

Thursday, January 21, 2021

6:30pm

Recreation Advisory Committee Meeting

NOTES

Members Present: Johnny Calkins, Ben Winker, Jeff Dunk, Scott Binder, Chad Sefcik, Laura Bridy, John Kulstad, Charlie Caldwell, Beth Frink,

Members Absent: none

Guests: Wendi Orlandi, Jennifer Ortega, Pat Kaspari

Meeting Notes:

Communications:

- Chad Sefcik asked members if any would be interested in volunteering to help clean up the creek along the Parkside Trail behind the high school.

Public Comment:

- None

Election of Officers:

- Jeff Dunk asked if John Calkins would be willing to serve a second term as Chair. John Calkins said he would.
- John Kulstad nominated John Calkins for Chair. Charlie Caldwell seconded the nomination. Committee voted unanimously for John Calkins to remain Chair.
- Charlie Caldwell stated he'd be willing to serve as Vice-Chair. John Kulstad nominated Charlie for Vice Chair, Jeff Dunk seconded the nomination. Committee voted unanimously for Charlie Caldwell to serve as Vice Chair.

Recreation Director Report

- Staff have been working with the BMX community to host a series of public input meetings for the design and development of a BMX Track & Park for which staff will be seeking grant funding from the Prop 68 funded Statewide Park Development and Community Revitalization Program. Staff has prepared and uploaded much of the SPP grant application for the Pierson Park Expansion and Renovation project.
 - Chad Sefcik asked a few questions regarding the application requirements and process.
- Staff facilitated staff development workshops for District employees.
- Staff continue providing the Recreation Afternoon Program to 16 elementary age school children. Additionally, staff is preparing to offer a full day program for Presidents Week, Feb. 15-19.
- Staff are drafting the Spring-Summer Newsletter and Activity Guide. We will be adding virtual paint night classes to our program offerings beginning February 10th.
- Park Maintenance staff repaired a water leak at the Activity Center; Completed tree trimming in various OSMZs and facility landscaping areas; conducted monthly inspections on facilities, OSMZs and vehicles. All Facilities received HVAC system inspections which led to a minor system repair at the Library.
- Staff have begun the drafting process for the FY 21-22 Capital Improvement and Operating Budget. A draft of the budget will be brought to the PARC for review in February.

BMX Track & Park Project:

- Staff reported on recent public input meetings, a meeting with staff and design engineer, a meeting with consultant regarding CEQA, and a meeting with playground designers.

- John Kulstad asked about the size of the area available for a playground. Staff reported there will be approximately 13k square feet available for playground elements.

Community Forest

- Staff reported on recent meeting of the adhoc Community Forest Committee and the next steps being taken by that committee.
- Committee member Ben Winker asked how community use guidelines are being developed
 - Staff reported that use guidelines will be developed further down the line and that public input will be sought before decisions get made.
- Guest, Jennifer Ortega asked when the Community Forest boundaries and maps will be available for public viewing. She stated that understanding the boundaries of what is community forest and what is still Green Diamond property is important to residents. Residents are concerned that access decisions will be made without their input or knowledge.
 - Staff explained the current obstacles to presenting that information to the public and also stated that the District intends to solicit public input before making decisions regarding access points, and recreation development before making any decisions regarding access and public use.
- Committee members commented on historical uses of the property and the process that can be expected and required for the development of the community forest.
- Pat Kaspari asked the committee members who may know field experts (biologist, foresters, etc) that might be interested in being on the Community Forest Committee to forward names and contact information to staff.

Round Up for Rec:

- Committee members discussed how to create more awareness about the opportunity to donate to Parks & Rec through water/sewer payments
 - Ben Winker is willing to try to create a flyer to distribute.
- It was asked if the donate button on the District website could be relocated so that it is in the same or near to the “pay you bill” button.
- Committee member Beth Frink is going to reach out to Eureka Natural Foods to see about a round up program through grocery shopping.

Report on Actions of MCSD Board

- Staff reported on actions taken by the Board of Directors on January 6, 2021
- There were no comments or questions on the report.

AdHoc Committee Reports:

- Hewitt Ranch—the trail is wet.
- Skate Park—Quarterly Report will go to Board in February. Permit applications are currently undergoing plan check at the county. A grant application was submitted for the Headwaters Fund Grant program. There is currently \$118k in the bank for the skate park. HSC is hoping for a June ground breaking.
- School and Washington Property—no report
- River Property—Jeff Dunk shared photos of the property from a recent hike he took. Reported on the possibility of HSU Natural Resource students using the River Property for a capstone project that would produce maps of the property, invasive plant inventory and a plan to remove invasive plants.
- Fischer Ranch Estuary project—Still awaiting the Coastal Development permit.
- BMX— See notes on above

Agenda Items for next meeting:

- Draft Budget review
- Community Forest
- BMX Update

Adjournment:

- Adjourned: 7:35pm