



TWIN FALLS PARKS AND RECREATION

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BOARD MEMBERS

TENNILLE ADAMS – VIC CHAIR
LIYAH BABAYAN
TONY BRAND

KEVIN DANE – CHAIR
RYAN HORSLEY
MARC LAMBERT

CARL LEGG
JOEY MARTIN
TOM REYNOLDS

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS

TRAVIS ROTHWEILER
SHAWN BARIGAR
DENNIS BOWYER
MITCH HUMBLE

CITY MANAGER
COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE
PARKS & RECREATION DIRECTOR
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR

TWIN FALLS CITY PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING

June 10, 2014* * * * * 11:30 am * * * * * City of Twin Falls Council Chambers

Members Present: Tennille Adams, Joey Martin, Tony Brand, Kevin Dane, Liyah Babayan, Marc Lambert and Tom Reynolds

Members Absent: Carl Legg and Ryan Horsley

Council Present: None

Council Absent: Shawn Barigar

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

Staff Absent: N/A

MINUTES

Chairman Kevin Dane called meeting to order at 11:35 am.

Item #1 Welcome New Member

Welcome to Marc Lambert. Marc shared his desires for being a member of the Commission and some personal background.

The Benefits are Endless...

Item #2 Approve minutes of the May 13, 2014 meeting

Liyah Babayan motioned to accept minutes as is. Tony Brand seconded the motion. Motion carried with a unanimous vote.

Item #3 Parks/Recreation Staff Reports

Baseball & Softball season started on Monday June 9th, and we have hired and trained approximately 40 seasonal staff to do the field preparation, umpiring, tennis court maintenance and batting cage operation. In addition to our recreation leagues, we are also prepping fields for Men's and Co-ed Softball, Church league and a few private rentals. We ended up with 1126 participants compared to 996 last year in our youth baseball/softball program.

During the month of June we will be hosted two different weekend tournaments- June 6th-7th is the Girls Fast-Pitch which has roughly 46 teams in town and will be using Sawtooth, Harmon, Frontier and OTYC.

The Men's and Coed softball league started the week of May 27th and ran smoothly. We have four separate divisions in the coed league, which has allowed us to provide two competitive leagues, one semi competitive league and a purely recreational league that accommodates all skill levels. They will play through the month of June and July with both Coed and Men's tournaments being held during the month of August.

Shotokan Karate is the oldest Karate organization in America. Jesse Clark teaches this ancient art of courtesy, form, and mental strength! Cost \$15 per month on Tuesday and Wednesday nights

Pillar Falls Motor Boat tour is Friday, June 20th.

Junior Disc Golf starts Wednesday July 2nd.

Youth Tennis Lessons started Tuesday June 10th and the second session will start Tuesday July 29th. The cost is \$35 per person

Storytime Pottery is a unique story time and pottery painting event designed for children ages 2-7. Read stories together, have a snack and complete a painting project that relates to the story. Friday sessions start at 10am and Saturday sessions start at 1pm. Friday, June 13th and Saturday, June 21st. The cost is \$12 per person with a \$2 sibling discount.

“Movies in the Park” starts Friday June 27th. We will be showing *The Amazing Spider Man* at 9:30pm at the City Bandshell. So bring your popcorn and enjoy a free movie under the stars!

Rocky Top Cloggers is offering a class through the Twin Falls Parks and Recreation that starts Tuesday June 10th. The cost is \$45 per person and it runs for three weeks.

Concerts in City Park started, Thursday, June 5th. Come out and enjoy the delightful sound of the Twin Falls Band.

Shirts and caps have been ordered for the City of Twin Falls youth baseball/softball program. We would like to extend a big thank you Dr. Ward for sponsoring shirts again this year.

The **ID** system for the volunteer coaches has been up and running for the softball/baseball league and has been working very well. The IDs were first implemented during this league.

The past month the Parks Department has been working on the following projects and regular maintenance:

Baxter's Park has been hydro-seeded and the curb, gutter, sidewalk and parking lot are complete with the exception of signage and striping.

Picnic shelter construction at Frontier Field and Blue Lakes Rotary Park is nearly complete with the perimeter landscaping, electricity and the installation of the tables to be finished.

