

PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION



Robby Cooper
Commission Chair

~Meeting Minutes~

Dwight Curtis
Staff Liaison

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**Thursday
March 28, 2019**

5:19 PM

**Hamilton Indoor Rec Center
1724 E F Street**

WELCOME AND ATTENDANCE

MEMBERS PRESENT: Robby Cooper, Mark Heinlein, Ted Kisha, Susan Petersen, Nancy Tribble, Sara Zaske

MEMBERS ABSENT: Damon Burton, Justin Minden, Susan Steele

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: Kristin Graham, Staff; Parks and Recreation Assistant Director David Schott; Parks and Recreation Director Dwight Curtis, Staff Liaison

REGULAR AGENDA

1. Approval of Parks and Recreation Commission February 28, 2019 Meeting Minutes

Presentation of minutes for approval.

PROPOSED ACTIONS: Approve minutes as presented; approve minutes with amendments; or provide staff further direction.

RESULT:	APPROVED BY ACCLAMATION VOTE (UNANIMOUS)
MOVER:	Tribble
SECONDER:	Heinlein
AYES:	Cooper, Heinlein, Kisha, Petersen, Tribble, Zaske
ABSENT:	Burton, Minden, Steele

2. Public Comment Period

Only for items not listed on the agenda, including responses to previous comments/questions from the public; there were no public comments.

3. Parks and Recreation Master Plan Update 2019 Final Draft (ACTION ITEM) – Dwight Curtis

Several comments were received during the public comment period for the draft Parks and Recreation Master Plan Update; these included a verbal statement of support from the Sustainability Commission, a comment on Facebook saying they felt the City needed another skate park, and two letters, each with multiple comments regarding the draft. Using PowerPoint, Curtis presented the public comments to the commissioners, along with any staff suggestions for potential edits; he asked the commissioners to consider each and provide their recommendations on what edits, if any, they felt would be beneficial. Curtis advised that the staff suggestions were just that, and the commissioners could choose to accept them or they could make their own recommendations.

PROPOSED ACTIONS: Commission will receive an update to include any additional public comments since the February 28, 2019 public workshop, along with staff recommendations. The Commission will review and make recommendation for the plan to go forward to the City Council or back to staff for further editing.

Nicotine-Free Parks

Curtis said this item was not based on a comment from the public but was instead a question on the City's recently-completed a citizen survey, which asked whether community members would be in favor of designating the City parks as nicotine-free. Seventy-three percent (73%) of the respondents indicated they either agreed or strongly agreed they supported the concept of nicotine-free parks. Curtis asked whether the commissioners would like this to be added as an Actionable Item in the Master Plan, advising that it does not necessarily mean that it will be enacted, but is a recommendation that the department investigate the possibility.

Commission recommendation: Cooper, Heinlein, Kisha, Tribble, and Zaske were in favor of adding this as an Actionable Item in the Master Plan; Petersen was opposed.

Sect. 1.7 (p. 8) Age & Gender (N. Chaney)

This section seems to assume a static state, or at least a smooth trajectory. It seems worthwhile to speculate on shifting demographics, relative to the boom of Boomers, Moscow's attraction of active retirees and aging parents, decline in university enrollment, the prospect of an influx of climate refugees, any of whom may shift Moscow's long-held youthful median age.

Staff recommendation: No edits. Should there be a sudden change in demographics, the City would address it at that time. The records show that the age and gender stats have been static.

Commission recommendation: No edits.

Sect. 2.2 (p. 11) (N. Chaney)

I appreciate that the Tree Commission and Pathways Commission are specifically called-out in this document. Each is distinct, with co-equal advisory authority, but integral and complementary to Parks & Rec objectives.

Staff recommendation: No edits requested or needed.

Commission recommendation: No edits.

Section 3.2.1 Park Development (p. 14) Actionable Item 1 (N. Chaney)

First, the wording about meeting the needs of underserved areas could be misinterpreted (intentionally or otherwise) to mean new subdivisions, rather than low-income or transient neighborhoods that have been waiting.

