

CITY OF BISHOP

Parks and Recreation Commission Minutes

August 24, 2011

CALL TO ORDER: The Parks and Recreation Commission met on August 24, 2011, the meeting was called to order at 5:15 pm in the City Council Chambers, 301 W. Line St. Bishop, CA.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

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 Weatherford to approve the minutes for July 27, 2011. 2nd by Commissioner McDermott, approved unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT: none

CORRESPONDENCE: none

OLD BUSINESS: RC Track-

Keith let the Commissioners know that the City Council did approve the conceptual design that the Commission had approved. There will be final approval of the working plan and a Public Hearing had been set for Saturday August 27th for the RC Track proposal by request of the Council. This will be to reach out to those who are interested in the track and encourage their involvement, also to help educate those who don't understand the idea of the track, what it is and help mitigate any concerns they may have. Commissioner McDermott asked what would be the next step after Saturday's meeting. Keith said that it will go back on the RC group, they will need to put together a plan showing the next

phases and costs that go along with them. The members of the group are working closely with Parks and Recreation Staff on the planning of the track. They have currently raised \$1,000 to go towards the costs of building the track, and they are very motivated. The area may need an environmental assessment, if it wasn't included in the assessment done to allow for the use of the southeastern portion of the property for the Hanby Street Project equipment and supplies. This will be for concerns of any undisturbed areas that could be adversely affected. The area the Community Garden was included in the last assessment. Dave Grah from Public Works was going to look into this to see if the whole property was done or just a portion. An environmental assessment can be done in house.

If movement forward is granted, Dan has worked with the local California Department of Corrections in the past. They have been a great resource and an MOU is being created for future use of the CDC crews beginning September 12th. There is a cost of \$218 per day, as many as thirty inmates. They can be utilized to help build the track and it will go much faster and still be done the way it needs to be. Commissioner Simpson was curious if they always charge a fee for use of the inmates. Dan McElroy said that if the project benefits the community as a whole they do not charge. Using them will get things done much faster and cheaper in the long run. Commissioner McDermott asked how long before the Environmental Assessment could be completed if it is needed. Keith said that it is typically 20-25 days. The next Council meeting is on the twelfth, and if we got started on it right away maybe by the middle of September, we could have that completed. Commissioner McDermott asked if the assessment came out clean, then we could move forward, but if there was a problem with that space is there still time to move it. Keith said that there is currently already disturbed area that is a possible location if it needed to be moved. Commissioner McDermott said she noticed the stakes marking the area where the track will be set up. Sam Vargas said there is also a string to show the visual of how the track will be. Commissioner Weatherford said that when you get up close to it, it's pretty clear as to where the track will be. Commissioner Hallenbeck shared that Councilmember Susan Cullen asked that additional letters be sent out to the neighbors in that area. Keith said that he actually would like to do phone calls and invite them personally.

DOG PARK-

Waylon updated the Commission on the last meeting. The committee reviewed the fencing that was donated; unfortunately it is not what they are looking for. They are working on fundraising options to raise the money for the proper fencing. They are aware that there were many dogs at the park, so they want to continue moving forward. Commissioner McDermott suggested asking for volunteer help from those who have time, but maybe not the money to put in. They could help hand out brochures. Waylon they are looking into five foot chain link fencing with gates and irrigation for the grass. He said that it still may be a few more months but they are making progress. Commissioner Hallenbeck shared that they upped the first phase up to \$20,000. Waylon said they did to include sod and everything else that will be needed.

Keith shared that they continue to move forward, funding has come available for that project and we are ready for the proposed meeting regarding that. Letters and notices have been sent out that describe where the path will go and that meeting is set for next Wednesday evening from 5-6:30pm, August 31st. It will take place in the Executive Conference room and we are encouraging the public to come out and give us their feedback. Commissioner McDermott asked if the path was marked so if someone was to go look for it, it would be clear where it was planned to go. Keith said that it is not marked; they would need to take the brochure with them to get an idea of where it would be. Keith said it would be on the other side of the Community Garden where it would not interfere with the garden. It will essentially connect to the service road currently behind Sterling Heights at the bollards at the park entry. The path will begin there and go thru the back of the park, around the garden, along the fence line until it reaches the path on the north side of the Rear Pavilion. The goal is to actually create a walking track as we develop the back of the park. Commissioner McDermott asked if it was going to be wide enough to drive through. Keith said he believes it's going to be twelve feet wide, which will allow bikes and pedestrians and is ADA compliant. He invited the Commission to attend and hear what the public has to say, as well as hear letters of comment that have been received. Commissioner McDermott asked if there were any negative comments. Keith said there is some concern from a neighbor that believes it will adversely affect the traffic on May Street for those who are traveling to Pine Street to get to the path. The funding available was the Safe Routes to School funding. Lighting has currently been pulled due to the budget and pushback from some neighbors in the original plan. The new plan is actually more expensive because of moving the path by request of the public. Commissioner McDermott said maybe in the future if the lighting is needed.

