



## **Baker City Parks and Recreation Advisory Board**

Regular Meeting

January 9, 2018

5:15 p.m.

City Hall

Board Members Present: Lisa Jacoby, Linda Collins, Jeff Nelson, Gail Duman, Loran Joseph, Kim Mosier, Mark Bogart

Board Members Absent: None

Guests Present: Debbie Fisher – BCD and Rob Dennis - BCSCC

Staff Present: Joyce Bornstedt

### **Call to Order**

This meeting was called to order at 5:15 p.m.

### **Additions or Modifications to Agenda**

Duman asked for a proposed joint meeting between Sam-O and Parks and Recreation Board representatives to be added to new business

### **Approval of October 3, 2017 Minutes**

A motion was made by Duman with a second by Nelson to approve the minutes as presented. All voted in favor.

### **Old Business**

#### **Dog Park**

Bornstedt reported that she had received the grant check from PetSafe. This brings the fund to \$27,409.95. The total project budget with all amenities is \$43,060.00. This leaves a funding gap of \$15,650.05. She does not believe that an additional grant request for \$10,000 was successful. She commented that she has some ideas about sponsorships for project amenities, and that it would be a good idea for a sub-committee of this group to get together and discuss that further. Bornstedt indicated that she still thinks the project can break ground in the spring, but amenities would have to be added as funding becomes available. Nelson asked if the PetSafe grant could be applied for again. It cannot for construction grants. Bornstedt has received one fencing quote from a local contractor for \$20,280.00 She has requested a quote from the contractor who constructed the fence for the La Grande dog park, and is hoping for a more favorable bid. Discussion ensued regarding possible cost saving ideas, such as using volunteer labor for the construction. Duman added that according to the city Finance Director, contributions to the project are eligible for tax deduction. Discussion continued. Mosier asked if the project had been designed in order to be ready for spring construction. Bornstedt responded that it had.

### **Central Park Amphitheatre Enhancements**

Joseph said that he had several pledges for donations to meet the funding gap, as well as a donation in hand. The total project budget is \$26,592.00. The project received a LEO Adler grant in the amount of \$10,000 and there is \$12,000 in the Parks Department capital improvements budget line. This leaves a funding shortfall of \$4,592.00. Bornstedt has submitted a request for project support to D & B Supply for the landscape block (either outright donation or reduced cost in the form of in-kind materials.) The estimated cost of the blocks in the project budget is \$3,980.00. Mosier asked if it would be possible to put a button on the City website that could facilitate donations. Discussion ensued. Joseph said it would be a good idea to have a Facebook page or social media campaign for the project that could spread the word and generate interest. In response to a question from Nelson, Bornstedt said

that she is hoping for an early spring construction before the Public Works crews are lost to other pending construction projects.

### **New Business** **Court Plaza**

Debbie Fisher addressed the Board and indicated that she was representing the Baker City Downtown design committee. She said the group was trying to get an idea of how they fit in with ongoing projects in the downtown area. She said that they are particularly interested in the Court Plaza concept. Bornstedt indicated that there is a City Council adopted conceptual plan for Court Plaza. Fisher said that she is particularly interested in this project because she owns two properties adjacent to the site. She said that it seems every year they have been told that the project will be completed "soon". She also indicated that there are several different stories regarding funding of the project. Duman said that when she was on the budget committee there were attempts to garner funding, and none ever came to fruition. Mosier indicated that she has talked with several involved parties regarding the project, and that the main roadblock is the inability to establish the tie-in to Central Park. Bornstedt concurred that she has had conversations with many granting agencies and the lack of access to Central Park from Court Plaza is one of the biggest hurdles to being approved for funding. Many funding avenues have been pursued both on the transportation funding side and the parks funding side with no success. Nelson added that the only issue with the project is obtaining funding, and that if funding were available the project would be at the top of the priority list. Fisher asked if this were a project that the BCD could take over, or how they could fit in. Joseph said that he feels that progress has been made toward the development of Court Plaza with the closing of the street at Resort and with changing the designation of the property from street to park. He stated that access to Central Park is definitely the holdup, and obtaining that access needs to be the next priority. Discussion ensued. Jacoby asked if the design of the park was an issue in pursuing funding. Bornstedt said that the design is not a problem in that area. Discussion continued. Mosier said that movies in the park deserve a lot of credit for making people aware of Central Park. She also suggested that Fisher could come to the budget meetings and give a voice to the desire to see the project through to construction. Dennis added that he sits on the BCD committee with Fisher, and they do not want to put a lot of effort into the project only to find out that they do not have a part of it. Part of their mission as a committee is to help the downtown businesses and downtown corridor develop a uniform design for the area. Joseph asked how set in stone the Court Plaza plan was. Bornstedt said that the plan has been adopted by the City Council. Several board members added that it was a long process, and that there was a citizen committee that aided in the development and adoption of the plan. Fisher said that their next meeting is at the end of the month and she would like direction to bring to that meeting as far as what their involvement potential is. Mosier said that it is a good question where this new group (BCD) fits into the scope of other committees and entities, whether they are advisory or decision making. Fisher further asked if the placement of flower baskets would be under the purview of the Parks Department. Bornstedt indicated that the Parks Department oversees any endeavors taking place on parks designated properties, including Court Plaza. She further said that if a group wanted to place and maintain baskets in one of the parks areas, that would be acceptable. Fisher asked about baskets along Main Street. Bornstedt said that would not be something the Parks Department would have control over. Dennis said it would be a good idea if one of the Parks and Recreation board members could attend their next meeting. Duman said that she would be happy to attend the meeting however she would not be in town on the next meeting date.