Staff recommendation: Continue park property development efforts to meet the needs of underserved areas of Moscow, to include low-income and transient neighborhoods, that have been waiting.

Commission recommendation: No edits.

I'm not convinced that the first bullet point about setting a goal to accomplish "initial development" of at least one park property a year, using Hamilton funds, is do-able any more. That fund is effectively depleted with other Council objectives, and competing opportunities can arise that are too good or too urgent to pass up. Even if the goal is simply aspirational, it seems arbitrary. You might rephrase it.

Staff recommendation: No edits. I believe we are using the appropriate goal. The funds are not depleted and the point is to use those funds for this purpose until they are depleted.

Commission recommendation: No edits.

I appreciate the last bullet point in this section, and that it mentions mature adults and Boomers (like me), but am wonder whether creating “theme” parks is the way to go. I’m partial to providing proximity to multi-generational attractions (in tandem or parallel), when practicable.

Staff recommended edits: No edits. The plan calls for “consideration” of themes, not necessarily calling for it.

Commission recommendation: No edits.

Section 3.2.2 Environment (p. 16) Actionable Item 2 (N. Chaney)

Please incorporate ideas about chemical uses in addition to pesticides, including herbicides (Witness the City’s recent acquisition of the pressurized steam unit to ablate weeds.), pool chemicals, parks facilities chemicals for cleaning, VOC-emitting building materials and finishes (See the City’s *Sustainable Purchasing Guidelines* and/or inquire about updating *Guidelines*:

<https://www.ci.moscow.id.us/DocumentCenter/View/211/Sustainable-Purchasing-Guidelines-PDF?bidId=>), etc.

Staff recommendation: No edits. Though the points are valid, Actionable Item 2 calls for the development of a reduced pesticides policy, which could include any of these items.

Commission recommendation: No edits.

Ice-melt chemical application might vary, depending on site sensitivity, topographic hazards, vulnerability of users (particularly children and dogs), delicacy of vegetation, damage to surfaces or equipment, etc. Conceivably, beet-based product might be best on some City properties, while more dilute solutions of MgCl might be best for others, and certain locations, like cross-country ski track through parks, might be better off with posting “not maintained in winter,” etc.

Staff recommendation: No edits. Points are valid, but could be better planned through a coordinated effort through appropriate divisions of Water Department’s Environmental division.

Commission recommendation: No edits.

This would also be a good place to incorporate objectives called out in the City’s NPDES Phase II Permit and justification for a new stormwater utility. Parkland and other open spaces can be great assets in that regard!

Staff recommendation: Add consideration of review of the City’s NPDES Phase II Permit as part of existing and new park properties as part of the planning process.

Commission recommendation: Edit as per staff recommendation.

Maps showing relative locations of parkland Wisescapes for pollinators, parks elements in green infrastructure, connectivity of wetlands and seasonal flows of surface water, and similar environmentally-oriented efforts could inform development of future ones.

Staff recommendation: Add this as an objective to consider in Actionable Item 2.

Commission recommendation: Edit as per staff recommendation.

Resources for collection/disposal of dog waste. Signage posting requirements for same.

Staff recommendation: This is doable and was actually something we have been planning to have an intern work on. We can add this as an objective to consider.

Commission recommendation: Edit as per staff recommendation.

Sect. 3.2.3 Water Conservation (p. 17) Actionable Item 3 (N. Chaney)

Acknowledge public pressure to maintain some emerald-green turf, and include pros/cons, purpose-specific applications, the prospect of governmental intervention (local or state) to curtail water use and how parks will be designed for resiliency in those cases.

Staff recommendation: No issue adding this suggestion to the script.

Commission recommendation: Edit as per staff recommendation.

In addition to xeriscapes/Wisescapes, mention judicious applications of drought-tolerant turf-seed blends, tree selection, moisture-retaining soil supplements, and specialized irrigation systems.

Staff recommendation: No issue adding this language.

Commission recommendation: Edit as per staff recommendation.

List PBAC, UI Extension, and Latah County, among other educational resources.

Staff recommendation: No issue adding these resources to the language.

Commission recommendation: Edit as per staff recommendation.

