



Parks & Recreation Commission
MINUTES
Thursday, June 27, 2019, 6:00 pm
Kennewick City Hall Council Chambers



1. CALL TO ORDER

- a. Ken Hahn called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.
- b. Chairman Hahn asked Greg Duffy to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Commissioner Dean Aeling	Bill McKay, City Council Liaison
Commissioner Jack Anderson	Emily Estes-Cross, Parks and Recreation Director
Commissioner Linda Britain	Greg Duffy, Parks and Facilities Deputy Director
Commissioner Ken Hahn	
Commissioner Robb Heston	

Absent:

Commissioner Robert Van Slycke

2. HONORS & RECOGNITION – None

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Commissioner Aeling moved, seconded by Commissioner Britain, to approve the agenda as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commissioner Britain moved, seconded by Commissioner Heston, to approve the minutes of April 25, 2019 and the minutes of May 6, 2019. The motion carried unanimously.

5. VISITORS

- a. Luke & Jazmin Hallowell, Monopoly Park Neighbors. Mr. Hallowell visited several Kennewick parks to observe how his daughter and other families used the play structures. He showed how slides and swings at other parks in Kennewick allow parents and kids to play together; elements not included in Monopoly Park. The equipment at Monopoly only includes two elements: the train element isn't conducive for any age group to play on because it's sized for smaller kids but the level of difficulty is for older kids, and the dome is only for older kids. Equipment that would encourage parents to play together with kids would improve the safety aspect of the park. He has seen a lot of neighbors making improvements to their homes in the past 6-7 years, and feels they would take pride and ownership in any investments at the playground.
- b. Jean Blok (Hillspring Church) also expressed her interest in seeing investments in east Kennewick parks. She said a shelter where people can congregate would be welcome.

Involving the neighbors in the process will give them more ownership to take care of the park better and for longer

- c. In his absence, Ms. Estes-Cross provided Commissioners will an e-mail from Bill Brandt regarding Columbia Park Pond ADA parking. Proximity of the existing paved parking to the ADA fishing dock were briefly discussed. Staff will research if this is an allowable use of Community Development Block Grant funding, and report back to Commissioners before the application deadline.

6. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Commissioner Representation at National Night Out, August 6, 2019. If Commissioners want to poll the community on their opinion, let Commission Chair Hahn know specific topics so any display materials can be prepared.
- b. Metropolitan Park District. Commission Chair Hahn outlined the effort to research an MPD. It would separate parks from the City of Kennewick organization, and become its own entity. It would be represented by an elected Commissioners and be its own taxing authority. Commissioner Anderson volunteered to be on the committee to research, and reported that past exploration showed the required cap on a levy would yield less than the city was budgeting at that time for parks maintenance, operations and projects. The Committee will review where the last discussion left off (prior to 2015), and report back to the Commission.

7. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- a. Park Audit – Commissioners submitted audits.
- b. Zintel Canyon Update – Ms. Estes-Cross reported the large pieces of wood in the parking area nearest 27th have been chopped into smaller sizes of firewood. When volunteers are available collect signatures on liability waivers, the City can advertise you-haul free wood. Quotes are being obtained for the chipping of a number of brush piles throughout the canyon.
- c. Park Project Progress – Commission Chair Hahn reviewed the progress made on mitigation fund projects.

8. Poll of Commissioners and Staff

- Hahn – 6/15 was an amazing day, the opening of the POD and CRL was phenomenal.
- Heston – found the Commission’s park tour in May to be very helpful; appreciates the ongoing work in Zintel Canyon.
- McKay – Zintel looks better. We should consider volunteers to help to build shelters.

9. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:35 pm

Respectfully submitted,
Emily Estes-Cross, Substitute Recorder