### **Central Park Splash Pad**

Bornstedt indicated that the 2018 LGGP grant cycle is now open. She said that the board had talked about submitting for construction of a splash pad in partnership with the Lions Club, who will be submitting a Leo Adler grant for the project as well. She said that she has been consulting with a representative from a playground equipment company about the multiple facets of the project. It is her understanding so far that the above ground features would come from one entity, the plumbing from another, and all of it would come together utilizing a contractor. She added that she had asked if \$80,000 was a reasonable funding level for the project. The representative indicated it was, but she saw that the City of Ontario is planning to install one with the funding

amount of \$262,000 +/- . The bulk of their funding is coming from their lodging tax. Discussion ensued. Duman suggested that we get in contact with the contractor for the Ontario project and get a bid. Jacoby said before we get a bid we have to know what we want. Bornstedt had talked with Natural Structures about manufacturing the above ground features that would have an artistic element that could be enjoyed year round. Mosier and Jacoby indicated that they are willing to research the project and make some contacts to gather information to move the project forward. Discussion ensued. Joseph suggested that it may be a good idea to pool money and build a bigger splash park out by Sam-O. Bornstedt explained the issues with construction of a splash park with a pool facility, including the need to have a lifeguard on duty and health department rules. Mosier added that it may not be a good idea to add another layer to an operational partnership with a community non-profit. Discussion continued.

### **Parks and Recreation Representatives and Sam-O Representatives Joint Meeting**

Joseph indicated that representatives from the two committees would be meeting in the near future to discuss the dog park and splash pad projects. The Sam-O representatives have had some reservations about both projects. He indicated that he had requested a meeting date of January 23. Duman indicated that she would be gone and unable to attend. Duman mentioned that the Sam-O committee minutes on the City website had not been updated since March. Bornstedt said that she would follow up on that.

### **Central Park Sign Proposal – Rob Dennis**

Dennis said that there was a collaborative effort to fund a sign to designate Central Park. The groups involved include the Local Community Advisory Council (LCAC) and the Baker County Safe Communities Coalition (BCSCC.) The total funding is \$3,200.00. He said that these two groups partnered last year to do the community movie nights at Central Park and 90% of the traffic on their website was asking where Central Park was. He said that concept is for the sign to be placed in an area of Central Park that is visible from Resort Street, and for the sign to be relocated to Resort and incorporated in the archway at such time that access is obtained. The only requirement for the sign is that it include that it was provided by the two funding groups, and that it include the provision that the park is a non-smoking facility. \$200.00 of the funding is to provide no-smoking signs posted on the picnic shelters. He has the proofs of the signs, and will forward them to the board for approval. He said that the design of the sign can be under the authority of the Parks and Rec Board. Discussion ensued. Bornstedt said that there is no way to guarantee that the sign would be compatible with the entryway design on Resort Street when access is finally obtained. Mosier shared some ideas about a way-finding type of sign. Discussion continued regarding design and placement of the sign. Dennis said that if the concept of the sign changes, he would have to go back to the funding entities for approval. The Board asked for the BCD design committee to come up with the design and bring it back to the them for approval.

Bornstedt indicated that Mark Bogart would be resigning from the Board effective at the end of the meeting. The attendance thanked him for his participation. Bornstedt said that there would be an opening available on the Board for the remainder of his term.

### **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 6:25 p.m. The next regular meeting will be February 6, 2018, at 5:15 p.m., City Hall.