Sect. 3.2.4 Accessibility (p. 18) Actionable Item 4 (N. Chaney)

This section could be more fully fleshed-out. Accessibility includes amenities within parks (play equipment, drinking fountains, restroom facilities, wheelchair-accessible picnic tables), proximity of (sufficiently wide, barrier-free, ADA-compliant) pathways and other non-motorized transportation infrastructure, disability parking spaces, access to public transit, accommodation for visual/hearing/mobility impairments particularly in interior spaces, programmatic offerings, etc.

Staff recommendation: No issue adding some of this to the general language. They are good points, but they will be addressed specifically in the ADA Master Plan.

Commission recommendation: Edit as per staff recommendation.

I appreciate that you mentioned collaboration with “local professional accessibility specialty organizations” (such as Disability Action Center, UI Center for Disability Access, etc.)

Staff recommendation: No edits requested or needed.

Commission recommendation: No edits.

Section 3.2.5 (p. 19) Alternative/renewable energy resources and savings (N. Chaney)

Consider modernizing terminology. “Alternative” only applies because “renewable energy” technology is not yet the norm! Could also specify “alternatives to fossil fuels.”

Staff recommendation: Not exactly sure what language is recommended, but I can research and make change if there is something more modern. Initial research finds that alternative and renewable are currently being used. Not sure this edit request is needed.

Commission recommendation: No edits.

Actionable Item 8 (p. 21) RE: covered playground (N. Chaney)

Consider purchase and adaptive re-use of defunct commercial or ag buildings, etc. among options for such space.

Staff recommendation: No issue adding this as an Objective to consider.

Commission recommendation: No edits.

Consider availability of shared use with school district properties for that purpose.

Staff recommendation: This is already being done

Commission recommendation: No edits.

Consider awning/pitch-out/lean-to extension/s to existing City facilities.

Staff recommendation: No issue adding this as an Objective to consider.

Commission recommendation: No edits.

Solicit input from private-sector play spaces, including the tots' play area at Eastside, the various bouncy/trampoline for-profit businesses, daycare operations, etc.

Staff recommendation: No edits. We already solicit input from the public.

Commission recommendation: No edits.

"Covered" and "indoor" need not be either/or choices. Both could serve useful purposes.

Staff recommendation: No edits.

Commission recommendation: No edits.

Sect. 3.2.9 (p. 22-23) Pathways, Greenways, and Linear Connections. ACTIONABLE ITEM 9: A comprehensive network of paths and linear parks connecting all parts of the community (N. Chaney)

I am a vocal advocate for such connectivity, and strongly agree with the value of your objectives in this section.

Staff recommendation: No edits requested.

Commission recommendation: No edits

Gain support from area realtors, to move these efforts forward for mutually beneficial outcomes. Developers are gradually becoming aware of advantages too.

Staff recommendation: No edits, but good points

Commission recommendation: No edits.

Does the Pathways Commission recommend at least mentioning the development, extension, and success of the regional network of trails? (Work by Pullman Civic Trust and allies, to link the River Walk to a new Colfax-Albion-Pullman CAP Trail would be advantageous to Moscow too, as would extension of the Latah Trail. Education, compromise, mitigation, and public engagement are part of resolving conflicts.)

Staff recommendation: Good point. No issue adding this to the Objectives to consider

Commission recommendation: Edit to include the phrase "encourage collaboration between regional agencies".

You mention agencies as resources for technical assistance and funding. Might you also mention the value to the City of supporting educational and tech assistance organizations like Smart Growth, advocacy groups like the Idaho Walk-Bike Alliance, and maintenance funding agreements the City enjoys with partners like the Latah Trail Foundation/Latah County and the Chipman Trail?

Staff recommendation: No issue adding some of this language to the general description.

Commission recommendation: No edits.

Ensure that linear parks and pathways, like other parks around town, have dog bowls and water bottle-refilling aspects at drinking fountains along the way.

Staff recommendation: No issue adding this as an Objective Consideration.

Commission recommendation: Edit as per staff recommendation.

