



Parks & Recreation Commission
MINUTES
Thursday, August 27, 2020, 6:00 pm
Webex Meeting



1. CALL TO ORDER

- a. Commissioner Hahn called the meeting to order at 6:02 pm. Recorder Quintanilla completed a roll call.
- b. Chairman Fischer led the Pledge of Allegiance and welcomed all in attendance.

Parks and Recreation Commissioners, City Council Liaison, and Staff Present:

Commissioner Ken Hahn	Jim Millbauer, City Council Liaison
Commissioner Linda Stroben	Emily Estes-Cross, Parks and Recreation Director
Commissioner Dean Aeling	Greg Duffy, Parks and Facilities Deputy Director
Commissioner Jack Anderson	Isa Quintanilla, Recorder
Commissioner Ty Fischer	
Commissioner Robb Heston	

2. HONORS & RECOGNITION – None

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Commissioner Stroben moved to approve the agenda as presented. Seconded by Commissioner Heston, the motion carried unanimously.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commissioner Anderson made a motion to approve the June 25, 2020 Minutes adding a correction that Commissioner Stroben was voted in as “Co-Chair,” which should have been “Vice-Chair.” With that change, and second from Commissioner Stroben, the motion carried unanimously.

5. VISITORS –This meeting, held online thru Webex, had no visitors in attendance.

6. NEW BUSINESS

a. Park Hills Maintenance Agreement

Ms. Estes-Cross stated the Parks Hills Maintenance Agreement is defunct. In summary, neighbors entered into an agreement to construct and maintain the park on residential lots the city would have otherwise sold. In 2005, the neighbors requested that the City take it over as only two members of the Committee were taking care of it. Soon after the Committee dissolved. In 2013, the City conducted outreach meetings and distributed brochures to re-start the agreement with current homeowners. No volunteers came forward, and the City has maintained the park since. The minimum average maintenance cost is about \$5,000, however the park needs improvements to remain safe and compliant. This park is not in the Parks & Recreation Comprehensive Plan. Options for moving forward include (1) begin another neighborhood outreach campaign since so much time has passed since the last one, to see if an entity comes forward to take over the maintenance agreement; and/or (2) decommission the park,

potentially leading to surplus (property sale). If sold, there is no guarantee the revenue will fund improvements at other parks in the area. If outreach begins, Commissioners were asked to consider participating, get involved at the meetings.

b. Kennewick National Youth Baseball - presentation

Jared Moran, Vice-President of Kennewick National Youth Baseball, submitted a 2019-2020 Annual Report to share with the Commission. Due to Covid-19, the presentation was a delayed. Staff presented the report to the Commission on behalf of Mr. Moran. The report shows successes and projects completed in 2019. The 2020 projects are on hold while youth baseball is also on hold. Ms. Estes-Cross stated that this has been a beneficial partnership. After reviewing the presentation, Chairman Hahn requested that staff send thank you note to Mr. Moran.

The Kennewick School District requested permission to utilize the KNYB parking lot for additional parking needed for safe operations during the Covid-19 crisis. This was a win-win.

c. Covid 19 – impacts and response

- Parks crew continues to keep up with sanitation, edging, mowing, irrigation breaks in the parks and public spaces.
- Revenue has ceased due to no programs, no events, no rentals, as a result of Covid 19 restrictions.
- There is an increase in park use, and an uptick in homelessness in several parks.
- Minimal delays on capital projects already in process, however no new projects are starting.
- To discourage gatherings, all fields are closed to the public, bases have been pulled. There are no rentals at this time, yet unsanctioned games are happening, teams are showing up.
- City of Kennewick and Police Department are connecting with groups in the parks/fields educating them on social distancing and state guidelines.
- The Ken Serier Memorial Pool and aquatic splash parks are closed and will not open. The City is following CDC guidelines.
- Columbia Park Golf Tri-Plex is open, including foot golf. It is not known if disc golf has opened.
- Commissioners were asked to contact staff if they see something that needs attention.

d. Commissioner Resignation – Commissioner Robert VanSlycke resigned effective 7/27/20, due to a new job, out of town. Due to meeting limitations and constraints of Covid, this position may remain open until early 2021.

7. OLD BUSINESS

a. 2020 Park Audit Survey results

Deputy Director Greg Duffy thanked the Commissioners for all their contributions and involvement. Completing Park Audits is an important task which serves as an opportunity for staff to see the parks through fresh eyes and crews to follow up on areas noted. The six parks audited this year include Horse Heaven Hills, Layton,

Inspiration, Yelm, Keewaydin, and Zintel Park. The two low-scoring parks (Keewaydin and Layton Park) are getting a little more attention. Cleanliness is impacted by increased homelessness, overall higher use, and subsequently more trash. Zintel Canyon Park has flooding issues. Some of the challenges in this area are return flows from irrigation, water run off due to flood control, a levy, and intakes. A citywide Mitigation Committee, with a host of public agencies involved, is reviewing these issues.

b. 2020 Self-Guided Site Tour of Parks/Facilities

The 2020 Site Tour was a self-guided tour this year due to Covid-19, where Commissioners drove to sites throughout the City to view accomplishments, successes and challenges. This year the eight sites selected by staff were: Keewaydin Community Center, Monolopy Park, Underwood Park, Vancouver Park, Highlands Grange Park, Sunset Park, Desert Hills Challenge Course, and Southridge Complex. A PowerPoint of locations was shared with Commissioners. Funding, Community Development Block Grants, deadlines, and delays due to Covid-19 were discussed.

8. Poll of Commissioners and Staff

The annual Area Wide Joint Commission Meeting 2020 has been cancelled due to the pandemic. Pasco will host in 2021.

The All Community Senior Picnic 2020 has also been cancelled due to the pandemic. Richland will host in 2021.

Commissioner Stroben commented that the parks look great. She goes with family to have lunch and takes walks. She appreciates all the hard work from Parks crew and staff.

Commissioner Anderson said that he has completed park audits for quite a few years. He has visited Horse Heaven Hills on many occasions and is very impressed on how well it is maintained, the pride, well kept, lack of graffiti. He asked that Mr. Duffy thank the Parks crew.

Commissioner Heston mentioned that he was at Yelm Park two days ago and the park looks great. It was good to see people in the park, playing soccer and walking their dogs.

Commissioner Fischer congratulated the Parks crew for maintaining the parks. He audited Layton Park and stated it needs some work and has some challenges. He also stated that a neighbor is requesting basketball hoops be placed at Kenwood Park on Garfield. Commissioner Fisher asked about a window cleaning business vehicle parking in the area of 27th and Union. Commissioner Hahn stated that they have moved on.

City Councilman Jim Millbauer, Liaison to the Parks and Recreation Commission, commented that it was good to see the pouring of the pad and two basketball hoops at Underwood Park. He stated that he rides his bike along the Bob Olson Parkway regularly and is very impressed with the Desert Hills Challenge Course. Councilman Millbauer stated that today's agenda was very informative.

Commissioner Hahn asked who owns, or is responsible for property on the very west end of Columbia Park, west of the former campground. Ms. Estes-Cross stated that the City of Kennewick maintains from Hwy 240 (south border) to the river (north border), and from the eastern boundary of 'The Reach' property to the Cable Bridge. It was mentioned that overnight campers utilizing the park were contacted by the Kennewick Police Department and asked to leave. KPD encourages homeless individuals to connect with Union Gospel Mission. To date, six campers have been evicted. Inquiries regarding development of the former campground can be directed to the Parks Department.

9. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:23 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Isa Quintanilla, Recorder