities & Grounds Supervisor; Karen Coulson, Parks & Recreation Supervisor
 - vi. Recorder: Sara Allington

II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

- a. Chairman Rutledge moved to approve the agenda. The agenda was approved unanimously.
 - i. Correction needed on the minutes identified by Commissioner Ruff. Vice Chairman Reed dismissed the April meeting.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- a. Chairman Rutledge moved to approve the minutes dated April 14, 2016. The motion carried unanimously.

IV. VISITORS

V. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- a. Status Report – Lawrence Scott Park Project – Greg Duffy

- i. Construction has commenced 25% complete. Targeting 6/15 completion date. Possible art contribution from the Arts Commission to place where the trees were.
- b. Southridge 10 Acres Findings – Karen Coulson & Terry Walsh
 - i. Summer solstice, national night out, and walk-in customers surveyed by paper. ActiveNet customers surveyed online. 644 surveys collected. Swimming pool was the #1 choice for both paper and online surveys. SSEC is still bonded, not paid off for several years.
 - 1. Vice Chairman Reed - How do you pair the funding sources with the improvements?
 - a. Terry Walsh - They want major improvements out of the capital budget. Council is concerned about oversaturating tax payers with the aquatics discussion happening in Pasco.
 - 2. Vice Chairman Reed - How do we publicly get information out and what do we do with it?
 - a. Terry Walsh– Cant advertise until we have a plan
 - 3. Chairman Rutledge - Would an indoor pool work with a community center concept?
 - a. Terry Walsh – Yes
 - 4. Commissioner Ruff – When asking about an indoor pool what do you think people had in mind? Lap pool or aquatic center with slides?
 - a. Greg Duffy – We do not know. We know Tri-Cities does not have an Olympic size pool.
 - b. Karen Coulson – A lot of comments we hear are we don't offer swim lessons in the winter.
 - 5. Commissioner Hahn – Ballpark costs?
 - a. Greg Duffy – Not on everything.
 - 6. Commissioner Ruff – Was dog park asked?
 - a. Karen Coulson – No, although it was noted in a comment.
 - 7. Vice Chairman Reed - Where do we go from here?
 - a. Terry Walsh – Present the survey results to the finance director and city manager.
 - 8. Commissioner Hahn – What was the cost to build Southridge?
 - a. Karen Coulson - \$13 mil for the whole project

- b. Greg Duffy – Square footage for Southridge was very inexpensive.
 - c. Terry Walsh – Original concept was a dome because of cost. The contractor offered to build our facility for the same cost.
- 9. Commissioner Fischer – Is Council pressing on the 3 acres?
 - a. Terry Walsh – No
- 10. Commissioner Fischer – Have we considered something like Triple play in Coueur d' Alene?
 - a. Terry Walsh – We approached investors, not interested in expanding at this time.
- 11. Commissioner Aeling – What's the property worth retail?
 - a. Terry Walsh – COK paid 400k for 3 acres (approximately \$4/sq. ft.)
- 12. Commissioner Anderson – Are we realistically looking at doing something in phases?
 - a. Karen Coulson – Yes
- 13. Chairman Rutledge – Is the next step to put some prices to the phases and plan to propose priorities to council?
 - a. Greg Duffy – Yes
- 14. Commissioner Hahn – Are we obligated to have something to council by the end of the year?
 - a. Terry Walsh – No
- 15. Commissioner Fischer – Were softball fields presented?
 - a. Karen – Yes

VI. NEW BUSINESS:

- a. Park Audit Discussion – Greg Duffy
 - i. Would like to collect the audit surveys and begin a discussion. What were your take-aways, trends, observations, etc.?
 - 1. Commissioner Hahn – A different way to walk through a park. With a critical eye.
 - 2. Commissioner Anderson – Time of day should've been noted on the survey when the observations were made. Also recommends going at different times to the same park.
 - 3. Commissioner Fischer – I went to his park several times at various times of the day.

4. Commissioner Aeling – I also went to my park several times. Noticed trim crew and mow crew are slightly off sync. Noticed valve boxes were slightly low.
 5. Commissioner Reed – The expectations were laid out pretty good.
 6. Commissioner Fischer – What exactly were you looking for on signage?
 - a. Greg Duffy – Bathrooms, handicap, rules, etc.
 7. Vice Chairman Reed – When you go through them please give them back to fix.
 - a. Greg Duffy – Yes, it's a work in progress.
 8. Commissioner Hahn – Automatic buttons did not work on restrooms.
 - a. Greg Duffy – Automatic locks on a timer. Internal buttons are a safety mechanism to exit if someone becomes locked inside.
- b. City Council Workshop Presentation – Greg Duffy & Terry Walsh
- i. Departmental update went well. All work is done with only 18 full time employees.
 1. Commissioner Hahn – Commercial will be west end of parkway?
 - a. Terry Walsh – Commercial all through.
 2. Commissioner Hahn - When will it be paved?
 - a. Terry Walsh – Hoping to get five corners done before school starts. Closing the roadway will be difficult for parents and busses.

VII. POLL OF COMMISSION MEMBERS AND STAFF

- a. Commissioner Hahn: editorials in the paper on cutting down trees in Columbia Park and not replacing them. A plan in place?
 - i. Terry Walsh – Trees taken down were a public safety issue. A plan approved by the corps has been presented to TCH.
 - ii. Greg Duffy – an incident a few years ago prompted a plan to assess and address potentially dangerous trees.
- b. Commissioner Anderson: Requests council workshop power point presentation be sent electronically.
- c. Commissioner Duff: Lawrence Scott Park at lunchtime was very active. Public liaisons at commission meetings really foster growth of the community.
- d. Commissioner Fischer: I enjoyed the park audit. Hardest part was anticipating expectations.

- e. Greg Duffy: The department has been an integral part of the development of the new website.
- f. Karen Coulson: Lil slugger program is off and going. Summer programs filling up fast.
- g. Sara Allington: The new website has truly been designed as a department. Will offer a good representation of who we are. I am the department website administrator.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

- a. The meeting was adjourned by Ben Rutledge, Chairman, at 7:04p.m.