



**Parks & Recreation Commission  
MINUTES**  
Thursday, June 25, 2020, 6:00 pm  
Webex Meeting



**1. CALL TO ORDER**

- a. Commission Chair Ken Hahn called the meeting to order at 6:04 pm. Recorder Quintanilla completed a roll call.
- b. Chairman Hahn led the Pledge of Allegiance and welcomed all in attendance.

Parks and Recreation Commissioners, City Council Liaison, and Staff Present:

Commissioner Ken Hahn	Jim Millbauer, City Council Liaison
Commissioner Linda Stroben	Emily Estes-Cross, Parks and Recreation Director
Commissioner Dean Aeling (6:06 pm)	Greg Duffy, Parks and Facilities Deputy Director
Commissioner Jack Anderson	Isa Quintanilla, Recorder
Commissioner Ty Fischer	
Commissioner Robb Heston	

Unexcused: Commissioner Robert Van Slycke

**2. HONORS & RECOGNITION – None**

**3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Commissioner Anderson moved to approve the agenda as presented. Seconded by Commissioner Stroben, the motion carried unanimously.

**4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Commissioner Aeling made a motion to approve the February 27, 2020 Minutes. With a second from Commissioner Stroben, the motion carried unanimously.

**5. VISITORS –**This meeting, held online thru Webex, had no visitors in attendance.

**6. NEW BUSINESS**

- a. Election of Officers –  
Commission Chair Ken Hahn stated he would like to continue as the Chair Person and nominated himself. With no other nominations, Commissioner Heston made a motion to approve Commissioner Ken Hahn as the Chair. With a second by Commissioner Anderson, the motion passed unanimously.

Vice Chair Linda Stroben also stated that she too would like to continue as Vice Chair, nominating herself. With no other nominations, Commissioner Robb Heston made a motion to approve Commissioner Linda Stroben as the Co-Chair. With a second by Commissioner Aeling, the motion passed unanimously.

- b. Announcing re-appointments to the Parks and Recreation Commission.  
Commissioner Anderson and Commissioner Van Slycke terms expired 3/31/20, opening those positions to the public. The Interview Committee recommended to City Council to

reappoint Jack Anderson and Robert Van Slycke to the Parks & Recreation Commission. On March 3, 2020, (City Council Regular Meeting), this motion was approved. Their terms will expire on 3/24/24.

c. Covid 19 – impacts and response

- City facilities have been closed to the public since March.
- Some employees are telecommuting, some are working at their work station inside city facilities; practicing social distancing, wearing, masks, etc.
- There is a hold on discretionary spending until financial impacts of reduced tax revenues are realized.
- Parks and Facilities Crews are very busy cleaning restrooms, sanitizing facility doorknobs and common places, fabricating workspace sneeze guards and required barriers, and installing additional soap dispensers and hand sanitizing stations.
- All community events have been postponed or cancelled. Most events and programs can't take place until Phase 3 or 4 of the state's reopening plan.
- If the swimming pool opens, there will be limitations such as reduced capacity and likely no swim lessons given social distance requirements. Splash pads are allowed to open in Phase 3.
- At this time, we are not issuing permits for sport field rentals or picnic shelter reservations. However, parks remain open to the public. When groups gather at parks and fields, the city's position is to use education as a means of encouraging them to social distance, wear masks, and disperse.
- When Union Gospel Mission is closed or unable to accept people for shelter, we see an increase in homeless population loitering in parks. Kennewick Police Department is made aware of and handles these issues.

d. Park Impact and Mitigation Project Status

The Cascade Linear Trail (Zone 6E) is an ongoing project. It will provide safe route from 45<sup>th</sup> to Cascade Elementary on City of Kennewick public right of way. The design is 95% complete. The City is waiting for final design drawings from the consultant to incorporate into the bid documents. A Happy Human bench will be installed at Grange Park (Zone 5W). In Zone 5E (Horse Heaven Hills, Inspiration), staff is reviewing additional options for use of funds.

e. Park Audit Assignments

Each Commissioner has been assigned a park to audit. If any Commissioner want to change the park assigned to them, they are encouraged to work that out with fellow Commissioners. The deadline for return has been extended to July 15, 2020.

f. Self-Guided Site Tour of Parks/Facilities

The intent of touring specific locations is to show recently completed projects and improvements, and to discuss issues that should be considered in preparation of the 2021-22 biennial budget. This will be discussed at an upcoming meeting. Being familiar with the specific locations will help with a productive discussion. City staff appreciates the Commissioners input and perspective.

## 7. OLD BUSINESS

a. Youth Membership Updates

Youth Membership updates will be addressed before advertising open positions with the Boards and Commissions (January 2021). Ms. Estes-Cross submitted information to the City Attorney and will forward that same information to the Commissioners.

- b. Concessions at Ken Serier Memorial Pool, 315 W 6<sup>th</sup> Ave.  
A Request for Proposals advertised to the public, early spring 2020, had no responses. Placing vending machines in the Pool lobby had been considered, however due to the Covid 19 pandemic and potential requirements for social distancing, no concessions or vending machines are recommended.

## **8. Poll of Commissioners and Staff**

Commissioner Aeling asked if there are any unfinished park improvements that would be affected by Covid 19 budget cuts. Mr. Duffy explained that this summer's Underwood and Monopoly Park projects are funded through CDBG grants, and not directly affected by the City's budget. Both park projects are scheduled to be completed on time, by October.

Commissioner Heston noticed that many families are using the parks, walking their pets, eating, playing volleyball and for the most part, using safety protocols.

City Liaison Councilman Millbauer thanked everyone, Ms. Estes-Cross, Mr. Duffy and their staff for all their work and their work in the parks during this challenging time.

Commissioner Fischer commented that it is nice to see more kids out in the parks. His family and friends are out in parks also.

Commissioner Anderson stated that he feels for the staff, having similar issues with his workplace, the Kennewick School District. He reminded everyone to be safe, and to keep moving forward. He likes seeing kids in the parks and following the rules. He thanked Ms. Estes-Cross, Mr. Duffy and staff for all they do. Mr. Duffy stated the Parks Crew is working hard at it and they do carry a heavy load. He appreciates their flexibility.

Ms. Estes-Cross thanked Mr. Duffy for helping with the first phase of the regional wayfinding implementation. These monument signs are very visible and fantastic looking. This project was completed despite many pandemic challenges. Sunset at Southridge event was scheduled to begin in June, however, due to Covid 19, this event has been rescheduled to begin August 21<sup>st</sup> and run every Friday evening. As for trees, Parks and Facilities Manager Ian Dezember continues to manage their ongoing assessments and maintenance. The Water Follies is exploring the possibility of rescheduling the annual boat races and airshow for September.

## **9. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 6:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Isa Quintanilla, Recorder