



Baker City Parks and Recreation Advisory Board

Regular Meeting
February 8, 2021
5:30 p.m.
City Hall

Board Members Present: Lisa Jacoby, Karla Macy, Kim Mosier, Buell Gonzales, Jr., Nathan Defrees, Valerie Potter

Board Members Absent: Johnny Waggoner, Sr.

Guests Present: None

Staff Present: Joyce Bornstedt

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 5:35 p.m.

Additions or Modifications to Agenda

None

Approval of February 18, 2020 Minutes

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

Old Business

- a. **2020 Parks Activities Update** – Bornstedt reported that the all-inclusive playground project was completed in July and opened with a celebration on July 21, 2020. The playground is featured in the 2021 GameTime catalog. Macy provided copies to the members. The land acquisition for Central Park parking lot construction has been completed. Preliminary design and engineer's estimate are being developed and modified. Oregon Trail Electric (OTEC) will be partnering on the project. Their participation will include installation of two electric charging car stations. The organization will also provide area lighting for the parking lot. The value of their work is approximately \$80,000, which will be included as a grant match for any grants that require a match, including the Oregon State Parks Local Government Grant Program. The match requirement for Baker City for that program is 40% with the award being up to 60% of the total project cost. The preliminary engineer's estimate for the project is currently \$288,300. This amount includes estimates for a portion of the work that will be contributed by OTEC. When Dorthy Wooters passed away, she bequeathed \$25,000 for use in Sam-O Skatepark improvements. Her family has indicated that they would like for the money to be used in the near future and not held for future projects. Bornstedt has contacted Dreamland Skateparks, the company that did the last expansion for that skatepark, and is working with them to create a plan with the hope that the improvements can take place relatively soon. Potter suggested that perhaps size of the small dog park could be reduced to create more space for the skatepark. She feels that it is not utilized often. Bornstedt responded that it may not be a good idea to remove a portion given that it is only 2.5 years old and it was funded by grants and donations. Bornstedt has had correspondence over the last several months with the mother of the girl interested in constructing a splash pad in order to earn her Girl Scout Gold Award. The two visions between the Girl Scout and the Parks Board for a splash pad, as well as the preferred location, are quite different. The project and the process to fund it are both quite detailed and expensive. Bornstedt will keep the board apprised of any new developments with regard to the proposal. Macy described the Till Taylor park renovation that includes a splash pad. Mosier added that a very basic spray pad was constructed in Fruitland at a relatively low cost. The attendance discussed the reasons that pad was completed at far less than what most estimates to date were. Bornstedt will reach out to the Pendleton Parks and Recreation Director to see what cost elements are being factored into their project budget.
- b. **Baker City Events Bench Request** – In response to an email sent by Lynette Perry with Baker City Events (BCE), the Board needs to review the proposal submitted by Perry and make some determination of how they would like to proceed. Bornstedt said that she had a conversation with Perry, and talked through the Parks Department requirements for placement of various types of benches in city parks and along the pathway. Macy indicated that she has concerns about the content of inscriptions placed on the benches. She asked if the inscriptions would come back to the Board for approval of the verbiage. She said that she didn't feel it would be appropriate to allow political messages or business advertising. Mosier indicated that she thinks it would be a good idea to have a bench standard similar to the benches that have been placed along the pathway. Macy added that there needs to be a process in place for approval of benches and inscriptions with defined guidelines for which entity would be making the approvals. Discussion continued regarding the purchase of previous benches. Macy reiterated that unless the benches wrap