3.2.10 Cultural Enhancement. ACTIONABLE ITEM 10: Broaden development of the community's cultural infrastructure and its integration into park sites and recreational programs (N. Chaney)

Add reference to prospect of permanent installations.

Staff recommendation: No edits.

Commission recommendation: No edits.

Acknowledge that the Latah Trail also has artful interpretive signs and plans additional artistic elements, consistent with its Concept Plan. (You only mention the Paradise Path and Chipman Trail in that context.)

Staff recommendation: No issue acknowledging this.

Commission recommendation: Edit as per staff recommendation.

Participate in mapping artful elements around town for self-guided walking tours, like Garden City has done.

Staff recommendation: No issue adding this as an Objective to Consider.

Commission recommendation: Edit as per staff recommendation.

Elaborate on idea that artistic elements can be integrated into functional pieces, like benches, luminaires, and other street furnishings, and like the City has done with tree wells, manhole covers, utility box wraps, bus shelters, etc.

Staff recommendation: No issue adding this as an Objective to Consider.

Commission recommendation: Edit as per staff recommendation.

3.2.11 Convenience and Accessibility of Public Parks, Recreational Areas, and Public Open Spaces (p. 25) Actionable Item 11 (N. Chaney)

Draft advises, "Amend the City's leash ordinance to allow off-leash time periods in suitable existing parks other than the Dog Park." I'm good with that, but please acknowledge that the City has two dog parks so far.

Staff recommendation: The City has only one dog park. It also has an established off leash area in another park. No issue making this clear.

Commission recommendation: No edits.

I'm wondering whether this would be the appropriate section to delve into retrofitting existing parks to mitigate untoward effects of adjacent development, increases in traffic, or installation of a multi-modal bridge, proximal to East City Park.

Staff recommendation: No edits. This is a political issue.

Commission recommendation: No edits.

Sect. 3.2.13 Effective Management, Administration, and Partnerships. Actionable Item 13 (p. 27) Maximize the efficient use of resources to develop and maintain a first-class system of parks, public spaces, and recreational facilities and improvements (N. Chaney)

Draft says, "The collaborative efforts between Pullman and Moscow in the development of the Chipman Trail are a highly visible and successful example of what can be accomplished." This is true, however that project was controversial, largely driven by one determined person (Nancy Mack), more than either city, or their universities. The project would have taken much longer, were it not for a sizeable private donation. (Incidentally, the maintenance agreement includes Moscow, Pullman, Whitman County, UI, and WSU.) The Latah Trail should also be mentioned here as a visible, successful example of collaboration.

Staff recommendation: There is no issue adding verbiage regarding the trail maintenance agreements.

Commission recommendation: Edit as per staff recommendation.

Section 4.2 that defines **Park Classification** and open spaces, please consider inserting more references to parks as wildlife habitat and corridors, trees as assets, and advantages to elements of stormwater management (related to NPDES Phase II permit compliance) like flood prevention/mitigation, reduced sedimentation, soil filtration for water quality (e.g. TMDLs in S. Fork of the Palouse River, about which neighboring WA-DOE says, “The **river** has low dissolved oxygen, high temperatures and bacteria counts, lingering concentrations of toxic chemicals from historically used pesticides, and PCBs.”

Staff recommendation: No edits. The information suggested is good, but it really doesn’t have anything to do with the classification of the parks, as is the purpose of this section.

Commission recommendation: No edits.

At this time, because S. Petersen needed to leave the meeting (resulting in a lack of a quorum), the commissioners paused to determine whether to approve forwarding the draft the Parks and Recreation Master Plan Update (with the recommended edits) to City Council, or if they wanted to review it again prior to making a recommendation.

RESULT:	REVIEW EDITED DRAFT AT NEXT MEETING (UNANIMOUS)
MOVER:	Tribble
SECONDER:	Petersen
AYES:	Cooper, Heinlein, Kisha, Petersen, Tribble, Zaske
ABSENT:	Burton, Minden, Steele

Curtis then continued the presentation:

P. Robichaud: Can Parks and Rec endorse it [the proposed new ice rink facility] and help make this winter time recreation a reality?

Staff recommendation: No edits

Commission recommendation: No edits.

