

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MINUTES
MAY 19, 2015

The meeting was called to order by Bob Berbee at 7:03 p.m.

Members present: JR Rausch, Carrie Milroy, Steve Prothero, Bob Berbee. Emma Romine, Betty Brewer and Avanelle Oberlin- excused.

Others Present: Michael Andrako, Laura Michalak, Brodie Rockenbaugh, Jennifer Sherick, Kylee Rinevier

Approval of Minutes: The minutes from April 21, 2015 were approved as submitted.

Report of Public Service Director:

Mr. Andrako said he got with the Administration about the concern for the Lewis Park restrooms being over the budgeted amount. I discussed it in great lengths with the Finance Director and the Director of Administration. They feel strongly about proceeding with the restrooms and doing an additional appropriation for Council. The Finance Director said last year we received more than we anticipated, so there is a surplus in the account. They feel that it makes sense to move forward with the \$67,000. We had a \$7,000 savings from the shelter at McCarthy, so we would only need an additional \$20,000 to cover the project. Mr. Andrako said last time we discussed going back and trying to negotiate with the football league. It was a great deal that we received in the first place, so the Administration told us to proceed with the construction of the restrooms. Mrs. Milroy asked if that was just for the restrooms or did that include the concession window. Mr. Andrako said it included the window and the restrooms.

Mr. Andrako gave an update on the dog park. He said that the path has been paved, and that the fence is 90% completed. The ornamental entry feature has not been started yet, but it should be up soon. He has ordered the benches and kiosk to be installed. He said we will have signage as well, rules for the park and the sign naming the park the "Bark Park". Mr. Andrako has let the Public Service Committee and Mayor Gore know we are good to start proceeding with naming the park the "Bark Park". He will bring legislation to Council this summer once we are close to opening up the park.

Mr. Berbee asked if the additional appropriation for \$20,000 was coming from Parkland funds from last year. Mr. Andrako said we are using Parkland funds that we had left over from last year.

Report of Events/Recreation Coordinator:

Ms. Michalak said volleyball kicks off May 20th, and we have approximately 12 teams signed up. We have 15 teams signed up for Thursday. She said the pool opens Saturday at noon. We will be having our in-house meeting with the fire department to talk about life saving techniques Saturday morning before the pool opens. She said they are having issues with the baby pool

automatically adding chemicals, so we have to do it by hand. The pool inspection is May 20th. We have sold in excess of 280 season passes. The discount was beneficial for the sales of passes.

The first Uptown Friday night event will be May 29th. She said that this will not be the normal 6:00pm to 10:00pm event. Entertainment will start at 2:00pm with Charlie Tatman. At 4:00pm we will have the Marysville Cabaret group (which is a mix of Monarch Idol contestants, swingers and different groups from the Marysville music program). Mayor Gore will do the dedication of the Park at 6:00pm followed by McGuffey Lane. Music on Main starts June 4th with Honey Compass as our first band.

Report of Parks Superintendent:

Mr. Rockenbaugh said it has been busy getting the pool ready and the cemetery ready for Memorial Day. We have also been preparing Partners Park, laying sod around the tree areas. He said the park is looking very good. He said they are working on the splash pad with some electrical issues and fixing the lighting. He said Mr. Levings, our new hire, is doing a great job of learning how to operate and prepare the pool.

Mr. Rockenbaugh said they poured 14 foundations, which has taken most of the staff. He said the vandalism at Mill Creek ballpark has been fixed and is coming in nicely. They have planted 11 oak trees to replace the ash trees that had to be removed.

He said during the Earth Day/Arbor Day time frame, we planted around 100 oak trees in our parks. Fifty trees were planted at McCarthy Park and fifty trees were planted at Aldersgate Park. About 15 students and their teachers from Bunsold helped today install mulch around the playgrounds as part of community care day.

We also have three people who are coming back to help out seasonally.

Mr. Rausch asked about the splash pad times. Mr. Rockenbaugh said the time is set for 10:00am to 9:00pm, and there is a timer for lights which will turn on at 7:00pm to 9:00pm.

Commissioner's Reports on Individual Parks:

Mr. Berbee said he drove by the Legion Park, and the drive was being refinished. Mr. Andrako said the repairs will be fixed prior to the pool opening.

Mr. Rausch has Aldersgate, Jim Simmons Trail and Shalom Park. He said he made it to Aldersgate and Shalom, they both look good.

Mrs. Milroy has the reservoir, which looks good. She asked if there are any plans to put benches at the reservoir. Mr. Andrako said that just came up during the Public Service meeting yesterday. He said we did not plan on putting benches in but did not see why we could not. The seven benches he is installing at the dog park is costing around \$3,000-\$4,000. He said it does make sense to put in benches because it is a long trail. Regarding the board off of the parking lot by the

tennis courts, she asked whether there are any plans? Mr. Rockenbaugh said they are looking at making a map of the City and where the parks are located in the City and posting it here.

