

PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION MINUTES

MAY 20, 2014

The meeting was called to order by Chairwoman Carrie Milroy at 7:00 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Larry Amrine, Betty Brewer, Bob Berbee, Carrie Milroy, Emma Romine, J.R. Rausch 1 Vacancy

OTHERS PRESENT: Mike Andrako, Amanda Morris, Clerk Patterson

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: There being no additions or corrections, the minutes for the meeting on April 15, 2014 were approved as presented.

REPORT OF PUBLIC SERVICE DIRECTOR: Mr. Andrako reported the following:

- Preparations are being made for the Memorial Day Ceremony at both the Police and Court facility, as well as Oakdale Cemetery.
- Thirty (30) additional trash cans have been placed in the parks. That's in addition to the 30 existing trash cans.
- Five (5) new picnic tables with benches have been placed in parks, 2 in Eljer Park, 2 in Legion Park and 1 in Mill Valley Central. The picnic tables are square with four attached benches. Mr. Berbee asked what the tables cost. Mr. Andrako will check and report back.

REPORT OF RECREATION/EVENT COORDINATOR: Ms. Amanda Morris reported the following:

- Pool inspection will be held tomorrow.
- Fountain pop is replacing bottled soda this year. Water bottles will be sold and can be refilled at a reduced rate. Anyone purchasing a pool pass prior to the pool opening will get a free bottle. This is incentive to increase pool pass sales.
- The pool opens on May 24th.
- Volleyball leagues begin May 21 and May 22nd.
- Basketball leagues start in June.
- Water volleyball will start in June.
- Last Friday was the first Uptown Event of the season. Even with inclement weather, the turnout was good.
- Walk a Mile in Her Shoes was a successful event.
- Richwood Bank will sponsor a dive-in movie at the pool this summer.

Mr. Andrako added that the running track in Lewis Park has been rolled and chips will be added, which will be spread around the running track and rolled in to give it a running track surface. Weeds will be sprayed to keep them from growing up through the track.

Mr. Andrako will email members any follow-up items as a result of the meeting, instead of members having to wait until the next meeting to know the results.

Ms. Milroy noted the outdated condition of the restroom at Eljer park, both inside and outside. She said it was mostly the condition of the inside of the restroom. The outside looks okay. It was painted last year. Since the leak is fixed, she would like the inside spruced up a bit.

Ms. Morris said she's tried to empower the teams to let staff know if they see any abuse in the restrooms that need attention. The city supplies what they can in the restrooms. There are 60 plus teams coming in June, and they really need two restrooms for the tournament, but she doesn't know if the teams have a budget for additional facilities. City has weekend crews that go in on Saturday and Sunday if needed, but it's still a challenge to keep it clean all the time.

Mr. Rausch asked if there is a possibility where if someone is using it as a fundraiser, that we can charge them for X number of hours for our maintenance people to come in? They do that a lot at the high school. Ms. Morris said she has talked to the teams about that.

Ms. Milroy asked for clarification on where the batting cages are going in Eljer Park. Response was inaudible due to recorder quitting.

COMMISSIONER'S REPORT ON INDIVIDUAL PARKS:

Mr. Rausch reported: Mill Valley Central and Mill Valley South looked good. They are being utilized.

Ms. Romine reported: Greenwood and Butterfly Parks are being utilized. The sign at Trinity Park is leaning and looks like it is deteriorating at the bottom of the sign post. She noted some patches of grass are mowed and some are not. She noted a hole on the far right corner of the park across from the sign. Mr. Andrako will check it out.

Ms. Milroy reported: Eljer Park – She noted someone left a portion of an upholstered chair near the skate park. May have been using it for a seat, but just left it there. Some signs at the exercise stations are missing. She suggested removing the broken or chipped signs.

McCarthy Park: No problem. She asked that the city control the weeds that grow over the bridge. Mr. Andrako said they will monitor the situation.

Mr. Berbee reported: Schwartzkopf Park - He noted some people walking their dogs. He asked if mutt mitts could be placed in that park.

Mill Creek Park – A very busy park with ball players. He asked if the city would make sure mutt mitts are in that park as well. Response was there is one in that park already.

Regarding the horseshoe pits, staff has reached out to Darryl Miller, gentleman who is requesting the clay, and asked him to come and collect it when he can. Will set a deadline for it to be gone if he doesn't come soon to get it. Once the clay is gone, the poles will be pulled and holes filled with concrete.

