JEFF BLICK	JOHN BONNETT CHAIR PERSON	BRENT JUSSEL	BILL MERRITT VICE-CHAIR	BETH OLMSTEAD	PAULA BROWN SINCLAIR	TOM SKAHILL	MITCH WATKINS

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS

TOM COURTNEY	**CITY MANAGER**
TRIP CRAIG	**COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE**
DENNIS BOWYER	**PARKS & RECREATION DIRECTOR**
MITCH HUMBLE	**COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR**

TWIN FALLS CITY PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING

February 10, 2009* * * * * 11:30 am * * * * * City of Twin Falls Council Chambers

Members Present: **Jeff Blick, John Bonnett, Brent Jussel, Bill Merritt and Beth Olmstead**

Members Absent: **Paula Brown Sinclair, Tom Skahill and Mitch Watkins**

Council Present: **Trip Craig**

Staff Present: **Dennis Bowyer and Mitch Humble**

MINUTES

Chairperson John Bonnett called the meeting to order at 11:59am. A motion was made by Bill Merritt to approve the minutes of the January 13th, 2009 meeting. Beth Olmstead seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Item #1 Recreation Report – Staff

Nothing new was reported.

Item #2 Parks Report – Staff

Nothing new was reported.

Item #4 Naming of the LDS Softball Complex – Staff & Commission

City Council approved the Commission's recommendations of allowing the classrooms at Oregon Trail Elementary School to submit names for the purpose of renaming the facility and keeping the rules and regulations at the complex the same and converting it to a youth complex only. Dennis has e-mailed all Commission members the names of the Complex that Oregon Trail Elementary School has submitted and would like their top three picks to recommend to City Council.

Commission members each went through their top three choices. A tally was made of the three top choices the Commission decided on.

Based on the Commission's top three choices listed in order: South Park Community Youth Complex, Park Avenue Youth Complex and Oregon Trail Youth Complex, Brent Jussel made a motion to accept these three top choices to recommend to City Council. Jeff Blick seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Item #3 Request from DREAMERz Carriage Co. – Teri Adams – 12:00noon

Teri Adams with DREAMERz Carriage Co. sent a letter to Dennis requesting permission from the City of Twin Falls Parks and Recreation Department to utilize sections of the Canyon Rim Trail. She presented to the Commission her reasons of utilizing the trail. Currently, City Code, Section 8-3-6 states "No person in a park shall…have a horse in any designated park or park area without written permission from the director." Teri is the owner of DREAMERz Carriage Co., which is a licensed taxi cab service and has had many requests from customers to use the trails.

A few concerns that have come up that Teri addressed in her letter and to the Commission are as follows:

Scope of Use: The trail would be used during specially scheduled events; i.e. Weddings, group activities, special dinners with local restaurants, etc. These events would be scheduled approximately 2 weeks in advance and they would notify Parks and Recreation as to the time, location and length of the event.

Liability: DREAMERz Carriage Co. is recognized by the City of Twin Falls as a Licensed Taxicab Service. The City has asked for the company to provide $300,000 in liability insurance and they have $1,000,000 in liability insurance.

Vehicles: They would access the trail with their single horse-drawn carriage. The carriage is 66" wide and in most places, the trail is 10' wide, enough for passing other trail users.

Horses: The horses are very well behaved. As a taxicab service, they have traveled on city streets with no incidences of behavior that would endanger people in or around their vehicle.

Manure: They utilize Bun Bags on their horses and if any manure would get on the trail, they would clean up after themselves.

Bill mentioned dead ends on the trail and asked how she would be able to maneuver the carriage to turn it around. Teri stated that she knew of those areas and would not travel on them. Brent asked how wide the trail is and if this would cause a problem with people utilizing the trail to be able to get by the carriage.

Dennis brought up that if Council would approve of her utilizing the trail, he would like to be able to work together with her for guided service to Auger Falls. John mentioned that allowing her to have use of the trails could be a problem if another company wants to utilize the trails. We would have to allow it for everyone if we allow it for her. The code does say that it will allow the director to make the decision but Dennis wanted to hear what the Commission had to say before making a decision.

Brent asked Dennis if the City gets any compensation from the Concession stands at parks. Dennis stated that they sign a year lease and pay a percentage of the profits to the City. He also stated that if we decide to allow

Teri use of the trails, we would have her sign a contract. Jeff Blick asked if the permit would be renewed annually if Teri is allowed use of the trails. Dennis stated that they would look at renewing it annually.

Brent is concerned about the usage of the trail not being intended for the use of a horse and carriage. Mitch Humble stated that the City uses snow removal vehicles on the trail to remove snow and that weight shouldn't be a concern but the width of the trail might. Beth is concerned about complaints the public may make due to a horse being on the trail.

Jeff Blick made a motion to approve the request of Teri Adams, owner of DREAMERz, Inc., to operate on a permission or special event permitted basis, renewed annually to access the public trail system for her single horse-drawn carriage. Brent seconded the motion. Roll call vote showed Jeff Blick in favor of the motion. Brent Jussel, Beth Olmstead, John Bonnett and Bill Merritt voted against the motion. The motion failed by a vote of 1 to 4.

Item #5 Cowboy Field Project – Commission & Staff

The Twin Falls Youth Baseball Trust along with the Parks & Recreation Commission made a presentation to City Council last night to request funds from the City to help pay for the renovations at Cowboy Field. Council tabled the discussion. Bill would like to move forward with the project and re-visit it in the fall for City participation. He is disappointed from a personal standpoint but understands that the City has to be responsible for the monies spent from all departments. Brent feels the same as Bill and feels it was a civil discussion with the Council and appreciates that.

Brent asked what will happen with the sub-committee that was formed for this project. Do we move forward or disband the sub-committee? John feels we should disband the sub-committee on this project and voiced his concerns on the use of the Parks and Recreation Commission for the remainder of the year.

Mitch Humble explained that the senior staff group is going through the capital budget and that it isn't just Parks and Recreation that has been put on hold for projects. Every department is going through this. Parks and Recreation had a lot of projects approved this year and now with the economy, staff is scrutinizing each project based on priority. The City is trying to save money in every way possible without having to lay anyone off. Dennis went over the projects that have been on hold. These include: the Tree Enhancement Program, trees at Morning Sun, restroom in the recreation building at Harmon Park, laptop for the office and a new desk. Mitch thinks that if the Commission and staff feel that a project is important; put it in the budget.

Dennis disagreed with disbanding the sub-committee. He would like the sub-committee to look at possible donations and have a figure of what the City would have to come up with when we re-address the project at a later date. Brent stated that he doesn't know where the Baseball Trust or the hospital stands at this time for the participation of the project.

John made the decision to disband the sub-committee for the Cowboy Field project.

Item #6 Dog Park - Commission

This item was not discussed.

Item #7 Membership – Dennis/Commission

No qurom was present when this item was discussed.

Item #8 New & Old Business – Dennis/Commission

This item was not discussed.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:05pm.

The next meeting of the Twin Falls Parks & Recreation Commission will be March 10th, 2009 at 11:30am at the City Council Chambers located at 305 3rd Avenue East.

Christi Green

Christi Green
Administrative Assistant
Parks and Recreation