

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
July 22, 2021

5:15 PM

Hamilton Indoor Rec Center
1724 E F Street

The meeting was called to order at 5:16 pm.

PRESENT: Robby Cooper, Chair; Mark Heinlein; Nancy Tribble; Susan Steele; Susan Petersen.

STAFF: Kristie Ingham, Staff; Sandra Kelly, City Council Liaison; Tyler Palmer, Deputy City Supervisor
Jen Pfiffner, Deputy City Supervisor; David Schott, Assistant Parks and Recreation Director/Staff Liaison;

ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were none.

REGULAR AGENDA

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

Presentation of minutes for approval.

ACTION: Approve minutes as presented.

Tribble moved, Steele 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)

Members of the public may speak to the Commission regarding matters NOT on the agenda or currently pending before the Commission. None offered.

3. City of Moscow Water Conservation – Palmer

Deputy City Supervisor Tyler Palmer opened by asking the question, where do we get our water? He explained that our main water source is the Palouse Basin; groundwater is pumped from local aquifers into artesian wells. The water levels began declining years ago and have been shrinking while our population is increasing. The Palouse Basin Aquifer Committee (PBAC) was formed to ensure water for the region would be available and promote conservation of this resource, allowing for growth and economic development. The Cities of Moscow and Pullman and the two local universities make up the PBAC; they are working together to find water supply alternatives. They are also working to avoid problems like in 1976 when the Army Corps of Engineers proposed a plan to pump water from the Snake River and store it on private land belonging to local farmers. The farmers formed the Organization for the Preservation of Agricultural Land (OPAL) and stopped that from happening. The PBAC is considering options to deal with the declining water levels but they are expensive and might only solve water issues for 50-years or so, not permanently. One way to help with the problem is to ask everyone to conserve water; parks are one area where the City can cut back on water usage. Palmer suggested looking at reducing watering at areas that are not used year-round; looking at alternatives like artificial turf; considering alternative landscaping. He suggested looking at the master plan for changes that would use less water. Tribble

asked if the City's parks could use reclaimed water; Palmer explained that only the UI and the City's Waste Water Reclamation and Reuse Facility (WRRF) had reclaimed water systems for irrigation. The City installed a pipe near Ghormley Park and when UI expands their irrigation system, the city has permission to tie into it. Tribble then asked about new developments like on Palouse River Drive; with new developments there's an increase in water usage, how will growth like this affect the aquifer levels. Palmer explained that every community as it grows has to find new water resources. We are not in danger of running out of water in the near future, but we will all have to eventually adapt to water usage changes. Schott explained that he and his staff discussed water conservation and one idea is to turn irrigation systems down in certain areas, if they reduce but don't stop watering it can conserve without damaging the turf.

ACTION: No action, informational.

4. Parks and Recreation P&R Strategic Planning Approaches (ACTION ITEM) – Pfiffner

Jen Pfiffner, Deputy City Supervisor, brought examples of the Strategic Plans for the Moscow Farmers Market, the Moscow Arts Commission and the City of Moscow. Pfiffner also plans on sharing commission surveys. Cooper asked if all the commission members need to attend the Strategic Planning Workshop. Pfiffner explained that yes, they all need to be present and they usually break into sub groups to work together. Petersen asked if there is a set structure for the workshop. Pfiffner explained the first workshop is around 3 hours long; sometimes more time will need to be scheduled. She explained that first the mission statement needs to be agreed upon, then they should focus on problems to be solved and goals for the commission. Petersen stated she doesn't quite understand what this workshop is but she will attend. Cooper stated his department at work did strategic planning and the end result made his department excel together and it was a fun process.

ACTION: Approve strategic planning approach for the Parks and Recreation Commission.

Peterson moved, Tribble seconded to approve the Strategic Planning Approach and move forward to the next step. Acclamation Vote: Ayes: Unanimous. Nays: None. Abstentions: None. Motion carried.

5. Consideration of a Date, Time, and Duration for a Strategic Planning Workshop (ACTION ITEM) – Robby Cooper

The commissioners discussed when they were available to meet and possible locations.

ACTION: Approve date, time and duration for a strategic planning workshop.

Tribble moved, Heinlein seconded to meet on August 19, 2021 at 5:15 pm in Council Chambers for the Parks and Recreation Strategic Planning Workshop. Acclamation Vote: Ayes: Unanimous. Motion carried.

Petersen left the meeting at 6:20 and there was no longer a quorum.

6. Consideration of the 2020 Weed Monitoring Report (ACTION ITEM) - David Schott

Postponed until next meeting.

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

Postponed until next meeting.

REPORTS

1. Recreation and Pool Update – Greg Morrison
Postponed until next meeting.

2. Parks and Facilities Update – David Schott

Schott has never in his career seen a year like this. The Parks Department has almost no seasonal employees so the full-time staff are doing all of the summer maintenance work. In addition to the extra work that happens every summer, the extreme heat means more watering and is hard on the staff. Meredyth Whiteman resigned, the Moscow School District Community Ballfield Maintenance Worker, so the Parks Department is down one full-time employee as well. The City approved two new full-time employee positions beginning the next fiscal year which will help. Schott recently started helping with rounds, watering and other tasks every Friday since the staff isn't able to do get all of their work finished. Construction began on the new pickleball courts at Ghormley; they should be completed by mid-September. The City is seeking a grant for improving the Mountain View Park restrooms and building connector pathways. The Hamilton-Lowe Aquatics Center's play structure will be replaced in September after the pool closes for the season.

UPCOMING EVENTS / MEETINGS

Next Parks and Recreation Commission meeting is August 26, 2021

ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 6:30 pm.

Minutes Approved On
AUG 26 2021
Dorene Howard
Clerk/Deputy Signature