

TENNILLE LIYAH JEFF TONY KEVIN RYAN CARL CRAIG TOM
ADAMS BABAYAN BLICK BRAND DANE HORSLEY LEGG MANNING REYNOLDS
V-CHAIR CHAIR

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS

TRAVIS ROTHWEILER CITY MANAGER
SHAWN BARIGAR COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE
DENNIS BOWYER PARKS & RECREATION DIRECTOR
MITCH HUMBLE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR

**TWIN FALLS CITY PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
MEETING**

March 12, 2013* * * * * 11:30 am * * * * * City of Twin Falls Council Chambers

Members Present: Tony Brand, Kevin Dane, Carl Legg, Ryan Horsley, Craig Manning, Tom Reynolds

Members Absent: Jeff Blick, Tennille Adams, Liyah Babayan

Council Present: Shawn Barigar

Staff Present: Dennis Bowyer, Stacy McClintock, Mitch Humble, Nikki Miller

Staff Absent: N/A

MINUTES

Chairman Kevin Dane called meeting to order 11:38 am.

Item #1 Approve minutes of the February 12th, 2013 meeting

Carl Legg motioned to approve the minutes of the February 12th, 2013 meeting. Ryan Horsley seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Item #2 Parks/Recreation Staff Reports

Stacy went over the Recreation reports. Adult basketball is finishing this month, little or no problems this year. Boys' basketball concluded the first of March; overall this program was a great success. Spring soccer registration is in the late sign-up mode, practices will begin the week of April 1st and games will start on Monday, April 15th. Adult volleyball ended in late February; as usual this league runs very smoothly. Adult softball fees are lower this year due to the number of softballs being used during games. This year, the City will be organizing the Adult Co-ed softball leagues; we are expecting approximately 38-40 teams.

The spring/summer guide is expected to be out toward the end of March or the 1st of April. The Sporties for Shorties program is still a very popular program for kids 4 and 5 years old.

Dennis reported on the Parks report. Springtime is a busy time for the crew, some tree and shrub pruning in the parks and other facilities. The common area maintenance (CAM) contracts were signed with the same companies as last year. Typically the water for the parks is turned on toward the end of March or the 1st of April to open the restrooms. A new employee was hired for the department; actually a Water employee was transferred over to the department. A new large mower also has been ordered for use this year.

Item #3 Dog Off Leash Sites

Dennis reviewed his staff report in regards to the off leash site. Dennis presented to the City Council what the complete cost estimate for the park would be. That estimate is approximately \$276,000 with no in kind donations. This cost is if we have to contract everything out. Cost estimates were attached to agenda. The Council decided not to allocate any funds for the construction of Baxter's Park during this budget year. It should be part of the budget process.

Boise did a pilot program in 2011 and selected seven parks to be used for off leash areas. Dennis has looked at some sites here for a pilot program and discussed the need to contact the home owners within 300 feet of the sites and have neighborhood meetings. We are presenting to Commission to see if they want to proceed with a pilot program for a year with the following in consideration.

- Implement a one year pilot program for 2013
- Have only three or four sites for the pilot program.
- Use sites in different areas of town.
- Hours for dos off leash are sunrise to 10am and 4 pm to 7 pm.
- Have meetings with the neighbors before the program is implemented.
- Have signage at each site with the hours posted and use most of the same regulation and rules we implemented for the temporary dog park at Harmon park this past winter.

Dennis introduced Steve Nutting who is one of the animal control officers for the City and Leah from The Magic Valley Canine Social Club.

Dennis presented his suggestions for the pilot program sites. Auger Falls is going to be closed May 1 to the middle of October for new piping and will not be available for the temporary off leash site. Dennis listed the following for some potential sites.

- Baxter's park
- Fairway Estates, 2 acre area. Grandview and Welch Lane, Titlist Street.
- Harrison Park, Harrison Street, 2 acres.
- Jason Kelly Woodland Hills Park, southwest corner off Stadium and Carriage Lane, 3 acres.

- Rock Creek Canyon Parkway, City owns 46 ½ acres.
- Rock Creek Trails Estate, end of Filer Avenue West 2 ½ acres.
- Sunrise Park, along Madrona Street, 2 acres.
- Sun Terra Retention, North College Rd, west of Grandview, small little park, ½ acre.
- Teton Park, along Shoup Avenue, 4 acre retention site. Neighbors were not in favor of the park being there before.
- Villa Vista retention area, northwest corner of Harrison and El Camino, near Vista Bonita Park, 1/2 acre.

The temporary dog park at Harmon Park is officially over. Leah had a good group down there doing the clean up. Diamond #3 is picked up but there are still people that use the entire park and don't pick up after their animals.

Ryan Horsley asked about a possible partnership with the county and to look at an area like the County's Rock Creek Park? Most of the areas you are looking at are in neighborhoods and people are going to be oppositional.

Carl Legg asked about the success of the temporary park. What were the metrics to determine the success? What are we trying to measure and get out of having a temporary park? Dennis indicated that we did have signup sheets out at Frontier field. There was quite a bit of use at the Frontier field site. We did not do any sign ups this year. Dennis indicated that anytime he drove by it was being utilized. Leah indicated that there is a face book page for Baxter's park and in one month there were 179 likes for the temporary park. We are not sure how to take a survey for the like or dislike of the park. It is a hard thing to measure just like the skate park. The skate parks were a new fad, we built one, and it is still being used. Measuring usage without having someone actually sitting out there and keeping track would be difficult. Carl said when we have a pilot project what are we trying to accomplish and how do we measure it? We could end up with complaints. Kevin asked to hear some of the Animal control Officer's comments on this as he will be in the middle of it.

