

PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION



Robby Cooper
Chair
prc@ci.moscow.id.us

Regular Meeting
~Minutes~

David Schott / Greg Morrison
Staff Liaisons
208-883-7098 / 208-883-7088

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

Thursday
August 26, 2021

5:15 PM

Hamilton Indoor Rec Center
1724 E F Street

The meeting was called to order at 5:17 p.m.

PRESENT: Robby Cooper, Chair; Mark Heinlein; Susan Petersen; Ted Kisha, Vice Chair; Susan Steele; Sara Zaske.

STAFF: Donna Howard; David Schott, Assistant Parks and Recreation Director/Staff Liaison; Brandy Sullivan, City Council Liaison.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

October 24, 2021: Parks and Recreation Commission Annual Report to City Council

Cooper thanked those who attended last week's Parks and Recreation Strategic Planning workshop.

REGULAR AGENDA

1. Approval of Parks and Recreation Commission July 22, 2021 Minutes (ACTION ITEM) – Robby Cooper

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

Petersen moved, Heinlein seconded to approve the minutes as presented. Acclamation Vote: Ayes, Unanimous. Nays: None. Abstentions: None. Motion carried.

2. Public Comment and Response to Previous Comments (limited to 10 minutes)

None offered.

3. Consideration of the 2020 Weed Monitoring Report and Pesticide Free Park (ACTION ITEM) - David Schott

Staff will present the 2020 Weed Monitoring Report for Lillian Woodworth Otness Park and Almon Asbury Lieuallen Park. A proposed new pilot program to create one pesticide free park each calendar year will be discussed.

PROPOSED ACTIONS: Recommend approval of a new pilot program to create a pesticide free park each calendar year beginning in 2022, or provide staff further direction.

Schott shared data collected by Parks staff since 2019 recording the prevalence and types of weeds as well as the amount of time spent manually controlling weeds in two City parks that were no longer being treated with pesticides. While it was no surprise that staff spent more time pulling weeds by hand,

mowing and otherwise controlling weeds without herbicides, there was not a huge increase in weeds the first year of this project. Schott observed, however, that in the second year of these parks being pesticide free, the weeds more than doubled and involved more work hours to manually control. Schott proposed a compromise of sorts that would allow people with sensitivities and aversions to traditional herbicides a way to enjoy the parks while ensuring responsible use of resources. The use of pesticides will be paused in a different park every year; that is, one park will be chosen to be pesticide free in 2022, then a different park in 2023, etc. This rotating system will allow for at least one pesticide free park for people to use while keeping the growth of weeds at bay. He added that Parks staff are already using minimal amounts of pesticides to control noxious weeds as required by state and federal regulations. Schott presented this plan to the City's Sustainable Environment Commission and they recommended approval of this proposal. After discussing types of herbicides, alternative methods of controlling noxious weeds and fungi, the commissioners agreed to the proposal from Schott and asked for follow up reports on how the system works.

Zaske moved, Kisha seconded to approve choosing one park each year to be designated as pesticide-free, rotating to a different park annually, while continuing to consider alternative, less toxic methods and continuing to monitor and measure the success of these programs. Acclamation Vote: Ayes, Unanimous. Nays: None. Abstentions: None. Motion carried.

4. Consideration of the Parks and Recreation Commission Annual Tour (ACTION ITEM) – Robby Cooper

Discussion of the date and time for the Parks and Recreation annual tour.

PROPOSED ACTIONS: Approve date and time for the Parks and Recreation Commission annual tour; or provide staff with further direction.

The commissioners discussed options for the tour. Since one was not done in 2020, they chose to tour this year. It will commence after of the September 23rd regular meeting. As the September meeting was not cancelled, no motion was needed.

5. Consideration of the Meadow Brooke Second Addition Pedestrian Bridge (ACTION ITEM) – David Schott

The City has received a proposal from the developer of the Meadow Brooke Second Addition subdivision to place a pedestrian bridge, with cost sharing from the City, across Paradise Creek to the south of the subdivision and north of Meadow View Street.

PROPOSED ACTIONS: Recommend approval of a pedestrian bridge as part of the Meadow Brooke Subdivision to cross Paradise Creek; or provide staff with further direction.

