

**Thursday, March 17, 2022**

**6:30pm**

Parks & Recreation Committee Meeting

NOTES

**Members Present:** Johnny Calkins, John Kulstad, Ben Winker, Charlie Caldwell, Phil Heidrick, Jane Fusek, Heidi Conzelmann, Scott Binder, Jennifer Ortega

**Members Absent:** Jeff Dunk, Laura Bridy

**Guests:** Jason Orlandi, Pat Kaspari

**Meeting Notes:**

Communications:

- None

Public Comment:

- None

Recreation Director Report:

*Recreation Program Updates*

- Drop-in Pickleball is running on Friday evenings 6:30pm-8:30pm. \$4 per person
- Drop-in Kung Fu is on Tuesday and Thursday evenings 5:30pm-6:30pm \$10 per person per class. Bulk class passes are available to purchase at \$7.50 per class
- Drop-in Tai Chi is Sundays 11:00am-12:00pm \$10 per person per class. Bulk class passes are available to purchase at \$7.50 per class
  - The Martial Arts classes are averaging 8-12 people per class.
- Registration for Pee Wee basketball for kindergarten through 2<sup>nd</sup> grade is now open. The Program will run April 23 through May 21, 2022.
- Tot-letics Soccer begins March 19<sup>th</sup>. Each Tot-letics class can hold 20 participants. This session filled quickly. We opened a second class as the waiting list held 20 additional children wanting to play. In light of the waiting list, we now have two full classes of Tot-letics for this session, serving forty 3- to 5-year-olds.

*Park & Facility Maintenance Updates*

Several open space zones received mowing, hedging and weeding maintenance and detention basins received clearing as part of the Open Space Maintenance Zone agreements. The Parks crew and NHES continue the routine schedule for maintenance on Central Ave. landscaping. Staff have been dedicating a lot of hours trapping gophers and preparing the fields at Hiller Sports Site for Little League and youth softball. A volunteer work day to fill in gopher holes on Saturday, Feb. 19<sup>th</sup> was a great success thanks to the HSU Men's Soccer team who showed up with 26 volunteers. A Staff continues to keep up with daily/weekly routine facility and vehicle maintenance. Monthly inspections were conducted on all facilities and Open Spaces.

*Hewitt Ranch Property Updates*

- No updates at this time.

*North Bank River Property Updates*

- No updates at this time.

*Other updates:*

- Staff is working on the DRAFT operating Budget for fiscal year 22/23. The DRAFT budget will be presented to the MCSD Board on April 6<sup>th</sup>. Staff will bring the DRAFT budget to the PARC on April 21<sup>st</sup>.

- Staff is submitted a grant application to First 5 Humboldt for Playgroup funding support for the next fiscal year.
- Staff continues to participate as members of the McKinleyville Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors, the McKinleyville Family Resource Center Board of Directors and the Boys & Girls Club of the Redwoods Board of Directors.
- Staff continues to provide support to other departments of the District; assisting with accounts payable, payroll, and facilitating professional development workshops.

#### Community Forest Updates

- Staff reported on recent events regarding the MCF including the public input meetings and online survey.
- Jennifer Ortega asked about a potential access point at the end of Dragonfly. Staff explained that the location had been determined to not be feasible due to the steep landscape of the drainage and that it would require going through private residential property.
- Johnny Calkins asked about the recent blocking of access at the end of 1<sup>st</sup> Rd. Staff reported that was an action of GDRC and occurred the day after the virtual public input meeting where several residents commented on the long-term and on going use of that location to access the property for OHV recreation.

#### BMX Track and Park Project:

- Staff provided an update on current status of this project.
  - Staff met with Action Sports Architect, Mike McIntyre and established an agreement for the drafting of an RFP and master plan drawing. Once the RFP is ready it will be released and we will begin accepting bids for the final design of the park and track.

#### Bocce Ball Court Rehabilitation:

- In February committee members commented on the degradation of the bocce ball courts and the need to discuss rehabilitation.
- Johnny Calkins reached out to local Bocce Ball players and got some feedback on why the McKinleyville courts don't get used.
  - Gravel from the outer perimeter of the courts is a problem. The construction of the courts causes water to pool up in the courts when it rains which degrades the decomposed granite the courts are made of.
  - Refurbishing the courts will be a significant project as it is recommended that the courts be raised up so that water runs off and doesn't pool up; that the outer perimeter be concrete to prevent dirt and gravel from getting into the court. Adding a 3<sup>rd</sup> court would be ideal for hosting leagues/tournaments. Replacing the decomposed granite with crushed oyster shell is also recommended.
  - Ben Winker would like to see a campaign to fund the refurbishment of the courts as they are an asset to the park.

#### Dog Park Fence Requests:

- Staff reported on the recent requests from owners of small dogs to create a small fenced area within the dog park for small dogs to run around safely away from large dogs.
- Committee members discussed the benefits and potential issues of a small fenced area as described.
  - Dog owners already do not follow the leash rules at the dog park, will they follow the rules of keeping large dogs out of the small dog area?
  - If we fence an area for small dogs, folks then might want a larger fenced area for large dogs.
- John Kulstad has a couple hundred feet of 4ft chain link fencing he'd donate should a fenced area be approved.

#### Intermodal Transportation Committee (Hum. County) Report:

- Ben Winker reported on the current work of RCAA. He shared an email regarding upcoming demonstrations and community meetings.
  - Pop-Up Demonstration Event
    - This event will use temporary materials to demonstrate a potential concept design in person. This is a great opportunity to see the concept on the ground and provide feedback. The event will take place over two days. Come see what suggested designs could look and feel like as a pedestrian and cyclist!
      - **Where:** Hiller Road x Central Ave (Event on Hiller Road)
      - **When:** Friday, April 1st 3:30pm to 6:30pm and Saturday, April 2nd 9:30am to 12:30pm
  - Community Meeting
    - The second community meeting will be in person at Azalea Hall and also available through Zoom. Thursday, April 28th 6pm to 7:30pm

#### Vandalism Report:

- Staff reported on consistent vandalism issues of stolen soap dispensers in park restrooms and graffiti on Mid-town trail.
- Committee members shared experiences of trail clean-ups in various areas in McKinleyville. Commenting that awareness of where persistent issues are occurring can help us be more active and helpful in the community.

#### Return to In Person PARC meetings:

- Discussion regarding details of meeting in person.
- Johnny Calkins suggested waiting a couple of months to see how the lifted mask restrictions impact the spread of COVID.
- John Kulstad reminded the committee that to meet in person we need to be able to accommodate the public in the space as well.
- The MCSD Conference room is a small space and does not allow for social distancing.
- Maybe consider holding meetings outdoors when weather and light allow.

#### AdHoc Committee Reports:

- Skate Park—HSC is evaluating the impacts of inflation on the groundbreaking for the McK. Skatepark. The cost to bring the design and construction team to McK. for the project are almost 3 to 4 times what they were a year ago.
  - Granting agencies have approved a 1 year extension to the agreement for the use of granted funds.
- Fisher Ranch Estuary project—Gravel trail is underway and complete trail expected to be fully constructed by end of summer.
- BMX— See notes on above
- Community Garden—no report

#### Agenda Items for next meeting:

- Bocce Ball Court rehabilitation
- Tsunami threat and response to parks/trails etc. (a future agenda item, not necessarily April)

#### Adjournment:

- Adjourned: 7:32pm