

CITY OF ELKO
PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD
REGULAR MEETING
6:30 P.M., P.S.T. THURSDAY, MAY 20, 2021
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS / CITY HALL
1751 COLLEGE AVE., ELKO, NEVADA

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Colby Curtis called the meeting to order at 6:30 P.M.

ROLL CALL: Colby Curtis, Board Chairman
Jim Conner, Board Member
Lynette Davis, Board Member
Danny Story, Board Member
Harmony Stahl, Board Member

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

The minutes will be reviewed at the next meeting.

COMMENTS BY THE GENERAL PUBLIC

Pursuant to N.R.S. 241, this time is devoted to comments by the public, if any, and discussion of those comments. No action may be taken upon a matter raised under this item on the agenda until the matter itself has been specifically included on a successive agenda and identified as an item for possible action. **ACTION WILL NOT BE TAKEN**

There were no public comments.

I. NEW BUSINESS

- A.** Review, discussion and consideration for the possible installation of fitness and exercise equipment within the City of Elko Parks System and matters related thereto. **FOR POSSIBLE ACTION**

James Wiley, Parks and Recreation Director, stated he has been speaking to Courtney Nalivka, about equipment in the parks. There are several things to look at, including Angel Park being a location. He is looking for the Board's recommendation in this matter.

Courtney Nalivka, 2855 Jennings Way, Registered Clinical Dietitian, spoke of the importance of exercise in her client's lifestyle. In 2017, there was a needs assessment that was completed by the Public Health Initiative Team. One of the top 10 public health concerns in Elko is obesity. She discussed that there is a need for people to use outdoor fitness equipment. She has researched numerous companies and found Move Strong, who specializes in outdoor fitness equipment. They provided her with virtual images of the equipment. She has discussed with James Wiley, to have

the equipment located in Angel Park or Peace Park. She has requested a budget for the equipment to be between \$23,000.00-\$25,000.00. Any additional costs would be installation, ground costs and cement if the City decides to go with the costs. She is willing to help with looking for funding such as grants and donations.

Mr. Story asked if the surface would be grass or if the surface will change.

Mr. Wiley advised there are several options such as concrete or a concrete base which allows for cushion. Once they evaluate options they can compare and see what would be the best.

Mr. Story said he thinks it is a good idea to have the equipment in Angel Park and they should not have a problem getting grants for fitness equipment.

Ms. Stahl said she is opposed to putting the fitness equipment in the Peace Park. She does like the small budget and it brings another amenity to the park system.

Mr. Curtis said he agrees that it is good to have another amenity. He asked what type of equipment it would have.

Ms. Nalivka said it would have monkey bars, bicep dips, step-ups and more.

Mr. Curtis felt Angel Park would be a ideal because it is a residential area and there is a park too.

Ms. Stahl agreed and added the bars might get hot in the summer but would be good for early morning or evening. It would be assessable in the winter as well.

***** A motion was made by Jim Conner, seconded by Danny Story, to make a favorable recommendation to the Board of Supervisors to proceed with this project and work to achieve it at Angel Park.**

The motion passed unanimously (5-0).

B. Review, discussion and consideration of a petition to name Field #2 at the Elko Sports Complex after Hal Hibbert and matters related thereto. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION

Mr. Wiley explained that this consideration is something he would agree with. He explained the process of naming a field. He advised that this board would have to approve it first then it would go to the City Council for the final approval. He introduced Beth Messa, representing the Hibbert family.

Beth Messa, 3735 Valley Ridge Ave Elko, NV, requested to have Filed #2 named after her father Hal Hibbert, because of his high involvement in youth sports. He worked the concession, transported kids, kept the books, all stars, baseball and more. It would be a great honor for his name to be on the field and thanked the board for the consideration.

Mr. Story said he is 100% for naming the field after Hal because he personally witnessed the interactions with the kids and the passion he had for helping them.

Mr. Curtis asked if Field #1 was named already.

Mr. Wiley answered it was named after Nevada Gold Mines. There are options for naming a field, which would be a significant donation or service and commitment throughout the community.

***** A motion was made by Danny Story, seconded by Harmony Stahl, to name Field #2 at the Elko Sports Complex after Hal Hibbert and forward it to City Council.**

The motion passed unanimously (5-0).

II. REPORTS

A. Staff Reports

1. Sports Complex.

Mr. Wiley said the Sports Complex was scheduled to open last summer and then Covid19 hit. There is also a significant decline in the health of the turf. That is due to a soil issue at the site. There are extremely high sodium levels. Field #1 had 2100 parts per million sodium levels. The acceptable range is less than 35 part per million. Field numbers 2 and 3 are in the 1000 parts per million sodium levels. On top of the sodium, there are extremely high parts of boron, which is toxic to turf and off the charts as well. The ideal is less than one to three and they are at a six, currently. The last few months the City has been adding organic matter compost and different minerals to buffer the soil. In addition, they have stopped watering with F1 because of the salt content in it. They set up a temporary potable water connection and are irrigating with that temporary connection now. He is expecting the levels to go down on the next test. They are counteracting the boron with calcium and trying to mitigate PH with Gibson and other minerals and nutrients. The good news is they gained on PH and it dropped significantly in the last few months. The percentage of the organics within the soil has also risen with the mixture. The City has set aside funds to eliminate the problem. The ribbon cutting has been pushed back as well.

