

CITY OF ELKO
PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
6:30 P.M., P.S.T.THURSDAY, APRIL 19, 2018
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS / CITY HALL
1751 COLLEGE AVE., ELKO, NEVADA

CALL TO ORDER

Vice Chairwoman, Harmony Stahl, called the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Present: Fred Beitia
Lynette Davis
Danny Story
Harmony Stahl
Andrew Storla
Amber Fox

Excused: Colby Curtis, Chairman
Michelle Smith

City Staff: James Wiley, Parks and Recreation Director
Nikki Johnson, Aquatics Manager
Joe Carr, Parks Superintendent
Tobey Hancock, Recreation Manager

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

October 19, 2017 – Regular Session **FOR POSSIBLE ACTION**

**** A motion was made by Danny Story, seconded by Fred Beitia, to approve the minutes of October 19, 2017.**

The motion passed. (4-0 Amber Fox and Andrew Storla abstained.)

COMMENTS BY THE GENERAL PUBLIC

There were no public comments.

I. NEW BUSINESS

- A.** Introduction of recently appointed members Andrew Storla and Amber Fox and matters related thereto. **FOR DISCUSSION ONLY ACTION WILL NOT BE TAKEN**

Harmony Stahl said we have two new members Andrew Storla and Amber Fox.

Amber Fox said she has lived in Elko for 25 years and has worked at Nevada State Bank for the past 10 years. She has three children who use the local parks for soccer, baseball, softball and they use the playground.

Andrew Storla said he has lived in Elko for 3 years, works for the Elko Water Department and serves in the National Guard. He uses the skate park, Frisbee golf and the actual parks with his children.

B. Review, discussion, and consideration of future capital projects for the Parks and Recreation Department and matters related thereto. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION

With the recent award of a contract for the Elko Sports Complex the Board needs to begin the planning and prioritization of various future projects. Funding sources will be committed to the Sports Complex for the next two budget cycles. Staff has prepared a list of possible projects for consideration.

James Wiley, Parks and Recreation Manager, said we awarded the contract for phase one of the Sports Complex. We expect to be breaking ground by mid-May. It has taken all of our funding sources for several years and will continue for the next two funding cycles. Every year we look at our list of projects and try to prioritize them as funding is available. Potential resources will be available in 2020 and 2021. Some of the high priority projects are turning the property adjacent to the 5th Street Park into a parking lot. It's difficult for people to use that park because of the traffic and lack of parking. One of the strings attached to that property being donated to us was we have to develop that parking lot within 5 years. We have approximately 3 years left on that timeline. Over the last couple years we have struggled to keep up with our asphalt maintenance. All of the asphalt surfaces within that parks are our responsibility to fund and maintain. The Street Department doesn't have enough resources to maintain those on top of all the roadways they already have. We need approximately \$75,000 on an annual basis to keep up with that. To keep those from getting into the reconstruction phase is key because those cost a lot more money.

Fred Beitia asked who was responsible for removing the buildings by the 5th Street park.

Mr. Wiley explained the buildings were removed by the federal government a few years ago, so it's basically just brush and the fence around it.

Mr. Storla asked if the \$75,000 allocated for parking lots will include the new one for the 5th Street park.

Mr. Wiley answered no, it was just for the current ones. Some of the medium priority project are the park on top of Stitzel Drive. Since we have done some work on it already it will likely cost approximately \$100,000-200,000. Another project is where we tore out the tennis courts at Angel Park. At the very minimum, we should add some irrigation and grass. We have also talked about