Animal control Officer Steve Nutting indicated that he is in favor of the park. It gives people a place to go to walk their dogs, to socialize and exercise their dogs. It might slow down the people who walk around with their dogs off leash and then hook them up when they see officials coming. He said he would drive by the Harmon Park site and see it being used and he indicated that they did not receive one phone call to complain about the temporary dog park. He has a suggestion about the Rock Creek Canyon Parkway right under the bridge (trail heads) where they could block it off so people did not walk where the dogs are loose. The dog park would need rules and everything; you wouldn't want little children there. He indicated it was the more serious dog owner that wants to have a place for their dogs. If we were called in to attend to a vicious dog we would have to issue citations if there was a problem, which we haven't had to do. Steve is very in favor of the dog park.

Tony Brand commented on the possible sites Dennis had in mind. Dennis has three favorite sites, Teton Park, it has fencing on two sides and is a retention area which fills

with water and the dogs could be water trained at that site. Another site is Jason Kelly's Woodland Hills park, it is a large retention area also, no playground equipment, and has fencing on two sides. It gets more use but then Morning Sun Park is close by with playground equipment as well as Teton Park which has Sunrise close by. The other site is the actual Baxter's site which has Harry Barry Park not far away which has a playground as well. Steve said there is a site behind Smith's Food King (Teton Park) that he said was basically a no man's land. Carl Legg is concerned about how to measure the success of the pilot program. Carl is in favor of Teton and Rock Creek Canyon Parkway. He is recommending we gather pre and post input with the neighbors to determine the success of the program. Tom Reynolds is looking at Baxter's Park, Teton and Rock Creek Canyon Parkway. Craig Manning liked Baxter's Park, Teton Park and the Jason's Woodland Hills Park. He felt that there was too much usage on the Rock Creek Canyon Parkway Trail and there would be conflict. Shawn Barigar indicated that this was a good conversation from the Council's perspective; he liked the recommendation from Carl to find some level of measurement as you are spending \$250,000 for a dog park. If there is not some kind of level of comfort that there is going to be use for the park he thinks it will be a difficult decision for Council to make next year. The comment about the neighbors' feelings about this, spot checking and measuring of bags of debris and gauging complaints. Dennis presented information to the Council about the Boise project and found that people were a little hesitant but post information found them generally accepting of the park. It is a good idea of spreading them around a little. We are asking for input from on 1) do you think doing off leash trials is a good idea and 2) where would you like to see the pilot program to take place? From a budget perspective we will be looking July, August to start determining where we are going to spend funds so you don't have a great length of time to gather information. Shawn also mentioned that we don't just want to develop a grassy area and not serve the public by not having amenities. Kevin asked for a motion to have us take a look at about three parks. Dennis went over the locations of the parks. Carl Legg motioned to have this Commission to send up to City Council five parks that can be used for the pilot off leash program with some metrics to measure complaints, clean ups, and input from the neighborhood, pre and post. The parks or other open space areas to be considered are Baxter's, Jason's Woodland Hills, Teton, Rock Creek Canyon Parkway, and Villa Vista retention area. Then we can drill it down to 3 or 4 potential sites. Motion was seconded by Ryan Horsley. Motion passed with 5 in favor of, one opposed. Dennis will present to Council in April after the neighborhood meetings. Dennis is asking for help from the commission, we will set up neighborhood meetings and would ask the Commission to attend these meetings.

Item #4 Shoshone Falls/Dierkes Lake Master Plan Sub-Committee Update

Dennis gave an update on the Sub-Committee. The group met on site last week and we talked about connecting the two parks with a walking path, rebuild the old stair case that went down to the river, bring back some of the history, there are some old bolts left over down there from the old ferry, there is an old 1936 landscape plan to make that a national park, Ezra Meeker who traveled the old Oregon Trail who spoke at Shoshone Falls and

there is a rock down there that was named after him. We talked about getting signage for the rock. Talked about getting power to the picnic tables, Kiwanis's nook area is overgrown and Craig Manning has a group of volunteers that are going down some Saturday and we have some money to do some tree pruning and chip them up. At Dierkes Lake we talked about some walking paths to shelters and have an ADA fishing dock further east from the swimming area, when the restroom was built there was a large concrete pad that is just there and we thought about putting a shelter there and may be getting some power there. We are really into doing some history. We are going to meet again and have some recommendations on what we want to accomplish in the next 5 to 10 years.

Item # 5 Arbor Day

Arbor Day is the last Friday in April. Staff is recommending Harrison Park; we have never had it there. When Harrison Street was widened we lost some good size trees so our idea is to put some trees there. We have formed a partnership with the Boys and Girls Club of Magic Valley; they have about 10-15 kids come and help us plant the trees. Cactus Pete's employees have donated funds the last four years and also helped plant trees.

Item #6 Other Items from the Commission

Council reappointed for Tony Brand, Tennille Adams and Carl Legg for another three years. Budget timeline, we get our budget packet the first Thursday in April and then turn it in three weeks later. Our Parks capital improvement proposed budget will be a large one this year. We do have a lot of unfinished parks out there. The proposed budgets will be turned in in May and meetings with finance and senior management will be held. The budget will be presented in June and we will try to adopt the middle of September. We talked about doing another tour in April and wanted to know if you wanted to do a tour outside of our normal meeting. Dennis will email out a couple of dates for the tour.

Meeting adjourned at 12:40 pm. Next meeting, Tuesday, April 9th, 2013 at City Council Chamber, 305 3rd Ave East.



**Nikki Miller
Administrative Assistant
Parks and Recreation**