Mr. Curtis asked if the infield was grass as well.

Mr. Wiley said they are dirt but it does not take long for the salt to rise on that as well.

Ms. Stahl asked if the problem will go on in perpetuity, would it be advantageous to look at turf.

Mr. Story revisited a previous motion that the board had in the past. The turf was planned in the initial budget, but was changed at City Council. The City Council changed it to a natural surface and if the turf had been put in, play would have happened two years ago. He acknowledges the great work the Parks and Recreation Department at the City has done. He agreed with Ms. Stahl when reviewing the money set aside and how much money will be spent continuously.

Mr. Wiley answered the board by stating it is possible to look at turf. The costs would be a wash depending on how long you look at it.

Ms. Stahl asked about the differences in playability. If there is grass that is struggling, are you going to have to limit how many games are played on each field?

Mr. Wiley said that might be a factor that would have to be reviewed.

Mr. Curtis said that Mr. Story brought up a good point. The board had recommended artificial turf and this can give the board a stronger position when phase two starts.

Mr. Wiley would agree and has had conversations with the City Manager on this matter. They will wait to see how the grass will react to the treatment and evaluate the conditions in July. There is a large budget allocated however, if the funds can be reduced that would be ideal.

2. Dog Park.

Mr. Wiley said the Dog Park's community group has done a phenomenal job raising the funds. They have raised about \$15,000.00 that would cover costs for interior fencing and play elements. The parking lot project was postponed from last summer to this spring. It is almost finished and they plan on paving soon. The irrigation has been installed.

Mr. Story said that he is very excited for the Dog Park to come to Elko.

3. Pay as you go.

Mr. Wiley said there was an election and the pay as you go did not pass. The City looks at it as an opportunity and always have for additional revenue stream. It allowed capturing 17 cents of the pay as you go. Now the City is unable to collect the funds due to the rate. Currently, there is 17 cents below the maximum of the property tax. The City of Elko hired a tax consultant and spoke on the last City Council meeting. If we get it, it will create revenue but will not be eligible until the year 2023. This issue is very political but it allows additional revenue for projects. There was talk about having a special election but the City has not heard from the School District after the City has reached out several times.

Mr. Curtis said that it is good the City is going after pay as you go for the revenue stream.

Ms. Stahl said she was told that Elko County was also going after it.

Mr. Wiley said the City Council has approved it.

4. Youth and Adult Sports.

Mr. Wiley said Youth and Adult sports have a green light to start now. Baseball, little league softball and youth soccer is coming an end to their seasons.

Mr. Story said the games have just started up. The Larry James Icebreaker tournament was held and went it went smooth. The La Familia will come up in June. The Bat Fest will come to town as well.

Mr. Wiley said there would be a youth baseball tournament during Father's Day weekend. People are eager to play but may be light traffic due to the pandemic.

5. Recreation Programs.

Mr. Wiley said the recreation department suffered from the pandemic. All the programs were shut down, including the fun factory. He does not know when the program will come back due to losing the space from the schools. The staff was maintained and transferred to the pool and the golf course. Since then, there has been a struggle to get seasonal help. There has been a response to have people working for the summer programs.

6. SnoBowl.

Mr. Wiley said that SnoBowl had about four inches of snow and was able to get one weekend of tubing in. The lift did break down and there was money spent to repair it. He feels good about SnoBowl as long as there is snow this winter.

7. Golf Course.

Mr. Wiley said last year was a good year at the golf course. The golf course looked great. Maybe it was due to the extra staff that was sent to do work. The affluent ponds were losing about 70,000 gallons of water a day into the ground. The Nevada Department of Environmental protections forced the City to fix the drainage. Synthetic liners were installed and the issue is corrected. The golf pro resigned early in the season and new management took over called, Dunkin Golf Management. The course conditions are improving every week.

8. Expiration of Board Terms and vacancies.

Mr. Wiley said there are board members that are ready to expire soon. He requested the board to send him a letter if they would like to be re-appointed.

B. Board Reports.

III. SCHEDULE THE NEXT PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD MEETING

The next meeting will be held on July 15, 2021 at 6:30 P.M.

COMMENTS BY THE GENERAL PUBLIC

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There were no public comments made.

NOTE: The Chairman, Vice-Chairman, or other Presiding Officer of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board reserves the right to change the order of the agenda, and if the agenda has not been completed, recess the meeting and continue on another specified date and time. Additionally, the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board reserves the right to combine two or more agenda items, and/or remove an item from the agenda, or delay discussion relating to an item on the agenda at any time.

ADJOURNMENT

Respectfully Submitted,

James Wiley
Parks and Recreation Director