Potential use for the former horseshoe pits may be used for a cornhole area. The area is lighted. Cornhole boards would not stay out. They would be stored and taken out when needed to avoid vandalism. People will be able to use the area and bring their own cornhole boards to use.

Mr. Berbee asked if there would be a charge for a cornhole tournament/league. Ms. Morris said they could do it like they do with volleyball. They charge a fee, and Boston's, the sponsor, provides the T-shirt and a team trophy. Staff buys a towel or some other token.

Ms. Brewer reported: McCloud Park looks very nice.

Lewis Park. She noticed the gravel for the running track. She asked if the porta-john will stay in the park for the summer. Response was yes.

Mr. Andrako gave an update on the restrooms at Lewis Park. He noted there is \$10,000 in the budget for this project. It used to be a football lockerroom, so it was thought the bathroom would be able to be fixed up. Staff tried to camera the drain, but was unsuccessful because it was completely collapsed within a foot down. It's an old cast line and not usable. At that point, a new line is needed, which would be very expensive. An option would be to use the far west of the kitchenette, which the league does not use; they use a mobile concession stand. Could repurpose the kitchenette, and turn it into a restroom. A new drain will need to be installed, tied into the sewer and build a new bathroom. He will get a cost estimate. He does not think \$10,000 will cover the cost of the project; thinks more like \$30,000/\$40,000. He noted not all of the building will be restroom. A portion of it will be locked storage for equipment for sports organizations.

Mr. Amrine said Aldersgate Park looks nice. Benches in the play area need a coat of paint, but actually could stand to be replaced. They are deteriorating. The railing to the

treehouse from the exits to the steps need a coat of paint. Everything else looks nice and is really being utilized.

Jim Simmons Trail looks nice.

Mr. Berbee asked when the Jim Simmons Trail would be repaved. Mr. Andrako said this summer, probably in July, when the paving program begins. Only the northern section will be paved. Mr. Berbee asked if they would be paving various spots on the trail. Mr. Andrako said there are no plans for pavement repairs to existing pavement. He asked what section needs repaired. Mr. Berbee said it's an area closer to the Mill Creek entrance than Rt. 33. It's close to the ball fields.

CITIZENS' COMMENTS NON-AGENDA ITEMS: No comments.

PARKS & RECREATION MASTER PLAN REVIEW: Staff is working on updates, but won't be ready for a while.

Chad Wilder would like to see more baseball fields.

Projects to think about for the Master Plan: Lights added to ball field(s) would provide more playing time, thus would eliminate the need for more ball fields.

See if the City can get time on Joint Rec fields since the city pays into that park.

Dog Park

BMX Track

Bike paths. Mr. Andrako mentioned the potential grant for a multi-use path to be constructed from Kenny Drive to Bunsold School. Won't know until fall if we get funding.

Ms. Milroy said trail improvements are one of the top three recommendations in the Master Plan from 2010. Connecting the Jim Simmons Trail with some other path to make it longer. Moving forward we really need to address that.

Mr. Rausch said Mr. Phillips has done a lot of work on trails and connectivity. He's going much further than city connectivity. Mr. Rausch suggested inviting him to a future meeting so he can explain some potential plans.

Mr. Andrako said the Chamber is facilitating the discussion regarding trails and greenways through Union County. One of the connections that they have identified that

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would extend the Jim Simmons Trail would be to take it from Millcreek and take it east over to McCarthy Park. Once you connect McCarthy with Schwartzkopf and Millcreek, then you've got the east west connector and from there you can expand.

Ms. Milroy asked if the matching money to be spent on the multi-use path would come out of the Parks & Recreation fund. Mr. Andrako said no, it would come out of the General Fund. If we do get the money, we wouldn't get it until 2016. The project is 80% funded.

OLD BUSINESS

1) Parks 5-year Capital Improvement Plan

Eljer Park – Tennis Court/Trail Paving. Skate park needs to be resurfaced. Will have to get a cost. Will be paved. Would like to reposition the cement planters around the skate park if possible. Mr. Andrako was told that it's very difficult to move those cement planters. They are very heavy and they took days to put together. Disassembling them is not going to be easy, if it can be done at all. Need to talk to people who use skate park to get ideas from them.

As far as trail paving, there are just some spots that need repaired. The whole trail doesn't need to be done.