adding a nicer picnic pavilion, which will be up for further discussion at a later time. Most of the public comment we received when we did the master plan were negative in regards to our restroom facilities. Some of them need the roofs replaced, updated fixtures and we could tear the tile out and hopefully the underlying concrete is in good shape. We no longer have the old police station, at the very least we would like to green it up and add irrigation. Some of the lower priority projects which are important but are just more expensive would be Flagview Drive. That road needs to be paved and we would be on the hook for the parking lot. We also are responsible for the slope up there. We have have conceptual designs for in-slope seating for spectators, which would also act as retention for that slope. It's a very large project that will likely be \$3 million. The last project that has been on the list for several years would be paving those parking lots that haven't been paved or redoing those in the reconstruction phase. The hockey rink at Southside Park needs some work. The concrete itself is not in any disrepair but the wall around it needs a lot of work. It doesn't get a lot of use at the moment, he was open to ideas on how to utilize that space. One idea that keeps being tossed out there would be another skate park amenity, which he felt was a good idea but would leave it up for discussion. The Main City Park pavilion around area one needs to be enhanced. A nicer covered area there would be good to accommodate larger groups. The Parks Department maintenance shop needs work. The metal sheeting is deteriorating pretty badly and the bottom 6" doesn't have much structure left. He thought he might be able to work with a different fund to get help to repair that facility. The biggest project of all would be planning for a new aquatics facility. That one is at least a decade out but a project of that magnitude takes a lot of planning and work on the front end to get it ready for construction.

Danny Story asked what Stitzel Park was.

Mr. Wiley explained it was a small piece of property the City owns at the top of Stitzel Drive. It has been in the master plan to put a park up there for that part of the community.

Mr. Story asked if additional parking has been considered where the old police station was.

Mr. Wiley answered yes, the parking lot was still there and in great shape so we will utilize it for overflow parking. In the meantime we should green up the other side.

Mr. Story said the Southside Hockey Rink could be used by some of the organizations that use the Igloo. We may want to check with them and see if they have any interest in using it.

Mr. Wiley said it was intended for them but hasn't seen a lot of use. Whatever we do down there he would like the investment to be something that will be used.

Mr. Story suggested batting cages.

Mr. Wiley said that has come up so it will just be a matter of getting the public opinion when that time comes and putting something there that will get used. Repairing that wall down there wouldn't have a huge price tag, the biggest challenge will be determining what the best and proper use will be.

Ms. Stahl said she has heard the hockey league would like to build an ice rink, which is what their interest is leaning toward.

Mr. Wiley said he had also heard that. They have approached him for support and he does support them in that venture. They are in the very early stages of that, so we will see what happens.

Ms. Fox asked if there was a master list of all parks and facilities.

Mr. Wiley explained the best document he had was the 2010 Master Plan, which catalogs all of our facilities. He would get them a copy of it.

Mr. Storla asked if it was a possibility to add more restrooms to the parks or better position them.

Mr. Wiley explained there was a plan for a restroom facility for the football fields. He was a fan of pre-fabricated restrooms. They are economical and can have them built to whatever capacity you need. There are definitely more needs than resources but the board has done a wonderful job on all of the projects we have completed.

Ms. Stahl asked if the board was still considering the original placement for the new pool. Or was the need for the sports field putting so much pressure on that ideal location that we need to look for alternative placement potential.

Mr. Wiley explained we did a feasibility study for our recreation center/ aquatic center. We looked at several locations throughout the community. The one that rose to the top was where the Herrera Complex currently sits. The Herrera Complex consists of two of our softball/baseball fields. If you saw the Sports Complex Master Plan picture it included construction of six baseball/softball fields and two soccer/ football fields. We are only able to do three softball/baseball fields at this time. He didn't think it was a good idea to get rid of two of their fields at this point and time. The reality of it was they would spend approximately \$9 million to get three additional fields. If we take two away to put a Recreation/ Aquatic Center on that, we really haven't gained anything by doing that. He suggested expanding and/ or renovating the existing pool facility. He felt it would fit well there even if it was just the Aquatic Center.

Mr. Story felt the Aquatic Center should go where the current pool is and be extended north into the grassy area. Then just make the old police station area a parking lot.

Mr. Wiley said that was his initial thought. Unfortunately our financial position doesn't allow us to do a whole lot right now. At this point it's just food for thought.

Mr. Storla felt it might be okay to eliminate the old fields to make room for a new recreation center and to introduce new sports.

Mr. Wiley said it was well documented that more baseball/softball fields were necessary. So to build three more fields and take two away would be taking a step back.

Mr. Story said the Master Plan said our fields were 250% over-utilized on our current ball fields.

