



Baker City Parks and Recreation Advisory Board

Regular Meeting

September 24, 2019

5:15 p.m.

City Hall

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

Board Members Absent: Linda Collins

Guests Present: Kellie Trone

Staff Present: Joyce Bornstedt

Call to Order

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

Additions or Modifications to Agenda

Joseph requested that the agenda include a comment segment for Trone.

Approval of September 24, 2019 Minutes

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

Old Business

- a. **All-Inclusive Playground Expansion Grant Update** – Trone addressed the Board and indicated that she was there to request that the old swings at Geiser Pollman Park be kept and the new all-inclusive playground be shifted to another area. She read comments that she had solicited from others indicating a desire that the swings remain. She also read a petition that had not been circulated or signed. Joseph responded that he understood the sentimental attachment of many to the swings, but explained the reasons it is prudent for the City to remove them. These reasons included the age of the pipe with no way to test the integrity and the positioning in close proximity to the sidewalk. Bornstedt added that the swings do not meet any current playground equipment safety guidelines, and that three certified playground safety inspectors have recommended removal. Macy highlighted some of the new playground features to be installed that will be usable by adults and children of all abilities. Trone thanked the attendance for listening to her and excused herself from the meeting. The Board further discussed the removal of the old equipment. Joseph commented that it was clear that the equipment needs to be removed for several reasons previously discussed. Bornstedt indicated that the removals are scheduled to occur on the coming weeks. She updated the Board on the arrival of the equipment. She reported that the project is within \$20,000 - \$25,000 of being fully funded and that there are two pending grant applications that would close that funding gap. She highlighted the selection of the site as a national demonstration site for inclusive play. She said that there is a logistical issue with the piece of equipment that will be relocated to South Baker Park needing to come out before the installer is scheduled to arrive. The removal is necessary to complete the concrete work associated with the project prior to the equipment installation. The planned all-inclusive playground features were discussed. Macy asked what would happen to excess funds if the project receives more than needed to complete the project. Bornstedt said there were some accessory items that are not currently funded. Joseph suggested that a maintenance reserve fund to hold money for repairs and/or upgrades. Bornstedt said that would be possible.
- b. **Baker City Downtown – Central Park Sign Update** – Bornstedt reported that the Central Park sign had not been installed yet. She had talked with Rob Dennis and he thought the sign would be installed in the near future. Joseph explained the source of the funding and the project progression to this point. Joseph said he would talk to a BCD design committee member to see what the status of the installation is now.
- c. **Parks Master Plan Update 2020**- Bornstedt said that she had added this item to the agenda again because the update needs to be completed this year. Potter asked about the dog park. She said that it is a great addition to the community but she feels that it is too large. She suggested that the pump track could go there. The attendance discussed that BLB wanted for the track to be located in a more central area.

New Business

- a. **Parks Board Goals 2020** – Bornstedt advised that she added this item to the agenda in hopes that it would help the Board to move forward in a strategic manner to accomplish tasks. Defrees added that it seemed that a splash pad was likely the next improvement until the Moda Assist opportunity presented itself. Joseph added that the Baker Loves Bikes pump track was another project that needs effort to complete. Joseph talked about the possible acquisition of

the property near Churchill for installation of the pump track. Potter asked about the dog park. She said that it is a great addition to the community but she feels that it is too large. She suggested that the pump track could go there. The attendance discussed that BLB wanted for the track to be located in a more central area. Other possible goals include extension of the Leo Adler Memorial Parkway from Bridge Street to Estes Street as well as renovation or disposal of Riverpark Park.

- b. **Sam-O Swim Center Proposed Project**- Bornstedt presented a drawing of a water slide that Natural Structures is proposing to donate to the swim center. The dimensions of the slide would require that it be installed outdoors by expanding the patio area. The proposed project would also consist of one spray water feature. The value of the slide and accompanying accessories has a value of approximately \$80,000. The extension of the patio area, fencing and other required items would require an approximate \$75,000 additional funding. Jacoby said she liked the idea of having additional activities at the pool, but she would like to see a splash pad that is free for the public, and this project would require an admission fee to the pool. The Board discussed the necessity to have a life guard on duty when this type of feature is within the pool facility. Bornstedt said that the YMCA is amenable to staffing the feature. Macy said that she has visited another facility that only opens their slide for an hour at a time for two hours per day. She would hate for the slide to be installed then sit unused. Joseph also expressed concern that the YMCA may seek compensation from the City at some future time for operation of the slide. Bornstedt said that the decision to move forward with the project would not be a decision to be made by the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board, but would probably be decided by the City Council. Joseph further commented that he has concerns about funding for future maintenance and staffing. Bornstedt said that staff was concerned about competing for funding between the splash park and this project. Macy asked what the thoughts were regarding the splash pad design and funding for construction. The Board felt they had a pretty good concept for a simple design, and were thinking of a budget of \$80,000. Bornstedt she would keep the Board informed of any new developments with the proposal.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 6:35 p.m. The next regular meeting is scheduled for February 18, 2020.