The pool dome was removed on May 28th, rolled up and on the pallets by 10:30 AM.

General summer park maintenance spraying, irrigation repair, mowing, facility repairs etc. is under progress.

Dennis indicated that the Senior Center will be doing the concessions at the Wednesday night concerts in City Park. Dennis also mentioned up that since we lost Burt Huish the Municipal Band has reached out to the City Council members to assist in hosting the concerts. Dennis will be hosting June 19.

Item #4 Annual Swimming Pool Report Plan Update

Part of the agreement between the City and the Y pool it is required for them to prepare an annual report. In the past it has been difficult to distinguish between annual pool memberships to a YMCA full membership. How do we credit some of those membership funds to the pool revenue? They will be crediting us \$4 per member that has a full membership when they use the pool. We will be doing this consistently from now on.

John presented the annual report from September 2012 through August 2013 as that is when the pool contract started September 1st and will end August 31st, 2017.

There was a flip flop on the membership for the pool and the YMCA full membership because there was an increase in the full membership and some people opted out of that and bought pool memberships only.

Swim lesson fees have not increased but the model for the swim lessons change and the product is better and there has been more of a demand for swim lessons. There has been a new program lesson called the Elite Session which allows a smaller teacher/student ratio. Parents want a smaller ratio and now the lessons are an one to four ratio.

Professional salaries included John and the aquatics manager. John said now there is no longer an aquatics manager so salaries for next year will include John's position and the front desk person.

A second guard has been added to for the all day schedule. The pool is too big to have only one guard. So the salaries for guards will go up next year. During the summer months the pool will have six guards, five up and one down.

Utilities have gone up substantially.

Dennis indicated that we will be replacing the lights in the bubble, we will be going with LED lights to help reduce the cost and the new boiler has helped save money in the operation of the pool.

Liyah asked about looking into solar panels. Solar panels would be great for the electricity but the boilers that heat the pool and they are propane. Smaller pools it would be more feasible and the size of our pool perhaps not. This is something we can look into.

Liyah asked about the advertising. Did you do a different type of advertising? They just spent less. John indicated that putting flyers in the schools is working better and targeting the kids for the lessons.

Liyah asked about the potential replacement of the bubble. Dennis indicated that the bubble has a warranty of 15 years. We are right at that year 15 year mark but the manufacturer said that you can get up 20 years on the bubbles. We will need to sit down with the YMCA in regards to extending the agreement and talk about the bubble replacement as well. Is there a backup plan if contract is not extended with the Y? Dennis indicated that the City will have a discussion on what to do like open it up to the bidding process again. Liyah asked what we might see for next year with all the changes that have been made. John says that customer service has improved. Liyah was more concerned with the membership level. John believes that the memberships will stay about the same. That is something that you can never really gage.

Dennis indicated that the report will go onto the City Council. He asked John to check on the bank change decrease and make the change on the maintenance line. Once he gets that done we will send the report to City Council.

Item #5 Parks & Recreation Master Plan Update

Dennis indicated that he and Mitch Humble have been working on the Request for Qualifications for the Master Plan. We have advertised the request in the Times News and the Idaho Statesman in Boise and have sent out about 12 packets. They are due Thursday, June 12th by 5pm. We have received one already and Dennis expects 5-9 to come in. This Commission will be heavily involved in developing the master plan. Liyah asked what the cost would be for the consultants. Dennis indicated that we have up to \$50,000 in the budget. Liyah asked how long in the future the plan is for. Dennis indicated it is a ten year plan. The plan is a guiding tool for this department for the future.

Item #6 Naming of Small Dog Enclosure at Baxter's Park

Dr. Marty Becker is requesting the City to name the small dog enclosure as the "Becker Small Dog Enclosure – donated by Dr. Marty & Teresa Becker in memory of Bob & Virginia Becker."

This request follows the criteria outlined in the Naming Policy. Staff is recommending that the Commission grant the request. Tennille motioned to accept the request to name the small enclosure the “Becker Small dog Enclosure – donated by Dr. Marty & Teresa Becker in memory of Bob & Virginia Becker.” Liyah seconded the motion. The motion passed with a unanimous vote.

