

CITY OF ELKO
PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
6:30 P.M., P.S.T.THURSDAY, AUGUST 16, 2018
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS / CITY HALL
1751 COLLEGE AVE., ELKO, NEVADA

CALL TO ORDER

Colby Curtis, Chairman, called the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Present: Colby Curtis, Chairman
Harmony Stahl
Jim Conner
Amber Fox
Fred Beitia

Excused: Lynette Davis
Danny Story
Michelle Smith
Andrew Storla

City Staff: James Wiley, Parks and Recreation Director
Nikki Johnson, Aquatics Manager
Joe Carr, Parks Superintendent

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

April 19, 2018 – Regular Session **FOR POSSIBLE ACTION**

**** A motion was made by Harmony Stahl, seconded by Fred Beitia, to approve the minutes from April 19, 2018.**

The motion passed. (3-0, Colby Curtis and Jim Conner abstained.)

COMMENTS BY THE GENERAL PUBLIC

There were no public comments.

I. REPORTS

A. Staff Reports.

1. Report on the status of the Elko Sports Complex.

James Wiley, Parks and Recreation Director, said the first project entails the excavation of the wetland area. The biggest challenge they have had to-date has been the amount of ground water. Getting equipment out there for utilities was quite the challenge. They are pumping water away from the areas where they need to work and everything is progressing nicely. We have approximately 25 more days to get rid of as much water as we possibly can. We are tying into the existing culvert on Errecart and Bullion for the storm drain. One of the challenges for one of the utilities is the slope that supports the bridge and roadway; the pipe has to go directly through the slope. They had to back the river up via sandbags and divert it around the work zone to get it downstream. The ground won't support scrapers out there so the dozers have been loading into the scrapers for things to be hauled off. The soil we are going to use across the top is really good soil. The trenches like to cave in so they dug them wide and sloped them out to ensure they don't. The trench has gotten a lot smaller as we have progressed through the project. We have a flow meter installed to ensure we don't violate the amount of gallons per minute going into the river. Moving forward, more storm drain utilities will go in and the river crossing is about 3 weeks out until completion. At that point we will be able to dewater directly into the sewer main. The concrete wall will be going in in the next 3 to 4 weeks. Granite has the parking lot and concession project contract. They are hopeful they can get it done before it snows this year.

Harmony Stahl asked if they were responsible for weed abatement.

Mr. Wiley answered yes. Weed abatement in the wetlands themselves will likely be minimal. Along the rest of the site, there will be a lot of weed abatement occurring over the undeveloped area. It likely won't be during the first season though, because we will have to get things growing first. In the wetland areas, the federal government will highly monitor us for five years. They will measure plant growth every few months and we have to meet a certain standard for them to sign off.

Fred Beitia asked about the mosquito abatement.

Mr. Wiley explained they already spray down in that area but it will be ramped up once it's developed. He has been down there most of the summer and there were a lot of mosquitos in the areas with vegetation and Russian Olive trees.

Amber Fox asked if the effort for the dewatering going in, what it was expected to be.

Mr. Wiley explained it has been what they expected but felt the contractor thought they would have spent a little less time doing that. Overall it wasn't surprising to anyone that has been working on the project for years. The contractor requested extra days and we granted them 24 extra contract days.

Ms. Fox asked if that impacts the budget.

Mr. Wiley answered no.

2. Report from the Pool Manager.

Nikki Johnson, Aquatics Manager, said from January through August 15th we had an attendance total of 26,600. In June we had our annual Elko swim meet and had 160 swimmers. The majority of them were Nevada swimmers. We had 4 sessions of swim lessons throughout the summer and all of them were full. Our summer hours end August 25th and swim team will start up again September 4th. Swim team has approximately 100 members. We ran most of the season with 28 lifeguards and 4 cashiers, so we are now ramping down on staff.

Ms. Stahl asked if the attendance amount was about average with previous years.

