

**City of Hermiston**  
**Parks and Recreation Department**  
*Regular Meeting*

January 14, 2016

5:30pm

**Attendance:**

- ✓ Briana Cortaberria
- ✓ Jean Stahlberg
- ✓ Carlisle Harrison  
Steve Williams  
Lisa Garcia
- ✓ Mike Kay  
Ryan Severs
- ✓ Jackie Myers, Council Liaison
- ✓ Doug Primmer, Council Liaison

**Staff:**

- ✓ Larry Fetter, Director
- ✓ Dan Earp, Recreation Supervisor
- ✓ Gina Wicks, Department Assistant

Chairperson Cortaberria called the regular meeting to order at 5:30pm. Present were members Stahlberg, Harrison, Kay, Councilors Myers and Primmer.

**November 2015 Minutes**

Board members C. Harrison moved and J. Stahlberg seconded that minutes of the regular scheduled meeting of November 2015 be approved. Motion carried unanimously. With no comment from audience to address the committee meeting Chair Cortaberria turned meeting over to Director Fetter.

**Public Attendance**

Jackie Linton  
Ken May  
Eileen Laromoe  
Andrew Cooley  
Uppa Shakpa  
Barry Trapp

**REPORTS**

*Photos of the Park*

**A) NORTHSIDE PARK DESIGN PROJECT continued**

Presenting an overview from the November 2015 meeting, Mr. Fetter went over ideas to be thinking about at Northside Park 1) who might park serve – kids and adults, 2) should park be active/passive design, 3) the park would be a daylight to midnight facility- like other parks in Hermiston.

Director Fetter told members he has secured a demolition permit to remove the non-functional restroom and it would be removed in spring time. Several designs ideas were mentioned for the Tot Lot at the previous meeting that included educational, discovery, and adventure fun elements. Other elements mentioned; recording history of the park, incorporating shade, lights, bench seating, a climbing wall, new play structure with a slide, a drinking fountain. Mr. Fetter suggested to members keeping the design simple to prevent over-crowding and over-lapping elements. Because Northside Park is a neighborhood park the biggest decision is how to treat it, as one large space or design as two separate spaces as it is currently. The park will not include a restroom.

The Director said the project design will be challenging because the lot size configuration. His suggestion to build the park would be to add a landscape buffer perimeter, have park access off each street, include shade structure with seating, a separation between soft space and hard space (sport court), and landscape with natural shade with low maintenance using shrubby and trees.

Using brain-storming ideas from last meeting Mr. Fetter set up an exercise that would include both audience and committee members. A variety of images of small space parks were shown with different components ranging from exploring to educational elements. The Director asked all in attendance to place a sticky dot next to their favorite park images that they think would be ideal for Northside Park. The images that received the most dots include a variety of play surfaces, a basketball court, a cement dragon, swings, a shade structure, and a slide. Director Fetter said he would take the information and incorporate the most popular elements into a park layout presenting it to the group during February 11th meeting.

Board member Harrison asked Jackie Linton, neighbor to Northside Park, what age of children live around the park. Ms. Linton stated kids range from small children to junior high. Chairperson Cortaberría asked Mr. Fetter where the closest activity court would be from Northside. He said Rocky Heights Elementary and across Hwy 395 to Sunset Park.

Councilor Primmer asked if anymore thought had gone into retaining the Merry-go-Round to keep it functional and retain some of the history of park. Director Fetter said he has some thoughts in how to integrate the piece and make it functional but is not ready to share with committee as of yet. A big concern is the entrapment under the Merry-go-Round. Mr. May suggested adding metal side skirting under the Merry-go-Round to keep kids from going underneath but comments expressed thought that could generate more risks. Mr. Fetter will continue to research and bring some ideas back to the next meeting.

There was some interest in naming the park after **Luster Greenwood** who was the key inspiration behind the park.

## **B) PROJECTS UPDATE**

- **Newport Park**

Director Fetter informed committee the project at Newport Park is completed, is collecting water however it is retaining water a little longer so a dry well will be installed at the inlet portion of the system to allow water to disperse into rock bed.

- **Sunset Park**

The new entrance into Public Works from Elm Street is now being used. In the spring, the old entrance will be removed and work will begin following the design of the conceptual plans. Mr. Fetter stated he hopes to write a grant for the park project. Councilor Meyers asked if the Merry-go-Round couldn't fit into the plans of Northside Park could it be used in Sunset Park or another park where more room is available. Director Fetter stated it could be moved and it would be considered.

- **Victory Square Park**

The new restroom has been installed with concrete work almost finished. The shelter's roof at VSP is badly deteriorated and Mr. Fetter stated there is just enough money available from the original grant to put on a metal roof.

- **Utility Landscaping and Composting**

The park maintenance crew has been asked to do the utility mowing which would mean hiring a couple extra seasonal employees. City utilities will be paying the parks department for services rendered and by using the same labor pool it would allow the department to create a compost site. The site would be available to the community on designated days during the summer and the department would recycle material using chipped and organic compost as a supplement in our parks. The compost site will be located at the Waste Water Recycling Plant. Board member C. Harrison asked if there is plans for a chipper. Mr. Fetter stated he planned on having conversations with potential partners that could share in the use/cost of a chipper.

- **Senior Center update**

Both Chairperson B. Cortaberría and M. Kay asked for an update on Senior Center.

Mr. Fetter told the group that the preferred Aspen site location is now unavailable since property owners decided not to sell. The secondary site on Ridgeway is now the primary site which includes one acre behind the Hermiston Library (parking lot area) and one acre owned by the Hermiston School District (HSD, the old Armand site). This gives city a two acre plot which is the minimum size needed for the center. HSD recently made the property available on a long-term lease, 50 years, which meets the requirements. The design plans are being refined to fit the new location and Mr. Fetter hopes to receive a preliminary design within six weeks.

It was clarified that now that there will be no purchase of property needed for the project the entire grant money will be strictly used for bricks and mortar.

The foundation of the original agreement that originated over two years ago between the city and seniors was to protect the seniors' use of the building. The city will own the building, the HSD will own ground they currently own so depending on where the building goes the city may own the ground or may not. The arrangement is that the city will own the building and the seniors will be a no cost tenant user. The Senior Center exclusive hours are *Monday-Friday, 8:00am-3:00pm*. If a need arises and the seniors need the building beyond their regular hours it could easily be scheduled.

During the first five years of the Senior Center opening, the building will be used *exclusively* for senior activities/events only. After five years, it becomes available for city programs however it would have to be outside the senior's *exclusive* hours. The seniors have a 501C3 that makes them a formal Non-Profit group that has rights and responsibilities and must submit records to state to remain certified. The agreement between the city and their board, which meets monthly, is an agreement-partnership between the two entities. It specifies that there will be ongoing communication and a joint management committee that will meet monthly to go over schedules and work thru details.

- **Program Highlight's**

An update of past, current and upcoming activities and events were given. New events included the Holiday Light Festival that included light shows during the month of December on 2<sup>nd</sup> Street and "Breakfast with Santa" held at the ARC that attracted over 90 people, young and old.