City Pool – 2014 – Enhancements - \$30,000 – Move to 2015.

Need to be specific that Parks & Rec wants a slide at the pool. Ms. Morris talked to Tim Patterson, pool vendor, this morning about pricing for a slide. We may have a potential for some sort of financing or grant. Hope to have a photo and cost next month. She doesn't think \$30,000 will cover the entire cost of the slide, but could possibly go out and get a donor for the rest of it or some type of grant to use towards the slide.

Mill Creek Park – 2015 – Restrooms - \$50,000

There is a need for restrooms. Flooding in that area is a concern. Mr. Andrako said if we put something there, it would have to be put on the hill next to Amrine Mill Road. We should be able to tie into water and sewer in that area. Mr. Rausch said if it is even feasible, it should be decided fairly soon, because if it's not feasible, we need to remove that \$50,000 and find something else that's more important.

Mill Valley Park South – 2015 – Playground equipment - \$25,000 - Keep

Greenwood Park – 2016 – Playground equipment - \$25,000 - Keep

Mr. Berbee noted that the people in Greenwood don't really care to have a playground. The people at the Links apartments would like a playground. There is
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path that extends up from the Links up to the property line of the park. May create a connection there to the park.

McCarthy Park – 2016 – Shelter Replacement - \$22,000.

Mr. Andrako said the shelter is structurally safe at this point. Move Shelter Replacement to 2015 for \$22,000.

Eljer Park - 2016 – Playground equipment - \$50,000.

Ms. Morris suggested increasing \$50,000 to \$75,000.

Mr. Andrako noted the small swingset at Schwartzkopf Park is real old. Replacement would be in the \$5,000/\$10,000 range. Put \$5,000 in 2015 for a swingset at Schwartzkopf Park.

City Pool – 2017 – Electrical Upgrade - \$30,000 – Keep

Eljer – 2017 – Electrical Upgrade - \$50,000 – Keep

Mill Valley Park Central – 2017 – Playground - \$40,000 – Keep

Aldersgate Park – 2018 - Restrooms – \$50,000 – Keep. Mr. Rausch recalls that the neighboring residents didn't want restrooms because then people would come and use the park from outside of the neighborhood. Neighborhood kids can already run home to use their own restrooms. Ms. Morris said the porta-johns could be made to look a little nicer. Approach the Homeowners Association to see what they want.

Lewis Park – 2018 – Playground - \$40,000 - Keep

McCarthy Park – 2018 – Playground - \$40,000 – Keep

Schwartzkopf Park – 2018 – Playground - \$40,000 - Keep

Aldersgate Park – 2019 – Play area over by the treehouse area - \$15,000 – Add

Ms. Morris suggested in five years putting in lights around the ball diamonds at Eljer Park.

Potential project:

Fountains for pond at Aldersgate – Remove project.

Ms. Morris mentioned the shelter floor at Legion Park has some cracks in it. Mr. Amrine used the shelter for a wedding reception recently and thought it was nice. Maintenance may be needed at some point, but not a total replacement.

Mr. Berbee asked what Central Park could be used for. Mr. Andrako said that park has limited use. There are well fields there now, so limitations are that no ground chemical applications can be used. He suggested a possible dog park for that area. Mr. Andrako will get a cost estimate and a layout for the area.

Mr. Andrako said the Water Supt. gave permission to use the hill at the reservoir for a sledding hill.

Ms. Milroy asked if there is an area at the reservoir for a shelter/picnic area/playground. Can we make that a park? ODNR is putting in a boat ramp and a parking lot for cars and boat trailers. Mr. Rausch thinks it would be worth considering a shelter/picnic area.

Ms. Morris will get an estimate for lights in either Millcreek or Eljer Park (preferred).

Mr. Rausch suggested waiting until we get cost estimates at the next meeting before filling in projects for 2019.

BMX track is outside of our budget. Attach to Master Parks Plan.

Mr. Rausch suggested looking at space for paint ball. This could also be included in the Master Parks Plan.

NEW BUSINESS

COMMENTS OF CITIZENS – AGENDA ITEMS:

COMMENTS OF INDIVIDUAL COMMISSIONERS:

Mr. Berbee talked with resident Bob Muth. He had a lot of good ideas for improving the parks.

Mr. Rausch and Mr. Andrako have both spoken with Mr. Muth. He had some ideas for improving the downtown area as well.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business to come before the Parks & Recreation Commission, the meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

