

PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION



Robby Cooper
Commission Chair

~Meeting Minutes~

Dwight Curtis
Staff Liaison

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<http://www.ci.moscow.id.us/455/Parks-Recreation-Commission>

Thursday
February 27, 2020

5:21 PM

Hamilton Indoor Rec Center
1724 E F Street

WELCOME AND ATTENDANCE

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: Justin Minden

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: Kristin Graham, Staff; Karen Johnston, 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 January 23, 2020 Minutes

Presentation of Parks and Recreation and Parks Commission minutes for approval.

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

RESULT:	APPROVED BY ACCLAMATION VOTE
MOVER:	Kisha
SECONDER:	Tribble
AYES:	Burton, Cooper, Heinlein, Kisha, Petersen, Steele, Tribble, Zaske

2. Public Comment Period

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

3. Update on Off-Leash Issues at Mountain View Park – Dwight Curtis

PROPOSED ACTIONS: Commission will hear an update from the Director on issues related to the off-leash area at Mountain View Park. Provide recommended action, if needed.

Curtis reported that as happens every year, the recent wet weather has resulted in the closure of fields around Moscow in order to minimize damage to the turf; when this happens, signs are

posted informing the public that the fields are closed, notices are published in the newspaper, and information is on the City of Moscow website and on Facebook. There are always a few people who disregard the signs, but this year the number of people who have ignored the notices and continued to take their dogs to the off-leash area of the Mt. View Park field has been problematic. As a result, it was decided that gates would be installed across the bridges that are the access points to the field; when the fields are closed, the gates will be locked. Staff is optimistic this will be successful in preventing access and thereby minimizing damage to the field; however, if the problem continues, stronger actions may be considered, up to and including proposing to City Council that the off-leash use option be eliminated. Commissioners asked whether locations for another dog park might be available, including at Lola Clyde Park and the West Palouse River Drive property, but there currently are no other suitable sites available. No action was suggested by the commissioners.

4. Consideration of Playground Equipment Selection for Rotary Park – David Schott

PROPOSED ACTIONS: Commission will receive presentation on playground equipment replacement for Rotary Park, to include public preferences. Make recommendation to City Council.

As part of the process of selecting new playground equipment for the 5-12 year old age group at Jim Lyle Rotary Park, which scheduled to be replaced this summer, nine proposals were presented to the public for voting; the public favorite was option #8, receiving about 38% of the votes. The total cost for this design is \$58,000.00. After some discussion about the interest in providing exciting and interesting play spaces while also meeting safety standards, the commissioners agreed to forward their recommend to City Council that the purchase and installation of the playground equipment presented in proposal #8 be approved.

RESULT:	APPROVED BY ACCLAMATION VOTE
MOVER:	Kisha
SECONDER:	Burton
AYES:	Burton, Cooper, Heinlein, Kisha, Petersen, Steele, Tribble, Zaske

Niels Damman (1122 East 6th Street, Moscow) introduced himself as a representative of the Lena Whitmore Elementary School PAT and asked whether the City had considered their group's request for City assistance with the replacement of one of their school's playground structures. Curtis said a formal response was in the works and would be sent to Mary Ellen Brewick, who has been the City's primary contact for their group.

5. Consideration of Rope Climbing Playground Equipment – Dwight Curtis/David Schott

PROPOSED ACTIONS: Commission will receive presentation on rope climbing playground equipment as possible future additions to new and existing playgrounds. Give consensus on concepts for staff planning.

In response to interest expressed for adding more adventurous features to City playgrounds, Curtis said that he has been researching possible options that would still meet the current safety guidelines. He then presented a variety of playgrounds that feature a rope climbing structure for children, demonstrating many of the types of designs and equipment available. Curtis said if the commissioners were interested in adding a rope climbing feature to one of the City's parks, staff

would investigate the options available as well as potential locations for the structure; Curtis added that in addition to the possibility of adding a rope structure to an existing park, another option might be to forego a more traditional playground structure at the soon-to-be-developed Milton Arthur Park and install a rope climbing structure instead. Burton asked about the cost; Curtis said the costs were comparable to traditional playground equipment – the play structure itself is less expensive, but the need for an extended safety tile area adds to the overall price. The commissioners indicated they were in favor of investigating the possibility of adding a rope climbing structure to a City park.

6. Reserve Information Table at Summer Farmers Market – Robby Cooper

PROPOSED ACTIONS: Commission will review Farmers Market information table availability and decide on date/s.

Because an updated Farmers Market calendar was not available in time for the meeting, selection of a date will be postponed until the next Parks and Recreation commission meeting.

7. Master Plan 2019 Actionable Items Update – Dwight Curtis

PROPOSED ACTIONS: Commission will receive update from the Director on the Parks and Facilities Standards project. No action.

Curtis reported that the initial matrix information has been submitted to the NRPA's standards matrix generator; however, he anticipates needing to make some changes and expects he will be submitting it at least once more before the final results are available. Once received, he will meet with the subcommittee to evaluate the results, and hopes to present the information at the next commission meeting.

REPORTS

1. General Parks and Facilities General - David Schott

Six people are scheduled to be interviewed for the open full-time parks position; this position is primarily responsible for the maintenance of the City's ballfields. Pruning of the east-west downtown trees is planned for this year.

2. Moscow Pathways Commission Update - David Schott

The Moscow Pathways Commissioners have been working on their 2020 commission goals.

3. Moscow Tree Commission Update - David Schott

The Moscow Tree Commission is preparing for April's Arbor Day celebration.

4. Recreation Programs - Karen Johnston

The annual Super Bowl Bash and Snow Ball events went well, as did the City Employee Chili Cookoff. An AmeriCorps volunteer has been coming to the Eggan Youth Center's after-school program once a week to do sustainability-related activities with the youth.

OPEN DISCUSSION

Cooper reported that the climate change working group, which is a subcommittee of the Sustainable Environment Commission, meets in the Mayor's Conference Room at City Hall on the second and fourth Mondays of the month; they welcome input from the other commissions and they are planning a public meeting soon to get gather input from the public

UPCOMING EVENTS / MEETINGS

Next commission meeting is March 26, 2020.

ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned 6:47 pm.

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Minutes Approved On
JUN 25 2020
Dorene Howard
Clerk/Deputy Signature