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

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

January 13, 2009* * * * * 11:30 am * * * * * City of Twin Falls Council Chambers

Members Present: **Paula Brown Sinclair, John Bonnett, Bill Merritt, Mitch Watkins, Brent Jussel and Jeff Blick**

Members Absent: **Beth Olmstead and Tom Skahill**

Council Present: **Trip Craig**

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

MINUTES

Chairperson John Bonnett called the meeting to order at 11:34am. A motion was made by Brent Jussel to approve the minutes of the December 9th, 2008 meeting. Bill Merritt seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Item #1 Recreation Report - Staff

Dennis went over the recreation report. Boys Basketball will be starting January 17th. Practices began on January 5th. Adult Basketball started the week of January 5th. Dennis is meeting with Scott Rogers with CSI to discuss using their gym space. Scott is looking at having more public use of the gyms at CSI.

Cabin Fever Day took place on January 10th. It was a great success. Dennis stated that First Federal approved a grant of $3500 for a projector and screen for movies in City Park. He showed the Commission a list of G-rated movies that are options to be played at the Park. Dennis asked the Commission if they would like to make any suggestions for what movies should be played. The Commission agreed the list that was presented would be appropriate for showing.

Item #2 Parks Report - Staff

Dennis went over the parks report. Staff had been doing a lot of snow removal. They are now working in the shop doing maintenance repairs on equipment. Bids are out for the contracted landscape medians and strips.

Council approved re-plastering the pool. The pool will be shut down for the month of February.

Item #3 Baker Subdivision In Lieu of Request - Staff

Brad Wills, the developer of the Baker Subdivision has requested from the Commission their recommendation to accept the in lieu of request. The Baker Subdivision is located on the west side of Wendell Street between Robbins Avenue and Lawrence Avenue. It is a .81 acre, one existing single family household unit and one proposed duplex unit. Using the in lieu of formula, the in lieu contribution amount is formulated to be $1498.20.

Currently the closest neighborhood park is Harry Barry, located approximately ½ mile to the southeast. Staff supports the developer's request due to it being a small amount.

Brent Jussel made a motion to support staff's recommendation for the in lieu of request for Baker Subdivision. Paula Brown Sinclair seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Dennis will try and get the recommendation on the City Council agenda for January 20th.

Item #4 LDS Softball Complex – Sub Committee

Dennis reported he has spoke with Kasey Teske, principal of Oregon Trail Elementary School, and he was excited to work with the City for the contest of renaming the complex. Dennis stated that the presentation is on the schedule for the City Council meeting on January 20th at 5pm. He would like at least one member of the sub-committee to be present.

Dennis went over the improvements needed at the facility and stated that they are estimating $680,000 to complete the improvements. The three biggest issues that need addressed first are renaming the complex, making the complex a youth complex with restrictions and combining the two parks into one.

Mitch Humble mentioned that the main issue would be the contest to rename the complex and making sure Council approves that before addressing the other issues.

Mitch Watkins made a motion to present to City Council on January 20th to propose to have a contest for Oregon Trail Elementary School to rename the complex, combine the softball complex and South Park into one complex and make the complex strictly a youth complex with restrictions of no alcohol and smoking, along with the development plan that will follow at a later time. Jeff seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Item #5 Cowboy Field Project – Brent Jussel

Brent passed out a project budget to the Commission and went over it. After donations, they would still be short $40,000. Mitch Watkins asked if cutting some of the improvements would make up the difference. Brent stated they are having a discussion of different options at the next Baseball Trust meeting.

Dennis stated that the Commission should make a presentation to Council to see if they will approve a dollar amount to fund the project. John feels we need to get this presented as soon as possible to the Council to see if they will even approve it so the project can move forward.

Trip has mentioned the project to other Council members and told them that some of the donations are on a timeline. Dennis explained to the Commission that Council will not be touching reserves for the project and the funds will have to come out of the department's budget. Dennis feels that if this is a high priority, then we might have to cut some projects out of the budget. The Commission discussed cutting lower priority projects. These would include the Morning Sun restrooms and a shelter at Ascension Park.

Mitch Watkins made a motion to ask Council to divert the money budgeted for the Morning Sun restroom project to match funds on the Cowboy Field project for the amount budgeted of $70,000.00. Brent Jussel seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Dennis will get this on the agenda for the February 2nd Council meeting. Bill mentioned taking pictures of Cowboy Field to show when they present to Council.

Item #6 Parks in Lieu of Review – Staff & Commission

Dennis went over the in lieu of requests that have been approved by City Council through the end of 2008. In over three years, the City has collected $531,844.48 from developers for their in lieu of fees. There are still in lieu of fees that will be collected once the other developments proceed.

So far, $109,431.00 has been used to help purchase the LDS Softball Complex this past year and a little less than $16,000 was spent for the irrigation and seeding for Teton Park two years ago. The expenditures of these funds are not limited within the arterial streets of the development with the passing of the ordinance with modifications of the existing ordinance 10-12-3-11.

The City's process to allocate the expenditures of these collected in lieu of fees is to submit requests as part of the regular budget process in April/May. The in lieu of fees are managed through a new category in the budget called the Park Development Fund that is managed by Parks and Recreation. This current budget year, funds have been allocated for the following projects: $120,000 for restrooms at Sunway; $10,000 for a well at Sunway; $35,000 for playground equipment at Sunway; $3250 for trees at Sunway; $3000 for parking lot improvements at Sunway; $6500 for miscellaneous improvements at Harmon Park; $30,000 for a shelter at Northern Ridge Park and $8000 for improvements at the swimming area at Dierkes Lake.

Dennis informed the Commission that Xavier Charter School has bought land near Sunway Soccer Complex. This could benefit the City for Sunway Soccer Complex to have water and sewer. Dennis would like to wait another year before spending the money on restrooms and a well if we can tie into the water and sewer from Xavier. Mitch Humble stated that a survey of the land should be done to make sure the sewer could gravity flow from the restroom to the sewer line near the proposed new school.

Item #7 Memberships – Dennis/Commission

Dennis reported that Shawna Reeves has submitted her letter of resignation. She resigned due to her work schedule and regrets leaving. In March of this year, Mitch Watkins will have served his full six years on the Commission. Also in March, Beth Olmstead and Tom Skahill could ask for another three year term since their first term will end.

Item #8 New & Old Business – Dennis/Commission

Paula expressed her concern for having the Commission meet in the Council Chambers. She feels that it is not working for the Commission and would like to have other arrangements made. Trip informed the Commission that they are trying to avoid the perception of "meeting behind closed doors". They are going to start recording and televising each Commission meeting to involve the public. They will be broadcasting each Commission meeting on Channel 17.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:10pm.

The next meeting of the Twin Falls Parks & Recreation Commission will be February 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