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

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

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

Members Absent: **Brent Jussel, Beth Olmstead and Tom Skahill**

Council Present: **Trip Craig**

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

Guests: **Tom Gilbertson, Twin Falls Preservation Inc.; Vaughn Phelps, Valley Christian Church; Gary Perron, Developer.**

MINUTES

Chairperson John Bonnett called the meeting to order at 11:39am. John recognized Mitch Watkins for his years of service on the Commission and thanked him. Mitch commented how much he has enjoyed serving on the Commission.

A motion was made by Mitch Watkins to approve the minutes of the February 10th, 2009 meeting. Bill Merritt seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Item #1 Recreation Report – Staff

Dennis went over the recreation report. Spring Soccer registration numbers are down from last year. Parks and Recreation is working with the Soccer Association to hold a fun day at the soccer complex on Saturday, March 28th. The Rocky Mountain Tournament will be held on April 3-4th this year. Registration for youth softball/baseball will begin on March 30th. Mitch Watkins commented on how well the K-3rd grade basketball is going.

We have had good feedback on the Movies in the Park. Council approved the request for amplified sound after 9:30pm on the nights the movies will be shown. The first movie will be shown on Friday June 26th.

The new Spring/Summer Guides are finished and will be mailed out sometime this week.

Item #2 Parks Report – Staff

Dennis went over the Parks Report. The parks staff is still doing some work in the shop getting ready to start the season. They have been working on cable fencing at Sunway Soccer Complex. The re-plastering is finished at the pool and they are working on an UV light project also at the pool.

Item #3 In Lieu of Request for Romero Estates - Staff

Romero Estates is a 4-plex development with 16 household units on 1.219 acres located at 452 Filer Avenue West, on the north side, between Sparks Street and Rose Street North. There is an existing single family residence located on the property. The residence will be removed and the additional 15 household units will be counted toward the in lieu of formula. Using the Twin Falls County Assessor's 2008 value of land, the price per acre is calculated at $27,461.85 per acre and using the in lieu of formula, the in lieu of payment is $8874.28.

Currently, the closest neighborhood park is Harry Barry, located approximately ¼ mile to the south. Since the dedication requirement from this subdivision is only .15 acres, staff supports the developer's request of the in lieu of application.

Mitch Watkins made a motion to approve the in lieu of request for Romero Estates. Paula Brown Sinclair seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Item #4 Grain Elevators Mini-Park Maintenance Request – Tom Gilbertson – 12:00 Noon

Tom Gilbertson with Preservation Twin Falls Inc. presented to the Commission their proposal to have the City of Twin Falls Parks and Recreation maintain the grass area at the Grain Elevators. They are approaching the City for the maintenance because they don't have the means to properly maintain the grass area. The improvements at the site have been done by volunteers and from grant money. Mitch Watkins asked if the land was owned by the City. Tom reported that it is owned by Twin Falls Preservation Inc. They would like to have a lease agreement similar to the Episcopal Church with the soccer fields.

Dennis explained that the City would have a lease agreement with Twin Falls Preservation Inc and the irrigation plans would be installed to the specifications of the City Parks and Recreation Department. The Preservation has been working with Dave Wright on the landscaping plans. Bill Merritt asked if the botanical gardens and shrubbery would be the City's responsibility. The City would only take care of the grass area.

John asked what the use of the grain elevators would be. Tom mentioned that the only use is for a cell tower that is currently being installed in the elevators. There is a mural painted on one of the buildings and they would like to preserve that and are looking at painting the buildings. Paula asked what the space would be used for. Tom stated that the main purpose would be for a family area for picnics and might be looking at a Farmer's Market there as well. Mitch Watkins commented that he thought it was a great project.

Jeff Blick made a motion to accept the committee's request for the City of Twin Falls Parks and Recreation to take over the maintenance of the grass area at the Grain Elevators Mini-Park. Mitch Watkins seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Item #5 Request for exception for City's Policy at City Park – Vaughn Phelps – 12:15pm

Vaughn Phelps, representing the Valley Christian Church, presented to the Commission a request to hold a sunrise service on Easter Sunday, April 12th at City Park. They will be having amplified sound before 12:15pm and the City's policy does not allow amplified sound and/or music out of the band shell until 12:15pm on Sundays. The service would be between 7:00am-8:30am.