Mr. Wiley said it's hard to push supplemental sports because everything here is seasonal and has to be because of our weather. Adult softball takes up the entire season because it's that big. It doesn't erase the need for indoor facilities though, that need is huge. Some other examples in the area are the disk golfers, we are making strides on that course along the Harp Trail and we are trying to expand it onto BLM property that we lease. Those types of activities have a small price tag in comparison to what we are talking about. The worst part of our job is putting things on hold because we can't afford to do them but we still get things done, just at a slower pace. He was going to get everyone a copy of the Master Plan to read over so they knew what was ahead of them. Once the Sports Complex is complete we will likely move on to the Aquatic Center because our current pool is 48 years old. There is a huge push from the community and the council for a new pool.

II. REPORTS

A. Staff Reports.

1. Report on the status of the Elko Sports Complex.

Mr. Wiley said during our first round of bids everyone was shocked because those bids were extremely high. We did some value engineering on the project to make it fit within the budget. In the end, we maintained the initial intent of the project which was to add sports fields. We have to do wetlands mitigation, mass grading and bring utilities in. There was a lot of focus on the sports fields themselves because they are a lot of money. Phase 1, to get the site ready for development takes the bulk of our budget. We will spend approximately \$2 million for three ball fields. The rest of the \$6.7 million contract is sewer, water, power, grading, dirt work, etc. The next phase will go to bid shortly. It will be for the restroom and concession building. Then we will do another bid to finish up the parking and the lighting. There is also a small amount of fencing that needs to be done on the outside of those fields and that will get us to where we need to be. It's going to be a busy couple of years. The landscaping company is the same one who did the golf course and they are a good and efficient company.

Mr. Storla asked if the river was involved with any of it.

Mr. Wiley answered yes, there is a separate contract for the river crossing. The Water Department is paying for that.

Mr. Story asked why the lighting was included in two phases.

Mr. Wiley explained the bases, fixtures and the conductor runs go in during the first phase. They won't be lit up until we get the building done because it houses all of our electrical controls.

2. Report from the Pool Manager.

Nikki Johnson, Aquatics Manager, said going back to the discussion about the new Aquatic Center, we need to be somewhere where we can stay on geothermal. We have geothermal and without it our pool would not be open year round. We only pay \$30,000 a year to the school district for heating, which makes it critical that we stay within the geothermal footprint. Our swim team has grown tremendously. They take up 4 hours a day and all day Saturday for practice. We closed for two weeks in December. We put the new boilers in and they are running perfect. Mr. Wiley painted out and around the pool for us. We are going to pull up the carpet in the lobby and in the office and it will be a polished concrete floor. It should be done before we open for the summer in June. The bids on that were very good and will help improve those areas. For spring break we offered swim lessons and had a good turnout. Last Saturday the swim team hosted the Flower Power 5k and had 80 plus runners. In May she will have her lifeguard training course for her staff. The summer swim lesson schedule was complete and posted on the website and Facebook for people to see.

Mr. Story asked how teenagers get involved in lifeguarding.

Ms. Johnson said she has sign ups and they just come down to the swimming pool. There is a \$25 deposit for the class, then she hires from that. We will be hiring quite a few lifeguards this summer.

Mr. Storla asked how busy they usually were.

Ms. Johnson explained without summer they open at 5:30 a.m. Adult lap swimming is from 5:30 to 8:30 a.m. Water exercising is three days a week from 9:00 to 10:00 a.m. Bike classes are three days a week from 8:30 to 9:30 a.m. Then we have adult lap swimming again from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., which are very well attended. We have intermittent lessons going on in between all of those and the swim team starts at 3:15 till 5:30 p.m. We have adult lap swimming again from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. Then our swim team swims again from 6:30 to 7:45 p.m. In the summer we open at 5:30 and go until 8:00 p.m. with no down time. All of that is ran by two full time employees, the rest of my staff is 15 to 20 year old kids who are part-time seasonal.

Mr. Storla asked if they had any full-time positions coming soon.

Ms. Johnson answered no, we only have a budget for two full-time employees.