Item #7 Shoshone Falls/Dierkes Lake Entrance Fees

Currently the fee to enter the park is \$3 per vehicle, \$25 for a season pass (only good for one vehicle), \$20 for a tour bus, and \$30 for a book of 20 passes. These current fees have been in effect since 1998.

The fees that are collected for approximately six months pay for the maintenance and operation to manage these facilities and capital construction projects. The cost to maintain these facilities are growing each year and starting this year, we are providing additional lifeguards on duty and training during the three summer months.

To offset these increases in maintenance, staff is proposing to increase the entrance fees for the 2015 season at the park to the following:

	<u>Current Fee</u>	<u>Proposed Fee</u>	<u>% Increase</u>	<u>Potential Revenue</u>
Entrance Fee	\$ 3.00	\$ 4.00	33.3%	\$60,000
Season Pass	\$25.00	\$30.00	20.0%	\$ 3,750
Bus Pass	\$20.00	\$25.00	25.0%	\$ 500
Coupon Book	\$30.00	\$40.00	33.3%	<u>\$ 250</u>
Potential Additional Gross Revenue				\$64,500

On average years of revenue (depends on the flows over the falls), we have 60,000 vehicles enter the park, sell 750 season passes, 100 tour bus passes, and 25 coupon books. The two previous times the fees were increase, the number of park patrons dropped some, so I imagine the increase in revenue would be in the range of \$55,000 to \$60,000. Of course if the flows over the falls are high, the increase in revenue would be much higher.

When the fee was first implemented (1980) at the Shoshone Falls/Dierkes Lake Complex, the resolution the City Council passed allowed certain groups to be admitted free. Any government vehicle on official duty, maintenance and service vehicles of utility companies on official duty, park concessionaires on official business, Golden Access Passport (permanently disabled individuals) and seniors that have the Senior Pass (was originally called the Golden Age Passport) are all admitted free.

Staff recommends to the Parks & Recreation Commission to approve these proposed fees increases and forward the recommendation to the City Council for their consideration.

Liyah asked if we have considered having other companies in the community sell passes for us. Dennis said that they would probably want a cut of the revenues. We haven’t really looked at

that yet. We have not thought about marketing it outside of the City. We are trying to be mindful of our community and not overcharge them. We want to ensure that we have a reserve to maintain the park. This is our only source of revenue for the park. Liyah asked about the lakefront training for the guards. Liyah also asked about the drowning's from last year and were there any consequences or liability on the City? Lake swimming versus pool swimming is very different in regards to lifeguarding. She asked if there is anything we can do to make the lake safer? Dennis said that we are doing as much as we can to make the lake safer. We are also trying to communicate with those that visit the lake to swim with a friend and parents watch your kids and know where they are at all times. The training we are providing should help our guards guard better. Liyah asked if we have any new signs down there. Dennis is hoping this summer we will be getting signs up to actually show how deep the lake is. We are working with an Eagle Scout to make some signs for the depth of the lake. Liyah asked if there might be some international signs that can be used to warn people. Dennis will follow up with the Eagle Scout to see where he is with the signs.

Ryan asked about the maintenance fee increase. Dennis indicated that we have hired more lifeguards, we have a full time and a seasonal employee down there for the park maintenance and sometimes we have two seasonal employees to help with the regular maintenance during the busy time.

Tennille motioned to accept staff recommendation to approve these proposed fees increases and forward the recommendation to the City Council for their consideration. Joey seconded the motion. Motion passed with a unanimous vote.

Item #8 Other Items from the Commission

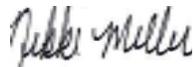
No other items came up for discussion.

Item #9 Tour of Park – Staff and Commission

The Commission will tour various parks and recreational facilities around town. Kevin officially adjourned the official meeting and no business is to be discussed during the tour.

Meeting adjourned at 12:45 pm. The next meeting will be July 8th, 2014, 11:30 am at City Council Chambers at 305 3rd Ave E.

Nikki Miller



Administrative Assistant
Parks and Recreation