around the trees, there is still the issue of needing them to be installed on a concrete pad in order to secure them. The group talked about the original intent of BCE's efforts to increase seating in the park. One was to provide more seating for the Pavilion, and two was to cover up protruding tree roots, which they claim to be a hazard. In regards to the concrete bench that BCE placed in the park last summer, Bornstedt indicated that the original intent was to place the bench as a prototype to see how it held up and how well received it was. The board concurred that the original approval was for the concept of bench placements in general, and was not intended as an approval of that particular bench. Several members conveyed unfavorable comments they have received regarding the bench. Bornstedt said the bench proposed from Natural Structures would require that it be placed on a concrete pad or have some other type of anchoring system. She had suggested to Perry that she ask Natural Structures about other alternatives for that. It was determined that the board would not approve placement of the concrete benches in the future. Macy commented that there needs to be consistency for bench approvals. A motion was made by Mosier that approval for benches placed on park property require that they are consistent with the metal benches that are currently in place. Mosier commented that it gets dicey if the government is telling people what they can and cannot say. Subsequent to further discussion it was decided that a bench placement policy should be drafted for review and approval by the board as a guideline for approvals going forward. Mosier asked if an ordinance would be required for the policy. Bornstedt indicated that the policy in place for the cemetery is a departmental policy, and requestors would have the ability to appeal through the management chain and eventually the City Council if they chose to. Defrees commented that he thinks it would be a good idea to have a policy in place. Bornstedt said she would prepare a draft policy and get it to the board for review. Mosier amended her motion to state that the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board would like to establish a written policy for placement of benches in city parks. The motion was seconded by Potter, all voted in favor. Members listed items that should be included in the policy including establishing a standard of quality for the bench, ease of maintenance, vandal resistant, and commercial grade.

c.& d. **Parks Master Plan Update 2020 AND Community Survey** – Bornstedt provided copies of the Parks Master Plan to the members who had not received them. She explained there was an original requirement for the plan to be updated every 5 years. She gave a background on the history of the process used to create the current plan. She asked the board to come up with a process to update the plan. She said that when the board started the update in 2018, the plan was to start the process with completion of a new community survey. Macy said she felt that it would be a good time to complete a survey as people have become more familiar with completing things online, and there are several social media groups that could be used to get the survey out. Mosier added that she thinks it would be a good idea to have some face-to-face contact at the park to talk about the survey. Jacoby said that the survey needs to be updated before putting it out again. This included adding amenities that have been constructed since the original survey was complete. Jacoby asked if the disc golf course should be added. Bornstedt replied that she didn't feel it should as it is not under the ownership or management of the city. Macy asked if the question about a nominal fee should be more specific. Mosier responded that she thinks it is a good prompt for people to recognize that improvements come with a cost. Macy said that perhaps an amount should be indicated. Mosier commented that she does not want to see any amount put to it. She added that is difficult to add an amount without completing research to see what may be reasonable. Macy said that putting an amount would show how small it could be in comparison to other fees. She said she understands Mosier's comments, but would prefer to remove it if there is not an amount listed. Defrees concurred that it would be best not to add an amount. Macy said that the link can be placed on all of the city related Facebook pages and city website. In response to a question from Defrees, Bornstedt said it should be possible to include a message about the survey on water billings. Macy said that she would ask how the Early Learning Center survey was progressing. Defrees added that perhaps a QR code could be created that could be scanned to access the survey. The board decided that it would be good to run the survey for several months, possibly March – May. Mosier said that it would be good to do face-to-face survey contacts maybe a few weekends in June, and close the survey possibly June 30. Potter indicated that she would be willing to enter paper copies of the survey into the computer. Defrees said that he believes his work site has survey monkey, and he will work on updating the survey and getting it ready to go out.

- e. **Parks Board Priorities and 2021 Goals** – The board discussed the 2020 priorities and goals. Mosier said that since 2020 was a bust, the goal and priorities could stay the same with updates for items completed during the year. She suggested that perhaps this should be homework for the members so they could take time to study the options and decide what should be moved, added or deleted. It was determined that the goals would stay as listed below, but the priorities need to be evaluated. Macy added that the community survey will help to guide what the priorities should be, so it would be a good idea to wait until that is complete.

1. Riverpark Neighborhood Survey
2. Community-Wide Survey
3. Completion of Master Plan Update

New Business

- a. **Parks Surveillance Systems**- A Leo Adler Community Fund grant in the amount of \$18,745 was received for the purchase of security/surveillance cameras for Geiser Pollman and Central Parks. Cost of the equipment is \$23,745. The \$5,000 grant match for the remainder of the purchase will come from the Park and Playground improvement fund. The equipment has been ordered, and Bornstedt is working locally with Dru Simonski-Davis with Davis Security and Electric Group, LLC to coordinate the installation and connection of the equipment.
- b. Macy reported on plans to develop the playground area at the Early Learning Center.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:05 p.m. The next regular meeting is scheduled for March 15, 2021.