

PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION



Robby Cooper
Commission Chair

~Meeting Minutes~

Dwight Curtis
Staff Liaison

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**Thursday
October 24, 2019**

5:15 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; Greg Morrison, Recreation Supervisor; David Schott, Parks and Recreation Assistant Director; Gina Taruscio, Council Liaison; Parks and Recreation Director Dwight Curtis, Staff Liaison

REGULAR AGENDA

1. Approval of Parks and Recreation Commission August 22, 2019 Minutes

Presentation of minutes for approval. There was no September meeting.

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

RESULT:	APPROVED AS PRESENTED BY ACCLAMATION VOTE
MOVER:	Heinlein
SECONDER:	Tribble
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 or questions from the public. There were no comments.

3. Otness Park Pesticide-Free Trial Results for 2019 (ACTION ITEM) – Dave Schott/Dwight Curtis

PROPOSED ACTIONS: Discussion and accept report. Commission may decide next course of action.

David Schott presented the results of a pesticide-reduction trial program implemented this spring/summer; in this program, pesticide-free weed management trial areas were established and monitored in Lillian Woodworth Otness Park and Almon Asbury Lieuallen Park; weeds in these trial areas were managed using only mechanical means such as mowing, string trimming, and hand pulling. During the trial, which took place between April 23 and September 18 of this year, the types of weeds present in the test sites and degree of infestations were regularly monitored,

documented and ranked using a scale. Time spent at the sites was also tracked to determine the effect pesticide-free weed control had on staffing hours. The results of the trials indicated that the use of mechanical weed control methods resulted in a slight increase in the presence of weeds as well as an increase in the amount of staff time being spent at each site. Staff recommendation is to continue the pilot program in 2020 in order to look at the long-term effectiveness of using mechanical-control methods on weeds such as thistle and bindweed that reproduce both by seed and by extensive underground root systems, making them harder to control without the use of pesticides.

Ted Kisha asked about the possibility of using volunteers to help with weed control. Nancy Tribble said this topic was brought up at recent Sustainability Commission meeting, and one of the items discussed was the large amount of training and oversight needed in order for such a program to be successful. Mark Heinlein asked what the Parks and Recreation Department uses to chemically control weeds; Schott said they typically use broadleaf pesticides. Dwight Curtis added that as part of the efforts to reduce the use of pesticides on City properties, parks and facility grounds are being divided up into zones, with management plans developed for each; he said the next agenda item will go over this in greater detail.

4. Introduction of City of Moscow Landscape Management Zone (LMZ) Program (ACTION ITEM) – Dwight Curtis

PROPOSED ACTIONS: The LMZ program is designed to maximize all efforts in water, energy and human resource conservation as well as reduction in pesticide usage throughout the City's properties. Discussion and accept report. Commission may decide next course of action.

Curtis introduced the City of Moscow's Landscape Management Zone Program; in the LMZ program, City properties will be divided into landscape maintenance zones, each with its own 'master plan' that will guide the maintenance, improvements, and refurbishment of the area. Each zone's plan will take into consideration such issues as water conservation, planting schemes, and pesticide use reduction. Curtis said this is an extensive project that will take years to fully implement. Kisha mentioned it would be worthwhile to consider the benefits of using native plants as well as the importance of aesthetics when developing the plans for each zone.

5. City Park Standards Task Force (ACTION ITEM) – Dwight Curtis

PROPOSED ACTIONS: Parks and Recreation Master Plan Update 2019 Actionable Item #7 requires the City to develop its own parks standards based on the uniqueness of Moscow. Commission to assign 2 Commission Members along with 2 staff to develop initial draft standards for public feedback/input.

Parks and Recreation Master Plan Update 2019 Actionable Item #7 was developed in response to the National Recreation and Parks Association's recent recommendation that each city develops its own parks standards reflecting the uniqueness of each community; Curtis suggested a task force be formed to begin the process of developing standards for the City of Moscow and asked for volunteers. Ted Kisha and Sara Zaske volunteered to be on the task force.

REPORTS

1. General Parks and Facilities Update - David Schott

The playgrounds at both Itani Park and Lola Clyde Park are now open to the public, and staff is focusing on winterizing the parks and facilities. Interviews for the two full-time Parks Maintenance positions have been completed and the openings are expected to be filled soon. The concrete work at Lena Whitmore Park is finished; the Streets Department assisted with the painting for the project. The Hamilton Indoor Recreation Center painting project is now complete

as is the roofing project at Fire Station 2. Facilities Supervisor Jay Lewis is currently reviewing the recently-completed City-wide ADA survey and will begin developing implementation plans. The current 3-year contract for City custodial services is about to expire; bids will be sought for the new contract.

2. Moscow Pathways Commission Update - David Schott

The Pathways Commission's annual bike tour went well, though participation was down from the previous year.

3. Moscow Tree Commission Update - David Schott

No updates.

4. Recreation Programs Report – Greg Morrison

The recent Cops and Robbers Run went well, and staff are now preparing for the upcoming Half-Marathon and 10K Run. Future events include a gingerbread house contest, a cornhole competition, and the annual Winter Carnival and Parade. Due to low registration numbers, 5th/6th grade basketball is co-ed this year. In response to the growing popularity of pickleball, the department is going to try offering designated pickleball times in the Hamilton Indoor Recreation Center gymnasium; pickleball lines will also be added to the gym floor when it is refinished next August.

5. Itani and Lola Clyde Park Grand Openings Report – Dwight Curtis

The grand opening for Itani Park was well attended. The grand opening for Lola Clyde Park was delayed due to the cold weather; an announcement will be made once a new date has been determined.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Interviews for the Recreation Supervisor position have been completed and a provisional offer will be made soon.

Susan Petersen mentioned that she sees people at the Lola Clyde Park playground nearly every day. She also asked about the status of the algae at Hordemann Pond. Schott said the Department of Environmental Quality has been testing the water monthly; algae levels are still above the accepted thresholds but should return to acceptable levels as the colder temperatures kills the algae. Several options are being considered to help prevent the issue in the future

UPCOMING EVENTS / MEETINGS

Next Commission meeting is December 5, 2019. NOTE: the December meeting is a combined Nov/Dec meeting because of the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays.

ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned at 6:22 pm.

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Minutes Approved On


Clerk/Deputy Signature