



Baker City Parks and Recreation Advisory Board

Regular Meeting

June 11, 2019

5:15 p.m.

City Hall

Board Members Present: Lisa Jacoby, Linda Collins, Karla Macy, Kim Mosier (by phone), Loran Joseph, Nathan Defrees

Board Members Absent: Gail Duman

Guests Present: Luke Burton & Charlie Tracy (by phone) – Baker Loves Bikes, Luke Benson

Staff Present: Joyce Bornstedt

Call to Order

This meeting was called to order at 5:25 p.m.

Additions or Modifications to Agenda

None

Approval of April 9, 2019 Minutes

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

Old Business

Luke Burton addressed the attendance. He explained the purpose, concept, and benefits of constructing a pump track. He further presented the conceptual plan for construction of a pump track in Baker City. He indicated that the proposed location is the same one that was proposed approximately 5 years ago. The location is within the Resort Street right-of-way north of 'D' Street and adjacent to the Leo Adler Memorial Parkway. He said that Baker Loves Bikes believes that this location is ideal, both in terms of visibility and proximity to the pathway. Luke Benson said that he owns the house adjacent to the proposed site to the east, and he is not in favor of having the pump track built in his back yard. He continued that he thinks that the project is a great idea, but he has concerns about his home being devalued, as well as the types of people the pump track would attract. Macy and Joseph added that they think the development would serve as a deterrent to unfavorable activity. Benson asked what he can do to keep the track from being built in that location. He also stated that he thinks his privacy will be compromised, and that he wants to be sure that he has the opportunity to voice his opposition. He said that he was disappointed that the proposal got to this point without him being informed. Bornstedt indicated that the project had been considered for this location for approximately 5 years, and that had been reviewed by a previous City Council. Collins asked what problems he had observed at the informal track across the street. He did not offer specifics. Collins continued that when new developments take place within parks, the unfavorable activity is reduced. Burton added that the element that would be attracted to and utilizing the proposed track would not be the same undesirable people that are seen in underdeveloped areas. He continued that they could look at ways to close the park during the hours established by ordinance. Defrees asked if there would be a way to create a barrier to help alleviate the concerns that Benson had mentioned. Discussion continued regarding the proximity to Benson's fence, available parking, and added traffic. Joseph asked if there was a concern regarding no additional parking. Tracy added that they were looking at adding parking onsite utilizing an existing driveway apron. He continued that Baker Loves Bikes is sensitive to the needs of the neighboring properties. He said that he thought there was a need to have these discussions as the project moves forward. Jacoby asked if there was adequate space available to shift the project north along the right-of-way. Benson suggested maybe the project could be moved to the 'H' Street area. Burton said that there were not any spaces wide enough in that area to accommodate. He thought that the track should be built close to the existing fitness zone. Bornstedt indicated that the bare land in that area is private and not city owned. Mosier reviewed the steps taken so far, the development of the plan, and the proposed budget for the project. She added that she thinks that Baker Loves Bikes needs some buy in from the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board and possibly the City Council before presenting the plans to the neighboring properties. She further commented that she does not feel that all of the neighboring properties would see the project as a negative thing. Jacoby asked if the design could be changed to fit in a smaller space. Tracy responded that there are some design principles that need to be followed in order to ensure that it is a rideable track. He continued that the presented design has been built successfully in at least five other locations. He said their group wants this to

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be a community asset. Burton and Tracy further explained the construction process. In response to a question from Bornstedt, Burton indicated that the footprint for the project is 55' x 86'. Tracy said that the same track is being built on school district property adjacent to the river pathway in John Day. Burton added that they were hoping to draw on John Day's experience when constructing the Baker track. Macy asked what the group knew about ongoing maintenance of the track after construction, for instance how freeze/thaw, etc. affect the surface. Burton said that the maintenance would be volunteer effort through their trail maintenance group, and that the track would be engineered to address drainage and runoff. In response to a question from Defrees, Burton said that the track building materials should be able to be sourced locally. He added that there are several options for landscaping. Burton asked that the City provide water service to the site. Joseph asked if there were other potential city-owned properties that could be utilized as a location for the pump track, possibly Sam-O Park. Bornstedt said that there is likely enough space for the track out there. She continued that there have been several tracks constructed out there that have not been successful. She also said that placement of the track at that location would not draw the same types of users as a more central location would. Collins requested that Benson think of possible ways to reduce the impact on him if the proposed location is approved. Benson responded that he thinks that parking and visibility at the pathway would be problem. Mosier suggested that in order to move forward, the Parks & Rec Board, or possibly the City Council needs to look at the project again, and give the neighbors the opportunity to comment further. She thinks in order to go forward to the Council level, the Parks Board should endorse the plan with the suggestion that project organizers work with the neighborhood to address concerns. Joseph responded that the conversations with the neighbors should take place before the project is presented to the City Council. This where the previous Council had left it with Baker Loves Bikes when it was previously presented. Mosier felt that the City Council should endorse the plan before talking to the neighbors. Joseph stated that the plan seemed to be complete and detailed. Defrees commented that possible other locations should be identified. Macy asked how the contact area for the neighbors should be identified. The consensus was to contact the 4 properties that border the Resort Street right-of-way and the home located on the corner of 'D' and Walnut. Collins asked if it would be possible for Benson to get a variance to build a taller fence on the front portion of his property. Bornstedt replied that would require Planning Department approval. She added that the project will require conditional use approval from the Planning Commission. She further told Benson that he would have several opportunities during the process to voice his concerns.

A motion was made by Defrees with a second by Collins to support the project design and move forward with neighborhood interaction and Council presentation. All voted in favor.

Mosier said that Baker Loves Bikes needs a clear direction from the Board. She said that Baker Loves Bikes needs to talk to the neighbors, as selected by the Parks Board, about the proposed project to gauge support. She also said that the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board needs to needs to explore alternate locations on city-owned locations along the pathway. She also suggested that the project should go before the Council in order to keep the project moving forward. Joseph concurred that it would be a good idea to bring the project to the Council in order to engage the citizens in the project. It was agreed that each entity would come back to the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board meeting on July 9 with information, then possibly go to the City Council on July 23. After additional discussion it was agreed that the 5 properties previously identified would be contacted by Baker Loves Bikes. The attendance talked about possible other locations including the sports complex, etc.

New Business

Bornstedt informed the Board that she had been notified by Moda Health and the Portland Trailblazers that Baker City has been selected as the first city for the 2019 Rip City Rally tour. She provided some of the details of the events that will take place in Baker City on September 9, 2019. She said that the school events would take place at Brooklyn and the Middle School, and that the Rip City Fair is tentatively planned to take place on Main Street. She will provide more details as they develop.

The LGGP grant application for the all-inclusive playground expansion has been approved through the technical review process. Bornstedt will be making the oral presentation on July 20 in Salem.

Macy asked if there were cameras in place at Geiser Pollman Park. Bornstedt indicated that there are not at this time. She also indicated that Baker City Downtown has inquired as to whether the Parks Department has any plans to install wayfinding signs. There are no plans at this time. Bornstedt indicated she has not heard any further from the Labyrinth organizers regarding their proposed enhancements to the area.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 6:55 p.m. The next regular meeting will be July 9, at 5:15 p.m., at City Hall.