



Baker City Parks and Recreation Advisory Board

Regular Meeting

February 18, 2020

5:15 p.m.

City Hall

Board Members Present: Lisa Jacoby, Karla Macy, Loran Joseph, Nathan Defrees, Valerie Potter

Board Members Absent: Linda Collins, Kim Mosier

Guests Present: None

Staff Present: Joyce Bornstedt

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 5:20 p.m.

Additions or Modifications to Agenda

None

Approval of January 7, 2020 Minutes

Jacoby noted a typographical error in the minutes. A motion was made by Joseph with a second by Potter to approve the minutes as corrected. All voted in favor.

Old Business

- a. **All-Inclusive Playground Expansion Grant Update** – Bornstedt reported that the old equipment had been removed, and that the site is being excavated and leveled to sub-grade elevation. She said that after a phone conference with the contract installer, it was determined that city work force would complete the relocation of the play structure that is moving to South Baker Park. This will allow for the concrete walkway and plaza work to be completed prior to installation of the new equipment. Due to cost savings realized during the sidewalk project at the park last fall, excess budgeted funds would be used to make repairs to the sidewalk coming from Madison adjacent to the playground as well as possible replacement of the pad that the dumpster sits on. She said that the structure to be relocated had been partially disassembled and some of the more worn pieces are being re-powder coated by Natural Structures. In response to a question from Macy, Bornstedt said that the playground footprint at South Baker would need to be expanded, and that the survey technician for the City would be working on that layout with her. She noted that the new playground equipment continues to trickle in. There are two pieces still to be received, a toddler seat and the infinity bowl. Bornstedt reported that the project has received a \$500.00 Better Together grant from the Oregon Council on Developmental Disabilities. Jacoby asked where the project was in regards to funding. Bornstedt said that projects like this are never truly fully funded. Funds to date are sufficient to complete the playground installation, but auxiliary amenities like lighting, benches, picnic tables, etc., will be added as the funding level is increased. She indicated that there was a private donation received, and that there was another charitable organization that has approached her about submitting a request. Bornstedt said that she had received a quote for the picnic tables and that she was leaning toward round tables to eliminate the sharp corners. She thinks there is room for 3 large and 2 small tables within the plaza area. Macy asked if the tables could be made lower to the ground to accommodate children. Bornstedt said she would check with the Natural Structures representative. It was decided to have one large and one small table lowered if that is possible. Bornstedt said that she has been working with the City inventory specialist on options to replace the light that is within the playground footprint. They are waiting for the quotation. The grand opening and dedication of the playground will be scheduled and coordinated as the project completion date is more clearly identified.
- b. **Baker City Downtown – Central Park Sign Update** – Joseph has not followed up with BCD regarding the status of this project. He said he would talk to a BCD design committee member to see what the status of the installation is now. Joseph commented that, “You can’t rush art.”
- c. **Parks Master Plan Update 2020** - The consensus was to wait until the all-inclusive playground is complete before doing the community survey.
- d. **Parks Board Priorities and 2020 Goals** – It was noted that there had been a discussion at the City Council level regarding prioritization of parks projects, Defrees recapped the prior goals discussion and indicated there are several potential projects including acquisition of parks land on the west side of Baker near Churchill School, pump track, Central Park access acquisition, Court Plaza, splash pad, and pathway expansion from Bridge Street to Estes Street,

and status determination of Riverpark Park. Joseph indicated that the Board should assign priorities 1 -6 to the projects. After much discussion the priorities were established as follows:

1. Central Park Access Acquisition
2. Central Park Splash Pad
3. Court Plaza
4. West Baker Park Land Acquisition
5. Pump Track
6. Pathway Expansion – Bridge to Estes

2020 Goals include:

1. Completion of the All-Inclusive Playground
2. Riverpark Neighborhood Survey
3. Community-Wide Survey
4. Completion of Master Plan Update

- e. **Sam-O Swim Center Proposed Project**- Joseph recapped the proposed donation from Natural Structures, and indicated that the ancillary structure and other appurtenances would need to be funded from City and or grant sources. He further talked about the recent costs to make repairs to the heat exchanger at Sam-O and the rising costs of pool maintenance in general. Macy expressed concerns about future YMCA commitment to the project given the recent resignation of their CEO. Joseph countered that he feels that the YMCA would stay committed. In response to a question from Jacoby, Joseph indicated that the capital cost of the project would be the responsibility of the City, while staffing would be the responsibility of the YMCA. Defrees said that it was his understanding that a potential splash pad project was still a focus of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board, and that project should not hinge on whether the Sam-O project is pursued. Bornstedt said that the issue with the Sam-O project is that it could potentially be competing for funding with a Parks Department project, and she felt that the Public Works Director was looking for some indication of how the Sam-O project aligns with the priorities of this Board. In regards to Central Park assess, Bornstedt indicated there is a potential path forward for acquisition that would not require grant funding. Joseph further explained that proceeds from Elkhorn Industrial Park land sales are to be used directly for community and economic development, and those funds may be used to assist with this acquisition. Bornstedt added that there are secured funds of \$50,000 from Leo Adler, \$50,000 from LAMP, Inc., and \$30,000 City budget allocation that may be used for the purchase. Joseph said that, while he appreciates the offer from Natural Structures, he has concerns about whether the project will pencil out in the long run. Macy added that while she understands that it is hard to turn down such a large donation when the City is always struggling to fund capital projects, she doesn't know that the slide is a good fit for Sam-O. Joseph voiced concerns that the YMCA may want to renegotiate their contract given the potential increased staffing to operate the slide. Joseph suggested that a meeting should be scheduled with the YMCA Board. Bornstedt reminded the attendance that Sam-O does not currently fall under Parks Department jurisdiction. Potter asked if Natural Structures had provided a deadline for acceptance of the donation. Joseph responded that he did not believe there was a deadline

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 6:25 p.m. The next regular meeting is scheduled for March 17, 2020. (Postponed to April 14)