Paula Brown Sinclair made a motion to accept the request for exception of the City's Policy of amplified sound before 12:15pm on Sunday, April 12th. Bill Merritt seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. Dennis will forward the recommendation to the City Council for approval.

Item #6 Reviewing Existing In Lieu of Request Approval – Gary Perron – 12:30pm

Quail Ridge Estates is a 41 lot, 70.67 acres subdivision located on the west side of 3400 East, north of Falls Avenue East and south of Dierkes Lake (West of the Hidden Lakes subdivision). The City Council approved the in lieu of request with the following requirements: Developer will construct stairs from the rim to one of the hidden lakes, construct an overlook on City property, construct a parking lot at the end of 3400 East, provide access to the City's rim land and construct a trail on City rim land. The developer received a 50% credit for the in lieu of payment for the trail system and improvements. The City received an in lieu of payment of $8935.13 on March 26, 2008.

Gary Perron, developer of Quail Ridge Estates, presented to the Commission a request to modify the In Lieu of request previously approved so the stairs are not part of the in lieu of request. The stairs were not built with a building permit and do not meet code. Right now, the developer does not have the economic ability to finish the stair system along with their commitment to construct a trail. Gary mentioned excluding building the path on the City property and overlook so they can fix the stairs up to code. Mitch Humble stated that the trail is a code requirement. Discussion followed.

Mitch Watkins made a motion to accept the request to remove the stairs from the original in lieu of request. Paula Brown Sinclair seconded the motion. Roll call vote showed Paula Brown Sinclair, John Bonnett and Mitch Watkins in favor of the request. Jeff Blick and Bill Merritt voted against the motion. The motion passed 3-2.

Item #7 New & Old Business – Dennis/Commission

Dennis reported the re-naming of the softball complex was delayed due to Council not meeting and the Mayor being out of town. Council will meet on March 23rd at 2:30pm at the Oregon Trail Gym for a special City Council meeting to re-name the softball complex. Dennis invited the members of the Commission to attend the meeting. A gift certificate for a pool/pizza party will be awarded to the winning classroom.

Dennis updated the Commission on the openings for the Commission. So far, there have been 6 applications turned in. Interviews will be held on Friday, March 13th in the Council overflow room. Dennis will forward the recommendations to Council on March 23rd.

Bill Merritt reported that the Baseball Trust held a meeting last week and have a new project they are working on. They would like the Cowboy Field project to go through the budgeting process again and will look at donating towards it based on Council approval. Bill stated they have discussed the safety issues at the Softball Complex (specifically the lighting on Fields 2 & 3) that has been a concern for awhile. Bill got some estimates from a couple electricians and the cost to fix the lighting will be approximately $30,000. The Trust approved

donating up to $25,000 to repair the lights at the softball complex with the City's approval with the condition that the City has a 25% fee waiver for field prep fees and tournaments.

Paula Brown Sinclair made a motion to accept the Baseball Trust's proposal. Jeff Blick seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. Dennis would like a few members of the Baseball Trust to be present when the recommendation is presented to Council.

John asked if anyone has heard anything about the new Xavier School being built near the soccer complex. Dennis has received an e-mail from Engineering that we can gravity feed sewer and water from the soccer complex to their site. Dennis said we will budget for that in next year's budget but will delay the project until the construction begins with the new school.

Paula asked for an update on Drury Park. All three playground pieces have been received.

Dennis updated the Commission on Dreamerz Horse Carriage. It was brought up at the Council meeting but Council tabled it. They want information from our insurance agency about the liability for having a horse and carriage on the trails. There is also some concern of the weight of the horse and carriage.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:04pm.

The next meeting of the Twin Falls Parks & Recreation Commission will be April 14th, 2009 at 11:30am at the City Council Chambers located at 305 3rd Avenue East.

Christi Green

Christi Green
Administrative Assistant
Parks and Recreation