TENNILLE ADAMS	JEFF BLICK	JOHN BONNETT	KEVIN DANE	ROLYNNE HENDRICKS	RYAN HORSLEY	BRENT JUSSEL	BILL MERRITT	PAULA BROWN SINCLAIR
		CHAIR					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

May 12, 2009* * * * * 11:30 am * * * * * City of Twin Falls Council Chambers

Members Present: **Tennille Adams, John Bonnett, Kevin Dane, RoLynne Hendricks, Ryan Horsley, Brent Jussel and Paula Brown Sinclair**

Members Absent: **Jeff Blick and Bill Merritt**

Council Present: **Trip Craig**

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

MINUTES

Chairperson John Bonnett called the meeting to order at 11:44am. A motion was made by Ryan Horsley to approve the minutes of the April 14th, 2009 meeting. Tennille Adams seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Item #1 Election of Officers - Commission

Each year, the Commission elects a Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson. Currently John Bonnett is Chairperson and has served for one year. Bill Merritt is currently Vice-Chairperson and he has also served for one year. There are no regulations on the number of years you can serve as Chairperson or Vice-Chairperson.

Kevin Dane made a motion to continue with John Bonnett serving as Chairperson. Brent seconded the motion. Paula Brown Sinclair made a motion for the nominations to cease. Ryan Horsley seconded the motion. The motions passed unanimously.

Paula Brown Sinclair made a motion to continue with Bill Merritt serving as Vice-Chairperson. Brent seconded the motion. Ryan Horsley made a motion for the nominations to cease. RoLynne Hendricks seconded the motion. The motions passed unanimously.

Item #2 Recreation Report - Staff

Baseball and softball registrations ended on Friday, April 17th. We are still accepting late sign-ups. As of May 5th, there were 880 participants signed up compared to 935 last year. The drop in numbers is due to the 7th-9th grade girl's league only having 13 participants signed up. We cancelled the league and refunded or credited those that signed up.

Men's Softball has 14 teams and the league will begin on May 19th. Hersey's Track Meet was held on Saturday, May 9th with 114 participants. We are getting a lot of people in surrounding areas coming over for the event. Summer will be busy with tournaments. There was a co-ed softball tournament on Saturday, May 9th, a men's icebreaker May 15th-17th and the Pressbox tournament May 29th-31st. There is a tournament scheduled every weekend in June. July will be busy with the Crusader's Men's Tournament and the Babe Ruth State Softball and Cal Ripken State tournaments. The Men's Door Slammer Tourney will end the season in August.

We are offering many leisure activities this summer from art classes to tennis and First Aid and CPR. We will also be offering the 1st annual Movies in the Park, the last Friday of the months of June, July, and August. Staff has received a lot of good feedback and it should be a popular event.

Item #3 Parks Report - Staff

All seasonal Parks staff has been hired for the season. Mowing has begun and the irrigation systems are being charged, although there hasn't been much need to irrigate with all the rain we've had. There are new concrete picnic tables at the new shelter at Harmon Park, City Park and Frontier Park. A new shelter for Northern Ridge Park has been ordered. Staff is working on planting trees in various parks and Shoshone Falls and Dierkes Lake.

The bubble at the pool will be taken down on Tuesday, May 19th.

Item #4 Dog Park – Staff & Commission

For several years, City staff and the Commission has discussed having a dog park in Twin Falls. In 2007, a public meeting was held with the neighbors of the new Teton Park/Retention area between Shoup Avenue and Heyburn Avenue just east of Sunrise Blvd. The neighbors were 100% against the idea of a dog park at the location due to: noise, animals being dumped off and animal waste. There hasn't been much effort since then to find another site for a dog park.

Dennis informed the Commission that someone has brought up the idea of the water tower property on Hankins Road, north of Kimberly Road. There is a restroom at this property but due to vandalism, it was closed. The idea has been discussed with the Water Department and they aren't opposed to the idea but are concerned about the security of the City's domestic water system. They have federal guidelines to follow in the security of water systems. Dennis feels that a dog park is needed in our area but the question is where.

The Commission discussed their ideas and concerns with having a dog park in the area. Ryan feels it is something the community needs but feels the Animal Shelter should step up and get the word out that it is needed in this area. Paula asked if there has been any discussion with the County on working together to find a location and possibly the funding being shared. She suggested the area west of the hospital. The City has a contract with Doug McCoy for cleaning up that area and Dennis will have to look at how long it is for. Brent

brought up that we should keep in mind that the County owns the hospital and we don't know what their plans are in the future for the building.

Brent asked what the purpose is of a dog park. Dennis stated that the main reason is to let a dog off the leash to run. It would be the only area in the City that is legal for dogs to be off the leash. Brent asked if the location at the water tower had enough parking and if porta-potties would need to be brought in. There isn't a lot of parking and porta-potties would need to be there.

Mitch Humble and Trip Craig discussed using the area on the north end of Oregon Trail Youth Complex. There is a street separating the area from the residential area. There are four acres at this park, a parking lot, restrooms and playground equipment.

Dennis will contact the County and see if they have any ideas for locations. He mentioned that we could possibly look at using both locations suggested. Tennille suggested educating the community as to what a dog park is so they can be better informed and have more support for one. Ryan suggested talking to vets in the area or places like Petsmart to see if they would do a sponsorship that would contribute towards building the park.

Item #5 New & Old Business – Dennis/Commission

Council had approved the Commission's recommendation to increase the fees for the use of City Park beginning January 1, 2009. Since then, Council members have been contacted from a few large event groups complaining of the increase in fees. On April 27th, Council approved to change the fees back to the original fees prior to the increases for City Park. Dennis mentioned that a group of Council members and staff will be meeting to go over the different fees for parks, parades, etc. Mitch brought up to the Commission that the City needed to weigh the option of losing approximately $5,000 that the increase in fees would generate or lose some large event groups that benefits the whole community.

The Commission discussed their concerns regarding Council not asking the Commission to re-address the fees before approving the change. The Commission spent a lot of time working on the new fee schedule and is concerned that the Council did not request the Commission's opinion on the reduction of fees. Mitch commented that the Council took the work that the Commission did seriously, but it has become a larger issue then just the park fees, concerns of costs of parades and the costs of security for these large community events. Mitch said a big questions is "What is the City's role in these community events and should the City absorb some of these costs?"

Dennis reported that one light has been put up at Oregon Trail Youth Complex. There will be an agreement written up between the City and the Twin Falls Baseball Trust. It has been sent over to the City Attorney for review. Brent mentioned he has heard they have had a hard time locating the lights for the complex.

Dennis gave an update on the park at the grain elevators. Council approved for the City to maintain the grass area.

Dennis updated the Commission on Drury Park. Magic Valley Bank has a program that will provide 40-50 volunteers to install playground equipment. Dennis stated that we can have our certified playground inspector there to supervise with the installation. Parks crew will need to go out and lay out the areas for the equipment. Dennis is thinking a good time to install it would be on a Saturday, mid to late June. He will check with the street department about laying the asphalt for the playground circles.

Dennis mentioned that the sub-committee for the donation policy will meet at noon on Monday, May 18th at the Parks and Recreation conference room.

Dennis updated the Commission on the Quail Ridge Estates stairs request. The Commission recommended to Council to remove the stairs request in their agreement. The developers have decided to tear out the existing stairs and replace them with new ones that will meet code.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:54pm.

The next meeting of the Twin Falls Parks & Recreation Commission will be June 9th, 2009 at 11:30am at the City Council Chambers located at 305 3rd Avenue East.

Christi Green

Christi Green
Administrative Assistant
Parks and Recreation