Ms. Johnson answered yes. We have had a lot of compliments on our new front flooring where we removed the carpet and polished the concrete. She was hopeful they could eventually remove the tile in the bathrooms and polish the concrete in those rooms.

Colby Curtis asked what the typical revenue was for the whole year.

Ms. Johnson answered approximately \$100,000. It is becoming more popular to rent the pool for events and birthday parties.

3. Report from the Parks Superintendent.

Joe Carr, Parks Superintendent, said they are transitioning from their summer to fall schedule. Football and soccer have begun. There was a summer soccer league that used Mountain View Park. It posed as some challenges because we usually use summer months to rehabilitate those fields. The fall soccer seasons immediately follows the summer season so unfortunately we can't rotate those fields out. Football started about two weeks early this year. He felt it was a positive change for them to make because the season will be ending in late September rather than late October. This summer was a bit of a challenge for the Parks Department because they have had some vacancies throughout the summer. We typically have 6 or 7 seasonal employees but are down to 4 right now. It was a really hot summer and there were several nights with a high of 60 or above so we have really had to watch out for fungus outbreaks. There were only a few cases but nothing too bad.

4. Report from the Recreation Manager.

Mr. Wiley said staffing has been challenging this year. Recreation Manager, Tobey Hancock, has been at the fun factory all week because we are so short staffed. The good news with Fun Factory was the summer attendance and registration doubled this year. Mr. Hancock did a fantastic job in improving the format, which showed in our attendance. Skate night will resume on September 21st and be every 3rd Friday of the month until school gets out.

Ms. Stahl asked if they had plans for a DJ (Disc Jockey) this year.

Mr. Wiley explained they quit using DJ's but provide music when they are there because they have their own sound system.

Ms. Stahl said she noticed the music wasn't as good last winter.

Mr. Wiley said you are welcome to put in a playlist request to the Recreation Department. Another event we put on is a Toast to Art. That event struggled in June and July but sold out for the one last Friday. The fall and winter activity guide will be available October 1st. We had a service project up near Sno Bowl. We had a church group come up and paint the exterior of the residence up there. There has been an additional 7 miles of mountain bike course cut in over the summer on the back side of the Sno Bowl. It will likely be formally ready to ride next year. The Foundation was able to secure a \$118,000 grant in order to get that cut in. Once it's complete we will have a 9 mile mountain bike course. There is a new youth soccer league, the NNYSA which is the Northern Nevada Youth Soccer Association. We had initially been told that AYSO was leaving Elko but that didn't end up happening so we will be running two youth soccer leagues this fall. We had some negative attention regarding the Buckaroo Breakfast. There was a lot of misinformation being spread on social media. It stemmed from them not being billed appropriately in the past. With the new staff and everyone wanting to adhere to policy, we billed them the appropriate amount. It was a few hundred dollars than they paid the previous year and they didn't like it. He has spoken with several people in the community in order to put the issue to rest. To that point, we have to charge fees to provide services. A good example of that is what Ms. Johnson presented, we have a budget of \$400,000 and we bring in \$90,000-100,000 in revenue. We are constantly striving to put good products out and provide good service. Once the Sports Complex is complete we will be back at the planning table and start prioritizing a lot of projects that have been deferred for a number of years.

Mr. Curtis asked in regards to the Sports Complex, how much money was donated and how much does the City have to contribute for phase one.

Mr. Wiley answered donations were approximately \$2.8 million. The Pennington Foundation donated \$2.1 million which puts them in the category for complex naming rights. Barrick donated \$500,000, which puts them in the category for field naming rights. Newmont donated \$100,000 and they will go on the donor

recognition wall. The City will be contributing \$11 million when everything is said and done.

B. Board Reports.

There were no reports.

SCHEDULE THE NEXT PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD MEETING

October 18, 2018 at 6:30 p.m.

COMMENTS BY THE GENERAL PUBLIC

There were no public comments.

ADJOURNMENT

Respectfully Submitted,

James Wiley
Parks and Recreation Director