Mr. Prothero has Schwartzkopf Park, Millcreek Park and Dog Park. He went and viewed all three of them. He asked if they were planning on doing any power washing of the play equipment at Schwartzkopf Park. Mr. Rockenbaugh said he will use the seasonal help to start power washing the equipment after he finishes a few projects getting things ready for Memorial Day and the pool opening. Mr. Prothero said when you come out of Schwartzkopf Park it is hard to see traffic coming on the left. Mr. Andrako said you have the same problem exiting the dog park. Mr. Prothero asked if they could put up the “hallway” mirrors to help people get out. Mr. Andrako said you just have to keep inching forward and with that area the mirrors would not be very effective to add. Mr. Prothero asked if anything was going to be done with the concrete slabs. Mr. Andrako said we are thinking about making it a corn hole tournament this fall in that area. Mr. Prothero said the dog park looks good. Mr. Andrako said we have a field watering system to water the grass. He asked with Millcreek field C, are we doing anything with the dugouts from the field. Mr. Rockenbaugh said that Field C is going to get more of the water when the area floods.

Citizens’ Comments Non-Agenda Items:

Ms. Rinevier spoke to the Commission about having a park for children with special needs with anything lower to the ground, less openings and ramps. She said there is a park in Marion which is an example. Ms. Sherick handed out packets of information which contained examples of playground ideas that would be beneficial to children with special needs. Mr. Andrako said we had a special needs play structure drawn up and quoted to us. He said it is good to hear that there is a need for the park. He said we would be able to get the renderings out to get feedback. He said we were trying to get a sponsor to help fund the playground. He said we were planning on doing one in the Mill Valley South, but the funds did not come through. Ms. Sherick asked if it would be helpful to have a list of names of people who would be interested in the playground and their expectations. Mr. Andrako said he could share the renderings with those people, and he said there are grants that we could apply for and the list would help with supporting information. Mr. Rausch thanked them for coming to the meeting.

Agenda Items:

Discuss the 2016-2020 5-year Capital Plan.

Mr. Berbee asked if there anything in 2015 that is not going to be done; Dog Park will be completed; the pool slide will not be done; Lewis Park restrooms will be completed; the shelter is in process and the Mill Valley South Playground. The Mill Valley South playground would be a great place to put the special needs park. Mr. Andrako said that is where he had planned to put the playground, and he has a rendering of it. He said he can ask for them to change the rendering to include some of the features Ms. Sherick discussed. He thinks that it would be a perfect place to do it because there is no equipment already in place, and there would be no expectations from what was previously there. Mr. Prothero asked if the ADA equipment is more

expensive. Mr. Andrako said with ADA you cannot build up you have to build out. He can see if we can incorporate some of the items Ms. Sherick was asking for with doing the rubber surface and still keep in our budget. He is just afraid it would not be much of a park, because the rubber surfacing is five times more than the mulch. Mr. Berbee asked that if we did a special needs park, would it be only open to special needs children. Mr. Andrako said no it would be open to everyone. Mr. Rockenbaugh said they did a study for the equipment at Mill Valley South. The younger children were the ones that we were targeting because they are there waiting for brother or sister to finish practice or a game. Mrs. Milroy said so we have \$25,000 budgeted for the playground structure at Mill Valley South, do we want to start something with that amount and build on to it or would it have to be done all at the same time. Mr. Andrako said he would suggest that you do it all at the same time, especially when you pour the surface. Mrs. Milroy asked if this is something that we have to put off and not do this year. Mr. Andrako said not if you want to pair it with a grant or something. He said we could go to the donor and say lets look at a smaller playground and we will put in more money. He said the good thing about the money with the slide that you have \$30,000 appropriated. He said if we can get a donor to get it \$15,000 to \$20,000. Mr. Andrako said the donor came to us asking for the special needs park. Mr. Prothero asked if they have to have a list of names to show that it is a need of the City. Mr. Rausch said the two ladies that spoke tonight would be a good place to start getting ideas for the playground equipment. Mr. Andrako said the grant is not handed out until the end of the year. Mr. Prothero asked if we take \$30,000 away from the pool slide, where would we get the money back for the slide. Mr. Rausch explained the budget and the fund process for Mr. Prothero.

Mr. Andrako explained to the Administration that the commission would be wanting to put a slide in the pool. Mr. Emery wanted to make sure that putting in the slide would not want restrict future improvements. Mr. Rausch asked how much it would cost to heat the pool. Mr. Rockenbaugh said it is a lot to heat the pool, he said we could contact them and get a quote on a cover to keep the heat in the pool at night. Mr. Rausch said it would be a couple hundred thousand for a heater. Mr. Rockenbaugh said you are probably looking at that amount in a cover and/or heater.

Mr. Berbee asked if we would receive a discount for purchasing more than one set of playground equipment. Mr. Andrako said they asked but they really do not offer any kind of discount until after you spend \$75,000.00. He said we received the discount on last year's model for Legion Park. Depending on what equipment will be purchased we might be able to get a discount.