P. Robichaud: This winter we had 6 continuous weeks of great snow, yet there was no access to cross country skiing in town. The parks, golf course, bike paths are all great places to ski, maybe make dedicated ski lanes on the bike paths when possible. It is only for short window, but it would show your responsiveness to outdoor recreation. Could you work with local farmers and allow for skiing on their fields for this short window?

Staff recommendation: No edits.

Commission recommendation: No edits.

P. Robichaud: Improving biking lanes from North to South in Moscow; the Troy highway underpass is a great step forward.

Staff recommendation: No edits.

Commission recommendation: Add as an Objective to Consider in the section on Park Development.

P. Robichaud: How should Moscow Park and Recreation work with other such as Palouse Empire Gymnastics, Karate and Taekwondo, the Woman’s Roller Derby group, road bike rides (Fondo on the Palouse), Moscow Area Mountain Bike Association, Elks Golf Course, workout gyms, Moscow Yoga Center, etc? Should the Park and Recreation help advertise for these entities? Someone new to town has to spend a lot of efforts to find these private and public opportunities. It should be easy to access all recreation and exercise opportunities in Moscow.

Staff recommended edits: No edits

Commission recommendation: No edits.

P. Robichaud: What are the new and upcoming activities that Parks and Rec should be leaders on? Pickleball, kayak rolling, and BMX bike track.

Staff recommended edits: No edits

Commission recommendation: No edits.

The final draft, with the commission-recommended edits, will be presented at the April 25, 2019 meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission, at which time the commissioners will make a recommendation on whether to forward it to City Council for approval or direct staff to make additional changes.

4. Summer Farmers Market Information Table Reservation – Dwight Curtis

PROPOSED ACTIONS: Commission will review the summer's Farmers Market schedule and determine which date to reserve the information table.

The commissioners selected June 22, 2019 as the date the Parks and Recreation Commission will staff the City's Information Table at the Farmers Market.

5. 2019 Parks and Facilities Tour Date (ACTION ITEM) – Robby Cooper

PROPOSED ACTIONS: Commission will set a date for the annual parks and facilities tour.

Due to the low number of commissioners present, this item was postponed until the April 25, 2019 meeting.

REPORTS

1. General Parks and Facilities Update - David Schott

Two bids have been received for the upcoming Fire Station 2 roof replacement. Parks staff have been transitioning from snow removal to spring-related activities, including installing new benches at the Moscow School District Community Playfields and refurbishing benches at Jim Lyle Rotary Park. The new Troy Highway/Highway 8 underpass was closed recently due to seasonal flooding; this was not unexpected as consultants involved with the project predicted there would be an average of four flood-related closure days per year. Hemp Fest 2019, scheduled for April 6th, will not be held at East City Park as planned; given the already very wet ground with more rain in the forecast, staff felt there was a high risk the park would sustain severe damage from the heavy traffic the event typically attracts.

2. Moscow Pathways Commission Update - David Schott

Upcoming Pathways Commission events include their annual report to City Council in May as well as Bike Month and the grand opening of the Troy Highway/Highway 8 underpass.

3. Moscow Tree Commission Update - David Schott

The Tree Commission has been planning the April 26th Arbor Day event, which will be held on the Gritman Medical Center campus.

4. Recreation Programs Update – Dwight Curtis

Winter activities are winding down and spring activities are getting underway. The annual March pool pass sale is going well with an increase this year over the number of passes sold during the

last year's sale. Grants are also currently being sought to cover the costs of purchasing three aquatic wheelchairs for the Hamilton-Lowe Aquatics Center; with these chairs more people will be able to enjoy the HLAC pools.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Schott reported they have received authorization to install chain link fencing around the Moscow School District Community Playfields parking lot; this is being done to better facilitate Collecting an attendance fee for certain events and tournaments.

Curtis said that lighted bollards will soon be installed along the pathway by Lillian Woodworth Otness Park.

UPCOMING EVENTS / MEETINGS

Next Commission meeting is April 25, 2019

ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned at 7:05 pm

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Minutes Approved On


APR 25 2019
Clerk/Deputy Signature