Germer Construction approached the City about constructing a pedestrian bridge and a 10-foot pathway; Schott shared aerial photos and site pictures of the proposed location. The project's cost, estimated between \$90,000 to \$120,000, would be split evenly between Germer and the City, with the City using Parks and Recreation's Capital Improvements funds. Schott said the Pathways Commission recommended approval of the project. The commissioners discussed the impact and benefits of the project on the local residents and neighborhoods, how it would connect the areas and allow walking access to the Moscow School District Community Playfields and pathways, concern over the cost of the project, and how capital improvement funding worked. Petersen remove herself from voting as her nephew is involved in the project and wanted to avoid any conflict of interest.

Steele moved, Kisha seconded to recommend approval of constructing a pedestrian bridge with cost sharing between the City and the developer. Acclamation Vote: Ayes: Kisha, Steele, Cooper (3). Nays: Heinlein, Zaske (2). Abstentions: Petersen (1). Motion carried.

6. Consideration of the Woodbury Subdivision Phase 1 Parkland Dedication (ACTION ITEM) – David Schott

The City has been working with the developer of the Woodbury subdivision to satisfy the required parkland dedication requirements for phase 1 of the subdivision. Staff is recommending deferring the 0.61 acres of required parkland dedication for phase 1 until phase 2 of the subdivision.

PROPOSED ACTIONS: Recommend approval of deferring the required 0.61 acres of parkland dedication to phase 2 of the subdivision; or provide staff with further direction.

Schott shared photos and the preliminary plat map of the proposed development, to be located on the northeast end of Moscow, off of Slonaker Drive. By deferring the phase 1 parkland dedication and combining it with the phase 2 parkland dedication, the subdivision would have a single City park. The commissioners discussed the details of the parkland dedication, access to trails and pathways, connectivity to adjacent neighborhoods and nearby parks, and the 75 homes to be built in the development. Schott added that the developers plan on having multiple green spaces or natural areas, complete with trees, shrubs, a drip irrigation system, and noted to the west there's private property often frequented with wildlife. He also said this project would align with the Parks and Recreation Master Plan's goal of increased connectivity in that it would be part of a comprehensive network of paths. At this time there isn't a playground in the plans but it isn't far from Morgan's Orchard and Mountain View parks. Schott closed by recommending to defer the phase 1 parkland dedication until phase 2 parkland dedication.

Peterson moved, Heinlein seconded to approve deferring the phase 1 parkland dedication of the Woodbury Subdivision until phase 2. Acclamation Vote: Ayes, Unanimous. Nays: None. Abstentions: None. Motion carried.

REPORTS

1. Recreation and Pool Update – Greg Morrison

Morrison was unable to attend and will report at the next meeting.

2. Parks and Facilities Update – David Schott

The new pickleball court at Ghormley Park should be complete by October 2021. There will be a soft opening this fall and a grand opening this spring after irrigation and landscaping projects are completed. Morrison is in charge of setting up the courts' reservation system and determining if there will be equipment available to rent.

Dutch Elm disease was detected in Ghormley Park resulting in the loss of trees. Parks staff are also treating the remaining elms to prevent more infections.

Donated benches are being installed at Almon Asbury Lieuellen and East City parks, Heron's Hideout and potentially Itani Park.

The staff are currently cultivating cover crops at Harvest Park, focusing on seeding around the trees to inhibit weed growth. The area is being used as a test area to see what can flourish until it is more developed.

Hordemann Pond in Kiwanis Park is again infected with an algae bloom. The coming fiscal year's budget includes funding to purchase and install an aerator which should help prevent future occurrences.

The developers of the Edington subdivision were given permission to move dirt onto the City's property located off of West Palouse River Drive, south of the river. They are leveling out the area to prepare for construction. The City's property was being cultivated per an agreement with a local farmer but that has been terminated and the Parks Department will assume responsibility for managing the land.

Cooper announced that this will be his last year on Parks and Recreation Commission; he is moving and will no longer be eligible to be a commissioner.

Steele asked about the next steps with the strategic plan; Cooper is waiting to hear back from Pfiffner.

Kisha asked Sullivan for an update on the City's plans to request American Rescue Plan Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds; Sullivan said there will be a City Council workshop for it, scheduled for October 11, 2021.

UPCOMING EVENTS / MEETINGS

The next Parks and Recreation Commission meeting is September 23, 2021. It will be followed by the annual tour.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:32 pm.

Minutes Approved On

SEP 23 2021


Clerk/Deputy Signature