Mr. Rausch said for 2016 we had two playgrounds to be replaced, but Mr. Rockenbaugh went through and rated all the equipment and the two playgrounds we had were not in very bad shape. He said maybe we need to reprioritize when they get done, based off of Mr. Rockenbaugh's list. Mr. Rausch said that might free up a lot of money, which could be used for the slide next year.

The Commission agreed to let Mr. Andrako use the \$30,000 that was budget for the pool slide towards the Mill Valley South playground.

Playgrounds from worst to best: Lewis, McCarthy, Eljer, Aldgersgate, Schwartzkopf, Mill Valley Central.

2016:

Pool slide: \$120,000.00

Playground equipment for Greenwood Colony: \$65,000.00

Lewis Park playground equipment: \$45,000.00

Mr. Rausch said it would be nice to put a playground structure in Greenwood Colony, Mr. Fogt had suggested it. Mr. Andrako said we can do a Legion style playground equipment for \$65,000.

Mrs. Milroy said near the shelter at Eljer we talked about putting a chess board or something different like that. Mr. Rockenbaugh said with the assisted living homes going in we need to look at something for them.

Mr. Rausch asked if \$35,000 would cover the replacement of Eljer park. Mr. Rockenbaugh said that is a good number considering what enhancements are already at the park.

Mr. Andrako brought up MacIvor Woods, Mr. Reams wanted me to say the City has purchased a part of the property for a parking lot. Mr. Rausch said there have always been questions as to what we can do on that property. Mr. Andrako said we can put a parking lot on the property but it is the path through the woods where the questions are. Mrs. Milroy asked what kind of cost would be associated with paving the parking lot. Mr. Andrako said \$50,000 is a good number for the paving.

2017:

Paving Parking lot at MacIvor Woods: \$50,000.00

Lewis Park play structure: \$40,000.00

LED light conversion for Eljer: \$50,000.00

McCarthy Park play structure: \$35,000.000

Eljer Park play structure: \$40,000.00

Amphitheater upgrades: \$ 15,000.00

Electrical upgrades for Eljer. Mr. Andrako said this is to convert lights to LED lights.

Mr. Berbee asked about the parking lot at MacIvor Woods. Mr. Andrako said that people will use it now that it is visible.

2018:

Schwartzkopf Park play structure: \$65,000.00

New ball diamond: \$50,000.00

Eljer Skate Park Upgrade: \$75,000.00

Mr. Berbee asked about the BMX track. No one knew where to put the track inside the City limits.

Mr. Rausch suggested the property out by the Reformatory to put in a baseball field. He said we would have to rent the land. Mrs. Milroy asked if we could use the fields at Bunsold. Mr. Rockenbaugh said we are not there yet with the schools.

Mr. Berbee asked about the bike trail. Mr. Andrako said yes, that is still in discussions.

Mr. Rockenbaugh said the baseball/softball leagues are very popular right now, which makes the need for additional fields. Mr. Andrako said lighting for the ball fields for Eljer Park will be \$220,000.00 in 2019-2020.

Mrs. Milroy asked what we are doing with the skate park at Eljer. Mr. Rockenbaugh said we need to remove the equipment. The layout needs to be different and it needs to be repaved. Mrs. Milroy said if we put this down for 2018, it has never been put on the plan. Mr. Andrako said we could put down a concrete pad and move the features. The \$75,000 would cover the cost for the concrete pad, and new features. Mr. Rausch asked if we are going to spend this amount of money on the skate park, is that the best location for the park or should we look at moving it to another location. Mr. Andrako said he would need to check with Chief Golden because they like the location. It is easy for the Police to patrol. Mr. Rausch said there is a piece of property that the City owns by the hospital, but he is not sure that is what you would want to see when you first come into downtown.

2019:

Lights at Eljer Park: \$150,000.00 (1/2 costs)
Mill Valley Central equipment replacement: \$75,000.00
Aldersgate tree house repairs: \$15,000.00

2020:

Shelter and additional parking at the reservoir: \$60,000.00
Millcreek to McCarthy extension of Jim Simmons trail: \$ 150,000.00 (1/4 cost)

Mrs. Milroy asked when the ramp will be open at the reservoir. Mr. Rockenbaugh said 2017. Mr. Andrako said we need to look at the repairs for the benches at the amphitheater in Legion Park soon.

Mrs. Milroy said she will type this up for the next meeting. Mr. Rausch said we can vote on it the next meeting.

Mr. Berbee said he thinks this is good, and it helps to have Mr. Rockenbaugh in attendance as well.

Comments of Citizens:

Comments of Individual Commissioners:

Mr. Berbee said there is a resident in Greenwood Colony that is too close to the house. Mr. Rausch said it is in the middle of the field.

Mr. Berbee said he had a resident call because there were not as many swim lessons as there normally is. Ms. Michalak said after talking with the swim teachers, there were not enough kids to fit into two sessions, so we just decided to do one session.

Adjournment: There being no further business to come before the Parks & Recreation Commission, the meeting adjourned at 9:20 p.m.