

**Thursday, August 20, 2020**

**6:30pm**

Recreation Advisory Committee Meeting

NOTES

**Members Present:**, Johnny Calkins, Jeff Dunk, Scott Binder, John Kulstad, , Director David Couch, Beth Frink, Ben Winker, Charlie Caldwell

**Members Absent:** Laura Bridy, Chad Sefcik, Josh Zender, David Coelho, Chad Sefcik

**Guests:** Wendy Orlandi, Jason Orlandi, Pat Kaspari

**Meeting Notes:**

Communications:

- None

Public Comment:

- None

Recreation Director Report

- The Summer Childcare program ended on August 14<sup>th</sup>. Staff is waiting for the school districts to release their plan for providing childcare or out of school time programming before implementing a youth out of school time program for elementary school children.
- Staff submitted a plan to the County Dept. of Public Health to re-open the Drop-in Pickleball program and the plan was approved. It is anticipated that Drop-in Pickleball will resume in mid to late September, after all program staff and volunteers have been trained on COVID-19 related protocols and procedures.
- Staff have begun outlining alternative youth sporting programs to be offered this fall and winter that will adhere the States guidelines for youth sports.
- Staff participated in two webinars related to the state's release of Prop. 68 funds for parks and recreation. The Per Capita Program is a non-competitive funding program for capital outlay projects. MCSD is eligible to receive \$177, 952 from this program. Applications are due by December of 2021 and projects must be completed by December 2023. The Statewide Park Development and Community Revitalization program is a competitive grant for which funding requests of up to \$8,500,000 may be granted. The application for this funding is due December 14, 2020. Staff is updating cost estimates to the previously submitted grant application for the expansion and renovation of Pierson Park for resubmittal for this final round of funding. We will wait until we know if we are awarded the SSP Grant before applying for the Per Capita Funding.
- As of the writing of these notes the County Public Health Dept. did not have an estimated date or timeline for re-opening picnic areas, playgrounds and community centers.
- Committee member Ben Winker inquired about the McKinleyville Senior Center operations during this time.

Purpose, Scope and Name of the Recreation Advisory Committee

- MCSD Board President Mary Burke requested the RAC review and consider revising the scope and purpose of the Recreation Advisory Committee to specifically and explicitly include the advisory function related to the development and management of open spaces and natural resources within MCSD Parks & Recreation owned properties.
- Committee members discussed a few name options and agreed to postpone voting on a recommendation until the September meeting. Potential name ideas will be submitted to staff prior to the September meeting.
- Committee member Jeff Dunk appreciated the review of the Powers and Duties as outlined in MCSD's rules and Regulations and suggested it be something the Committee reviews annually.

- Committee member John Kulstad suggested that the MCSD Board of Directors also be reminded annually of the Powers and Duties of the committee.

#### In Memory of George Wheeler

- In May, Committee member Chad Sefcik requested the idea of raising funds to purchase and place a park element at Pierson Park in memory of George Wheeler. At the June MCSD Board meeting one of the Directors suggested considering broadening the scope of a memorial to include other MCSD Board members who have passed.
- Members discussed the difference between naming of a facility vs. the dedication of a park amenity to a person or memory of.
- Committee members agreed it was a difficult topic to move forward with given the absence of the idea's champion, Chad Sefcik.

#### BMX Proposal for Washington and School Rd. Property

- Jason and Wendi Orlandi have polled a few local businesses to determine interest in financially supporting the development of a BMX in McKinleyville. They reported that Tim Hooven is interested in providing donated labor and equipment to the development similar to what he provided in the construction of the Hiller Sports Complex.
- Committee member Beth Frink suggested contacting Geoff Wells, owner of All Points Signs as potential donor/supporter of the project.
- Jason and Wendi provided an estimated construction timeline outlining the time frame for development activities.
- Charlie Caldwell confirmed that the HSC would be the umbrella organization for the BMX project allowing any donations to be funneled through the HSC non-profit.
- Staff and the Orlandi's scheduled a future meeting to discuss the informational presentation to the MCSD Board of Directors on September 2<sup>nd</sup>.

#### Community Garden

- Ben Winker thanked the committee members who string trimmed the garden area for their service
- Ben reported that currently the garden is functioning as it always has, however he would like to consider re-visioning it as the beds need to be completely rebuilt, the gate and fencing need maintenance and a shed for tool storage is also needed. He stated that such an endeavor would require extensive fundraising and effort and understands that such work is challenging at this time.
- Member Jeff Dunk reminded the committee the revitalization of the Community Garden is part of the Statewide Park Development grant application to be submitted in December.

#### Social Media Uses and Strategies

- Committee member Beth Frink is interested in creating a strategy/campaign to create greater awareness of the outdoor recreation opportunities in the District.
- Committee member Jeff Dunk suggested that developing and building the social media infrastructure for such a campaign could be great project for HSU students and agreed to connect Beth to professors at HSU teaching classes that would lend to this kind of student project.

#### Strategies for Increasing Use of the Teen Center

- Various committee members offered up suggestions for possible ways to increase use of the teen center.
- Staff provided information on current marketing for the commercial kitchen since all of our facilities are closed for any kind of events that encourage gatherings.

#### Virtual Tour Project

- Committee member Jeff Dunk reported on virtual tour creation software that could be purchased for such a project.

- John Kulstad suggested that this could also be a potential student project.
- Beth Frink suggested that this project could also be incorporated into a social media campaign creating awareness of outdoor recreation opportunities.

AdHoc Committee Reports:

- Hewitt Ranch—entrance mowed recently
- Skate Park—Design plan docs are being revised per suggestions by GM
- School and Washington Property—mowed recently
- River Property—trail to river is clear
- Fischer Ranch Estuary project—on MCSD Board agenda for Sept. 2<sup>nd</sup>.
- BMX— See notes on above

Agenda Items for next meeting:

- Community Garden
- BMX proposal
- Dedication for George Wheeler
- Virtual Property Tour project

Adjournment:

- Adjourned: 8:06pm