



## **Baker City Parks and Recreation Advisory Board**

Regular Meeting

January 20, 2015

5:30 p.m.

Board Members Present at the Meeting: Linda Collins, Jeff Nelson , Kim Mosier, Mike Clark, Lisa Jacoby

Board Members Absent: Rick Taylor, Gail Duman

Guests Present: Teri Axness - Public Arts Commission

Staff Present: Joyce Bornstedt, Mike Kee, Michelle Owen

### **Additions or Modifications to Agenda**

None

### **Approval of November 18, 2014 Minutes**

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

### **New Business**

#### **LAMP Trail Head & Pathway Expansion**

Owen explained the history of river access issues as well as conflicts between neighborhood residents and others in the area of Wade Williams field. In response to these situations the City Council directed staff to explore possible options to alleviate problems. A river access point was installed near the Myrtle Street bridge. Current plans include pathway expansion from this access point southeast to Main Street along unopened river drive and development of a trailhead parking area on property acquired at 945 Resort. \$36,000 was budgeted in the current fiscal year, and this was used to match an Oregon Parks and Recreation Department (OPRD) recreational trails project (RTP) grant in the amount of \$108,200. Owen further explained the project and asked the Parks and Recreation Board to provide any comments, suggestions, etc., in regards to the proposed design in the next two weeks.

Kee explained that he and Axness were there to discuss the public arts aspect of the project. He said the broader goal of the Public Arts Commission is to convince the City Council that all public projects in Baker City should provide for a public arts element. He suggested this may be achieved by requiring a percentage of the overall cost of such projects to be used for art. For this project in particular, the Arts Commission would like to provide input into adding an artistic element to planned items such as benches, trash receptacles, kiosk, etc. Discussion continued regarding the possible artistic direction, and how the cost of adding this element would be addressed. Owen will provide project budget estimates to Kee. He will meet with the Arts Commission and they will in turn make a recommendation for public art for the project to the Parks and Rec Board.

#### **Court Plaza**

Owen gave a brief summary of the progression of Court Plaza, which began decades ago. She indicated that several funding strategies have been unsuccessful, most being transportation related. She further explained that \$45,000 was allocated from the Sidewalk Utility Fund to construct the sidewalk on Main Street to enclose the area and eliminate vehicle traffic. With Court Plaza being identified as a park property in the draft master plan, additional funding opportunities will become available. Owen is currently planning to apply for an OPRD grant to begin development of the plaza using the budgeted funds for possible match. Clark expressed his concerns about developing other parks properties while Central Park is not being completed. Owen indicated that development of Court Plaza was a City Council goal. She further said that the Parks and Rec Board could present a request to the Council should they so desire to reconsider the priority for developing Court Plaza as opposed to other parks improvements. Discussion ensued regarding prioritization of parks improvements and constraints on how and where available funding can be utilized. Owen requested that the Parks and Rec Board provide any suggestions,

comments, or other input for this project as soon as possible so that those elements can be included in the design process and proposed budget.

### **Old Business**

Bornstedt that the Community Planning Workshop at University of Oregon, after looking at the draft master plan, declined to commit to the project. They however recommended and communicated with a former student of the program about taking the project. After her review of the draft, she agreed to provide services to finalize the plan for around \$1,500. With this, Bornstedt believes that the plan can be completed in the current fiscal year utilizing Parks Department funding, and a grant will not be necessary. The Board consented to completion of the plan utilizing the offered services.

Mosier commented that she thinks that Court Plaza needs to be further identified in the plan to leverage funding and demonstrate greater support for the project. The Board discussed where in the plan this should be done, and how to best include the project. Mosier offered to put together some wording and submit it to Bornstedt for inclusion so that the consultant can begin work around the first of February.

Collins talked about the process she and Clark went through in preparing a proposal to plant trees in parks for the tree board to consider. She reported that trees will be planted in South Baker Park this year. She said a priority list should be established to help in making proposals in future years. It was discussed how the parks master plan could address this. The consensus was that the priority list for parks improvements will evolve and change as funding sources, needs, and other factors come into consideration.

### **Adjournment**

With no other business the meeting was adjourned at 7:15 p.m. The next meeting will be February 17, 2015 at 5:30 p.m. in room 205 at Baker City Hall.

### **To Do List**

- Submit comments, suggestions, etc. for the LAMP trail head and Court Plaza to Bornstedt by February 1, 2015 - All Board Members
- Complete additions to master plan for Court Plaza by January 31, 2015 - Mosier