



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

Regular Meeting  
June 15, 2015  
5:30 p.m.  
South Baker Park

Board Members Present at the Meeting: Rick Taylor, Jeff Nelson, Lisa Jacoby, Linda Collins, Gail Duman, Kim Mosier

Board Members Absent: Mike Clark

Guests Present: None

Staff Present: Michelle Owen, Joyce Bornstedt

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

None

### **Approval of May 12, 2015 Minutes**

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

### **Old Business**

#### **Leo Adler Memorial Parkway Expansion and Trailhead Development Update**

Owen reported that the paving bid had been awarded and that the deadline for completion of that portion of the project is mid July. She indicated that the Lions will be donating a picnic table to the project, and that the Public Arts Commission is working on the design for a trash receptacle. She is hoping that there will be a cost savings realized in the paving contract that will allow for trees to be planted this year. Discussion ensued regarding the possibility of providing the option for purchase of memorial trees. Discussion continued regarding possible funding sources for trees including the OTEC program and the Silvers fund. Taylor asked if there was a preference for a round or square table. The consensus was to have a round table installed. Collins asked where the trees that the golf board purchases come from and if it were possible to add to one of their orders to save money. Owen said that she could follow up with them to see if that would be the best way to go.

#### **Leo Adler Fitness Zone - Lions Club Project Update**

Taylor reported that the equipment had been ordered. Bornstedt added that the security light and pole would be installed after July 1 due to a delay in getting the pole shipped. Two trees have been planted by Don Fink on behalf the Lions adjacent to the equipment installation area, and the Lions are taking care of watering them. Taylor indicated that he would ask the lions to take on watering of the South Baker Park trees as well until they are established.

#### **Bark for Your Park Dog Park Contest**

Duman reported that Baker City was not successful in reaching the finals in the Bark for Your Park Dog Park contest. She said that there were considerably more votes overall this year and Baker City was not even close.

### **New Business**

#### **Park Playground No Spray Buffer Zone**

Bornstedt indicated that the City Council has directed staff to establish a no spray buffer zone around a playground in one of the city parks as a pilot program. Bornstedt thought that the South Baker Park playground was an ideal candidate because the area is well defined and compact. Mosier gave a history of the group that has been addressing the City Council regarding use of chemicals for the use of vegetation control in public areas. She also talked about the spray free vegetation management program that was established in the City of Ashland along with the challenges that program faced causing it to ultimately be modified. Discussion ensued regarding the types of chemicals currently being used in public parks. Mosier went on to say that weed control in the pilot area would be achieved by manual removal by volunteer forces. Bornstedt commented that it would not be reasonable to expect the Parks and Recreation Board to recruit and manage volunteers. Mosier indicated that all of the information received from the current parks maintenance contractor shows that, through diligence, they are using the least amount of chemical application possible and are able to successfully manage weed control. Duman asked if simply providing signage notification of application would be sufficient as opposed to a spray free zone. Bornstedt said that the Draft Vegetation Management Plan the Board would be reviewing provided for signage requirements. Owen added that the group that is

advocating for no spray in Baker City were involved in an incident where they were exposed to spray that was mistakenly identified as the parks contractor or City employee, when actually the applicator was a private contractor. The City has been working with the Oregon Department of Agriculture on the investigation of the incident. Discussion continued regarding the background leading up to the recommendation for creating a pilot no spray buffer zone. Mosier said that the no spray zone success will be dependent upon self directed volunteer efforts. The Board agreed that a 25' buffer zone around the playground at South Baker Park would be appropriate for the pilot program. The City Council will address how to recruit and manage the volunteers for manual weed removal.

### **Vegetation Management Policy Draft**

Bornstedt presented a draft Vegetation Management Policy for Board review. She indicated that there would be an attachment to the policy that would be a chemical application record form. She did not have the draft of the form prepared at the time, but planned to use the Oregon Department of Forestry form provided as a template.

### **City Budget**

Bornstedt reported that the parks budget and playground improvement budget have been tentatively approved. She said that the \$5000 in the 2014-2015 budget was intended to fund the light installation for the Lions Fitness Zone. With that project being delayed she is planning to request that the funds be moved to the 2015-2016 budget. She also indicated that an additional \$3,000 had been moved from the public arts proposed budget to the playground improvement fund.

### **Other Business**

Collins suggested that perhaps the Board may want to explore an "adopt a pathway" program to help to maintain and cleanup sections of the Leo Adler Memorial Parkway. She suggested that perhaps the Board could develop the criteria this winter and possibly initiate the program in the spring. She also mentioned that the playground equipment for the kindergarten at the high school is still in place although the kindergarten is no longer there. She asked if the City might be interested if the School District would be willing to donate it. She said she would contact the District to determine the status of the equipment.

Taylor reminded the Board members with expiring terms to contact the City Recorder to request that they be considered for appointment to another term.

### **Adjournment**

With no other business the meeting was adjourned at 6:35 p.m. The next meeting will be August 10, 2015 at 5:30 p.m. at Cedar Acres Park (in case of inclement weather the alternate location will be City Hall).