



Baker City Parks and Recreation Advisory Board

Regular Meeting

November 16, 2015

5:30 p.m.

City Hall Council Chambers

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

Board Members Absent: None

Guests Present: Jared Johnson

Staff Present: Joyce Bornstedt

Additions or Modifications to Agenda

None

Approval of August 10, 2015 Minutes

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

Old Business

Leo Adler Fitness Zone - Lions Club Project Update

Taylor reported that the Fitness Zone was complete with the exception of installation of sponsor signage. He indicated that they have received much positive feedback regarding the project. Bornstedt said that she had heard many positive comments as well. She said that several entities had contacted her in regards to the cost to install additional stations along the pathway. She will contact Blake Marlia who was in charge of the project to get that information.

Adopt-A-Pathway

Taylor indicated that he has not completed the information for this item. It was tabled until the next meeting.

School Playground Equipment

Collins reported that she had talked with Betty Palmer regarding the play equipment at North Baker School. She has not received a response yet so will follow up.

Vegetation Management Policy

Bornstedt reported that the City Council had adopted the vegetation management plan. She has purchased enhanced signage that was used after the policy was adopted. Several board members commented that the signage is much more visible than the previous signage. Bornstedt said that only one person had requested to be put on the e-mail advance notification list.

Park Tour Recap

The Board discussed the tour that they took in September. All were in agreement that it was beneficial to look at the areas as a group. Several good ideas for further development came out of the tour. The consensus was to tour the areas again in the spring.

New Business

Citizen Request - Bike Park

Jared Johnson, owner of Flagstaff Sports, addressed the Board requesting permission to develop a bicycle "pump" park. Local bicycle riders have created a track in an area south of 'D' Street, adjacent to the east side of the Leo Adler Memorial Parkway. The area that is being utilized is actually on private property east of the Resort Street right of way. After some discussion it was suggested that the Resort Street right of way area on the north side of 'D' Street east of the pathway may be a possible location for the pump park. In response to a question from Duman, Mosier said that this type of track is popular with many of the local youth. Bornstedt explained that other similar tracks have been constructed in the area of Sam-O Park in the past, but there was not volunteer support for maintaining the track area, and it is not possible to mow the surrounding weeds, which has caused for the tracks to have to be leveled. Johnson concurred and suggested that 'Baker Loves Bikes', a local non-profit organization

may be willing to adopt the pump park, including providing signage and organizing volunteers to develop and maintain the park. Johnson serves on the Board of that organization. Discussion continued regarding other areas that might be suitable for this type of park. It was noted that most of those areas are under private ownership and would require land acquisition. Johnson further explained that it would be beneficial for the park to be constructed adjacent to the parkway. Further discussion involved possible funding opportunities including grants, etc. The consensus of the Board was to provide initial support of the project. They requested that Johnson talk with Baker Loves Bikes and come back to the next Parks and Recreation Board meeting with a written commitment from them to adopt the park and a conceptual plan (a formal memorandum of understanding would be required between that organization and the City prior to development of the park). The Board will consider these items at the next meeting, and, if satisfactory, will recommend the project to the City Council. Johnson would then present the project to the City Council for their consideration.

Conceptual Plans - Neighborhood Parks

At the request of Taylor, Bornstedt had prepared and posted Google Earth and tax map images of Riverpark and Cedar Acres Parks for the Board's use. The Board talked about the ideas that came from the tour of these two parks. These ideas included replacement of playground equipment, installation of permanent picnic tables, horseshoe pits, bocce ball court, and soccer field. After considerable discussion, Duman said she would like to reach out the residents living close to these parks and see what they want. Discussion continued regarding the best way to do that. Bornstedt suggested maybe the Board could host neighborhood block parties at each of the locations. The Board decided that was a good idea, and will plan for those events to be held in the spring. In the meantime, each Board member will bring their list of improvement ideas to the next meeting. Bornstedt will use these lists to create a questionnaire for each event with a list of proposed improvements that the residents can rank in order to help determine how to make each park best fit the needs of the neighborhood.

Adjournment

With no other business the meeting was adjourned at 6:30 p.m. The next meeting was scheduled for January 12, 2016, at 5:30 p.m. at Baker City Hall.

To Do List

- Adapt brochure for Adopt-A-Pathway - Taylor
- ▶ Follow up on status of play structure at North Baker School - Collins
- ▶ Prepare list of improvement ideas for Cedar Acres and Riverpark Parks - All Board Members