Mr. Wiley said we are very limited on financial resources. Our staff does an excellent job and work very hard. We hire a lot of seasonal help which is how we make it work.

Ms. Stahl asked if they were considering fee changes.

Ms. Johnson answered no, she has not been directed to. She felt they shouldn't raise the fees until they start funding and making improvements to it.

3. Report from the Parks Superintendent.

Joe Carr, Parks Superintendent, said over the winter we did our regular maintenance. We didn't have very much snow removal this year. Our big project this spring was the lower Kump baseball field. We removed all the grass on the infield and it is now infield dirt. It now accommodates the new intermediate little league teams, which is a 50 foot pitching mound and a 70 foot base path. We completed the scoreboard for upper Kump baseball field. We are going to replace some of the barbeque pits around the Main City Park.

Lynette Davis asked if they were the ones who painted the Pickleball courts.

Mr. Carr answered no.

Ms. Davis said they are very nice whoever did it.

Mr. Carr said they got the wind sculptures at Peace Park installed and it looks very nice.

Ms. Stahl asked if they have backed off people leaving things up in the cemetery.

Mr. Carr answered no, it's a policy that allows for maintenance to be done. We try and use a common sense approach to that policy

4. Report from the Recreation Manager.

Tobey Hancock, Recreation Manager, said they had some winter events that went well. We were constantly awaiting opening Sno Bowl but it just didn't happen this year. We recently finished up basketball season. We had 15 teams and two divisions, which made for a good season. We had a teenage flashlight Easter Egg Hunt event at 5th Street Park. Our monthly Toast to Art event that we do with the Elko County Art Club is consistently sold out. We are considering doubling our events each month to have some overflow. Skate night is still well attended, which is once a month at the Igloo with the Nevada East Roller Girls. We recently put down Pickleball court lines at Southside Park. We have been working with Mr. Story to put some adult softball tournaments together. We have been working on improving the concession stand. We have the Ruby Mountain Classic Baseball Tournament that we will be hosting this summer. He just finished the Recreation Guide and it went to print today. It will be available May 1st. We will continue our Fun Factory Program this summer. It will be 1st grade through 6th grade. We are currently recruiting for a new Recreation Coordinator.

Mr. Storla asked if snow making would be a possibility up at Sno Bowl.

Mr. Hancock explained even with snow making, you need the right conditions. Snow making is more of a supplemental thing, it's not something you can coat the hill with.

Mr. Wiley said they do have snow making equipment up there. It is utilized on a very limited basis. It is usually used on the rope tow area. The plan for snow making is to get it to the top of the hill but it will be expensive. We do have the Elko Sno Bowl Foundation that fundraises to make capital improvements up at the Sno Bowl. They just secured \$118,000 grant to do more work on the mountain bike course up there. That work has already started. We are working with the BLM to expand recreational leases so that footprint expands for recreational use. There is a ton of opportunity up there, which is good news. Along with the foundation working with the city to invest some capital monies up there, they are trying to secure another grant to bring power up to the facility. Power will enable snow making and other things.

Mr. Storla asked if the Street Department will pave up there.

Mr. Wiley explained the County owns North 5th Street and there are no plans to pave it. The overall maintenance of that gravel road will improve. Our long-term plans are to make it a year-round facility. Right now we are just trying to get a grasp on the operation and maintenance needs.

B. Board Reports.

Ms. Stahl said they have added two new members to the Elko Park Foundation. We have added Danny Story and Pedro Marin.

Mr. Story said Elko Adult Softball closed registration on Sunday. We have 40 teams, a total of 460 players. We are down six teams this year. We have spiked over the last few years so it's a good number to be sitting at and will be a little easier to manage. With the project we did with Elko Little League and the City of Elko to make Kump Field multi-use will be huge for the community.

SCHEDULE THE NEXT PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD MEETING

August 16, 2018 at 6:30 p.m.

COMMENTS BY THE GENERAL PUBLIC

Mr. Wiley said if there was anything the board would like placed on the agenda to let him know a week before the meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

Respectfully Submitted,

James Wiley
Parks and Recreation Director