STAFF REPORT:

Programs –

Softball –

Waylon shared that the Softball season is officially over. There are no other tournaments scheduled which will free up the part time staff and allow for field prep for Soccer.

Pool-

The last day of the pool will be August 28th as there is not enough staff to have it open on Labor Day weekend.

Movies in the Park-

The last movie night was Saturday August 13th. It was pretty popular due to several families attending the Softball Tournament that evening that didn't realize a movie would be showing. So many of those families came over. The next movie is scheduled for September 10th.

Soccer-

Waylon said that there are 9 soccer fields laid out for 625 kids enrolled in AYSO. They are looking into opening the Little League Concession stand to try to generate needed funding. Practices begin on August 29th with games beginning after Labor Day. Commissioner McDermott asked about portable bathrooms. Waylon said that this will be the

responsibility of the organization. Commissioner Hallenbeck asked if they will be putting the temporary fencing back up by the creek on field 5 and what the possibility was of permanent fencing. Keith said that permanent fencing is the hope when that rear section of the park gets developed.

Keith wanted to lift up the staff on all their hard work, there is often something going on 7 days a week and sometimes 24 hours a day. It doesn't slow down, and they get all the credit for a great job.

Facilities –

Dan shared that the Skate Jam on Sunday is ready to go. They are inviting Bikes, Skateboards and Inline Skaters to come participate. There are some great sponsors; Northern Inyo Hospital is going to bring out a medical treatment tent.

Regarding the parking for Soccer in the area across from field 5, they are going to set it up so it has one entrance and one exit to avoid entry and exit on the corners. There will be some temporary pedestrian crossing signs and slow down areas. Hopefully this will help with some of the issues they have had in the past.

The staff has been working on the Front Gazebo. They have gone out to find the best prices possible on the materials. The hand rails are done and just need to be painted before installation.

The staff is also preparing for Labor Day weekend. They have been working on the Horse Shoe Pits near the Bocce Courts.

Dan said Waylon saved the City a lot of money by cutting back the hazard trees themselves all the way to the back of the park. They are planning on going back thru after Labor Day back to the front of the park to complete this project. Commissioner Hallenbeck said she noticed some small limbs near where the Dog Park is going to go. Dan said those are trimmings and they will be moved. Commissioner McDermott asked about the status of the new tree in the front looks like it has some dead branches. Dan said he has been in contact with several people to try to mitigate the issue. He says he is at a loss; he has done what he was told to do to care properly for the tree. He was made suggestions by others, but doesn't want to void the warranty on the tree. Commissioner McDermott asked who the warranty was with, Dan said it should be with Bishop Nursery, he said he has been in contact but has not had contact reciprocated. He said he went outside and talked with Steve Blair from Chalfant Big Trees and Steve said that what the staff was already doing was right to try to get it back, though he didn't believe it would fully recover. But they are doing all they can do. Commissioner McDermott asked we actually did not have a warranty on the tree. Dan said he really wasn't sure that was one of the deals with Bishop Nursery, when they plant the tree they will guarantee it. So he is hoping that it is guaranteed. Commissioner McDermott said she hoped it would come back. Dan agreed.

Commissioner McDermott went back to the Front Gazebo and the possibility of lighting. Dan said they are still planning on doing lights

that will shine down from above with the structure changing to a cream color. She said that it would be nice to have a grand opening once it was completed; it's going to look so nice. Keith suggested doing it as part of the Labor Day weekend kickoff, or maybe early fall.

Dan also shared that he has been working with Tom De Leo to begin the work on the Little League fields.

ITEMS FROM THE COMMISSION:

Commissioner Weatherford asked if there was a plan for the vendors and their dogs that will be here for the Labor Day Arts and Crafts. Keith said that Lynn has sent out a letter for Mule Days and Labor Day. Keith said if need be we can ask Animal Control to come through as well. Commissioner McDermott also stated that if the Dog Park Committee has a booth, that is another way to get the word out that the dogs are not allowed.

ADJOURNMENT

By request of Staff, the meetings set for the remainder of the year meetings changed and set to; September 14th, October 19th, cancel November and change December to the 7th.

The meeting adjourned at 6:54 to reconvene on Wednesday September 14th at 5:15pm in the City Council Chambers.

Kellie Hallenbeck, Chair
Secretary

ATTEST: _____
Karey Poole, Comm. Serv.