



Baker City Parks and Recreation Advisory Board

Regular Meeting

October 18, 2016

5:00 p.m.

City Council Chambers

Board Members Present: Rick Taylor, Gail Duman, Lisa Jacoby, Jeff Nelson, Linda Collins

Board Members Absent: Mark Bogart, Kim Mosier

Guests Present: Aletha Bonebrake, Kathleen Kiefer

Staff Present: Joyce Bornstedt

Call to Order

This meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m.

Additions or Modifications to Agenda

None

Approval of September 20, 2016 Minutes

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

Old Business

Kirkway & 'H' Plantings

Collins reported that nursery inventory is low right now and the group agreed to wait until spring, 2017 to plant. She also intends to get input from the nursery regarding layout/design and maintenance of specific plants prior to planting.

Cedar Acres Park

Bornstedt reported that she attended training last week and became a Certified Playground Maintenance Technician. While at that training, she connected with Jerry Burgess of MACS, the maintenance and construction section of Oregon Recreation and Parks Association. He indicated MACS will take on the construction at Cedar Acres Park, beginning mid-May. Serious planning efforts should start in January, 2017. Bornstedt noted that City of Baker crews will handle the site preparation work. It is anticipated that Martha from Game Time will come here at that time to help with the layout and hole drilling. The Parks Board then discussed the need to line up additional volunteers and provide meals and motel accommodations for the MACS representatives.

New Business

Dog Park Open House

The first public meeting regarding a potential dog park in Baker City is scheduled to take place at City Hall on Thursday, October 20th, at 5:00 p.m. Parks Board members were encouraged to attend, if possible. Discussion followed about the need to develop a core group to raise funds. It was suggested to contact "Best Friends" as well as known individual dog lovers. As follow up to an email received by Duman, Bornstedt noted that the probability of obtaining grant funds for a dog park through Oregon Parks and Recreation was unlikely. Duman asked if Heidi Dalton had contacted any member of the board about the possibility of donating undeveloped land on the north side of the YMCA building to the city as a potential dog park. None of the members present have been in contact with Dalton.

Central Park Labyrinth Approval

Guests Bonebrake and Kiefer presented a YouTube video containing informational material from the Labyrinth Society. They proposed a partnership with the Lions Club and the City to create a labyrinth in Central Park. An anonymous gift of \$25,000 has been pledged to purchase a "kit" (as presented in the video). The funds will be held by the Lions Club. The Lions Club will provide the additional funding needed to complete the project, which is estimated at \$8,000, including value of in-kind

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services. The partnership role of the City would be to provide the excavation work on site. Discussion followed regarding what the labyrinth might look like, the location within the park, accessibility to the existing pathway, size, installation, etc. A timeline for funding and fundraising ideas were also discussed. Bonebrake offered to write a grant for funds to place an interpretive panel at the project site. Bornstedt reminded the board that the City of Baker Central Park Master Plan includes meditation gardens, and the group agreed this labyrinth project would qualify as such. A motion to support development of a labyrinth at Central Park was made by Nelson and seconded by Duman. All voted in favor. Bornstedt said she will prepare a staff report for the City Council meeting on October 25th. It was decided the agenda should include the seven (7) minute YouTube video.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 5:49 p.m. Next meeting will be January 17, 2017 at 5:00 p.m. at City Hall.