

City of Hermiston
Parks and Recreation Department
Regular Meeting

Sept 8, 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 September 8th meeting to order at 5:30pm. Present were Board Members J. Stahlberg, S. Williams, R. Severs, M. Kay and Councilors Myers and D. Primmer. Both board members Carlisle Harrison and Lisa Garcia were absent.

July 2016 Minutes

Board members S. Williams moved and J. Stahlberg seconded that minutes of the regular scheduled meeting of July 14, 2016 be approved. Motion carried unanimously, with M. Kay making an abstention from voting.

Public Attendance

Ginger Colgan
Matt Richmond
Alex Ramirez
Jacob Zumwalt
Ken May
Eileen Laramor

Public Comment

Chairperson Cortaberria asked for public comments. Director Fetter explained the attendees in audience were representing a local Disc Golf Club and stated the guests would give history on themselves, their club, and explain the sport.

REPORTS

A) Cell Phone APP for City Parks & Recreation Department

Mr. Fetter held up the 2016 Fall Parks and Recreation Guide showing committee members a picture of the new app that is now available for all Smart phone and Android users.

B) Committee Vacancies

The Director reminded and encouraged members with terms expiring on October 31st to get their applications turned in if they would like to continue being part of the committee.

Committee Members Expiring in November:

Position #4 Carlisle Harrison
#5 Steve Williams
#6 Lisa Garcia
#7 Mike Kay

Deadline for submitting applications is September 26, 2016 per Steve Williams.

C) Disc Golf

Director Fetter welcomed the disc golf visitors and asked them to introduce themselves and the interest they share in the sport. He encourage committee member to attend the 6:30pm meeting open to the community for discussing a disc golf course.

Club Secretary of the Umatilla Disc Golf Club, Ginger Colgan, stated she had been involved and playing disc golf for a year and half and it has helped rehabilitated her.

Mr. Richmond, President of the Club, stated he and Colgan started the club together. The Corp of Engineers allowed development of a nine-basket course in 2013 near McNary Dam. Currently it has been expanded to an 18 basket course. The Umatilla course has some grass with majority area being a trail setting. He explained that Disc Golf is similar to regular golf whereas every time a player throws a disc it counts as a stroke. A player throws at a target trying to use as little amount of strokes as possible. Most courses are not like a traditional golf course, they are more of a hike, more trees, and are not

assessable by golf carts. Mr. Richmond stated it is not uncommon to cover 2-3 miles in a round of disc golf on a small course. He indicated start-up equipment for a player would be a backpack with discs of varying sizes, weights, and shapes for different flight characteristics and speeds needed for different holes. Cost of a starter pack for Disc Golf can vary from \$10-\$30 dollars. Mr. Richmond stated an avid player could have anywhere from 25-30 disc's in their pack. As in PGA Golf Tournaments, Disc Golf Tournaments can be sanctioned with a PDGA label with throwers recording their scores to get a PDGA rating. A tournament can attract an average of 70-90 people to an area.

The idea for a permanent course has been around for a while Director Fetter stated and at a recent Good Shepherd Wellness Coalition meeting the topic resurfaced again. Mr. Fetter presented a concept in a conversation of how an 18 hole disc course could be designed using city property around the Pit property with having minimal crossings across the trail. This location has adjoining properties which belong to Hermiston Irrigation District and Good Shepherd Medical Center. Director Fetter emphasized the maintenance and upkeep of a Disc Golf Course would be totally different then from a Golf Course. A disc golf course has fewer maintenance costs associated with upkeep and it can be played year round. The conceptual design would be a great fit stated Fetter as it would utilize the natural landscaping and has an established parking lot. Director Fetter stated applying for grants would be necessary to fund the project of around \$100,000 which would include installation of 18 holes, minor landscaping and a public restroom that would be used by both disc players and trail users.

Board member Kay stated the most popular activity in PE classes at the High School is disc golf, including the non – traditional athletic type kids. He indicated during Turn-off the TV Week an activity of a 9 Hole Disc Golf Course was set up with temporary holes at Sunset Elementary and it was incredibly popular with families. A suggestion from Mr. Kay which has been effective for HHS in designing a concept is instead of thinking of the course as one 18 course think of it has two – 9 hole courses, positioning the holes accordingly with restroom being in close proximity. This way players or families have a choice of completing a 9 hole course or crossing over to play the second 9 holes of golf completing the entire 18 holes.

Board member Williams stated the Rotary Club will be hosting visiting Rotarians from Croatia and Mr. Richmond will be available during one of Friday's activities to offer demonstrations on how to throw a disc.

D) Sunset Park Update

Reminding committee members, Director Fetter stated the overall plan for Sunset will included a detention pond that will collect storm water run-off from 4th and Elm Street since current system does not have the capacity to drain the water during high periods of rain fall. Phase 1 will also include a half-court basketball concrete pad (50' x 42'), re-working and adding hard surface sidewalks, irrigation, chain link fencing for security and split rail fencing along 4th Street and Willow Court area. There is a small budget to add additional playground equipment upgrades to existing equipment that will meet safety standards. Current slide does not meet standards so it will be removed. Mr. Fetter indicated he has a budget of around \$40,000 for the project. All the work that has been done so far on the project has been done in-house.

M. Kay asked if there had been any discussion including pickle ball on the half-court concrete pad. Mr. Fetter indicated he had been thinking about that same idea however additional fencing and net would be needed.

R. Severs stated now that school has started there is no place for tennis players to play. Mr. Kay stated that had been rectified by allowing community player's day use of tennis courts at Sunset Elementary site. He stated since the courts are fully enclosed it is not considered an attachment to the property. Local tennis groups are currently playing on Tuesdays and Thursday mornings 8:00 to 10:30am. Mr. Fetter stated he will have signs made and installed.

E) Newport Park Update

While nearing completion, Mr. Fetter stated it has been hard to established grass during the summer months because of summer temperatures. Plans are to hydro seed both Newport and Sunset Parks soon to allow grass to germinate and get established. Finishing the backstop at Newport will also be completed in a couple weeks. The Director indicated future discussions for Newport would be converting the existing concession stand shelter into a public restroom since plumbing is already intact. Mr. Fetter stated the detention area has been forming puddles on the ground surface leaving the top soil very silky which in turn keeps the irrigation water from passing through to sub-soil. He stated this condition could require a soil adjustment.

F) Victory Square Park Update

Director Fetter stated he is doing the final reimbursement report to submit to state to close out the books and complete the project. Mr. Fetter reminded members the actual Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) Grant goes back prior to him coming to Hermiston and he is now in final stages of completing the requirements. The project had a land conversion associated with the grant which he stated was time consuming and challenging in the accounting process. The improvements at Newport Park included a kiosk scout project, new restroom, and a new roof on the picnic shelter, new playground improvements, and park lightning upgrades with light poles being moved. In earlier conversations, a parking lot was proposed adjacent to the new restroom on the south side however with no resources available new money will be needed to fund a future project. Mr. Fetter indicated that Victory Square Park is considered a community park and should have a paved/stripped parking lot for 20 vehicles.