



Parks & Recreation

City of Hermiston

May 18, 2023

Parks and Recreation Committee Meeting

Committee Members present: Angel Aguilar, Carlisle Harrison, Trista Hindman, Jeff Kelso, Lydia Raath, Nicole Westing

Also present: Youth Advisors Jeanine Heredia; Councilors Jackie Myers; Parks & Recreation Director Brandon Artz, staff members Kasia Robbins and Kelly Schwirse

Members not in attendance: Erica Juarez

CALL TO ORDER

Meeting called to order at 5:32 by Jeff Kelso

MINUTES

Motion to approve minutes from April meeting made by Lydia Raath, seconded by Nicole Westing. Motion carried unanimously.

REPORTS & BUSINESS

HERMISTON FAMILY AQUATIC CENTER

- 50-meter and the Multi-Use Pool (MUP) are filled and ready to go.
- Due to delay in the arrival of pool paint, the MUP did not get painted this season.
- Hermiston School District 2nd grade swim lessons start May 19th
- Echo School District 2nd and 5th grade swim lessons will start the following week.
- Collaboration with Echo School District to build 5th grade swim program curriculum that can be utilized for other districts in the coming years. Advanced self-rescue skills will be included in this curriculum.
- Currently hiring and training as many lifeguards as possible.
- Anticipating the pool to open for the summer on June 16th

SPLASH PAD

- Splash pad will open Memorial Day weekend featuring the newly resurfaced pad along with a donor sign thanking Good Shepherd Health Foundation, Wildhorse Foundation and Lamb Weston for generous donation to the splash pad project.
- Finishing pump upgrades and fixing leaks.
- Arrival of new slide is expected in mid-June.

HORIZON PARK

- City Council voted to officially name Hermiston's newest park, "Horizon Park".
- The name Horizon Park was a result of community wide survey in addition to a survey done with Loma Vista Elementary students.
- Grant request submitted to Lamb Weston in the amount of \$50,000 for the Horizon Park playground project.
- Ideas for playground equipment presented to the committee throughout the summer.

USDA URBAN FORESTRY GRANT

- Federal grant opportunity deadline: June 1. Funding minimum is \$100,000 up to \$50,000,000.
- Merchant McIntyre Associates, the grant writing agency we contract with, is moving quickly to put together a proposal for this grant.



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- Receiving this grant would benefit the Oxbow area by removing Russian Olives and replacing with new trees along the trail in addition to possibly establishing an arboretum.
- This grant would also provide an opportunity to inventory all trees throughout Hermiston, perform tree assessments with the tree arborer, plus additional plantings to grow and enhance our urban tree canopies.

HARRISON PARK

- Eastern Oregon Telecom estimates \$25,000 to run fiber to Harrison Park for the use of security cameras that will cover the park.
- Possible addition of restrooms near the courts.
- Estimated working budget for the basketball courts, lights, restrooms, and shelter is \$221,365.
- Made to Thrive is continuing grant writing for this project.

TACTILE MAP, FUNLAND PARK

- Deposit has been made to begin production of the tactile map, for the visually impaired, to be located on the kiosk at the entry of Fundland park. The kiosk will also include visual map for those assisting the visually impaired to be able to navigate the playground.
- Donors for the tactile map will be featured on the other side of kiosk.
- Project is an estimated at \$18,000, Phil Hamm and Lions Club are doing a large portion of the fundraising.
- Estimated installation in the fall of 2023.

TEEN ADVENTURE SKATE PARK

- Groundbreaking on Tuesday, June 6th at 5:30pm.
- Estimated construction start date June 15 to be followed by 120-160 days of construction.
- Grand Opening will take place in mid-late October.

HODGE PARK

- Discussion from previous meeting about the Hodge Park playground equipment and the repeated vandalism.
- After consulting Jason Baron, Parks Manager, this piece of equipment is still useable and compliant if we decided to remove it and donate it to another organization. If we were to replace it, it is suggested that we look at a more natural type of playground equipment.

ALL CITY VOLLEYBALL LEAGUE

- Travel volleyball league providing youths in grades 5th-8th with the opportunity to play competitive club volleyball while keeping the costs affordable.
- Teams are coached by Janell Davis, a former varsity volleyball coach.
- League consists of teams from Hermiston, Kennewick, Richland, Pasco and Prosser.
- Last weekend Hermiston the league and had 300+ spectators in attendance throughout the day.
- Final tournament is Sunday, May 21st
- Hoping to expand the travel sport league with football and basketball in the off seasons.

NOW HIRING

- Lifeguards
- Swim Team Coach

UPCOMING EVENTS & PROGRAMS

- I Love My City, May 20th 9am-12pm Sod laying at Horizon Park, 88 pallets of sold, snacks, water and shade provide. Expecting volunteers from Walmart, HHS football team, Hermiston Kiwanis Club, Lamb Weston and Marlette as well as individual community members



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- Art Festival, Saturday, June 3 10am-2:30pm in Downtown Hermiston
- Summer Camps now registering:
 - Black Rocket Online STEAM Camps
 - Summer Fun Day Camp
 - Youth & Bumper Bowling League
 - Advanced Wilderness Survival Camp
 - Junior Golf Camp
 - Missoula Children's Theatre
 - Skyhawk Youth Sports Camp
 - Bowling Bootcamp
 - Intro to Wilderness Survival Camp
 - Photography Camp
 - Color Your World Art Camp
 - Ninja Warrior Parkour Camp

OPEN DISCUSSION

- Open discussion among the committee regarding the city-wide budget shortfall and what that might look like for the Parks and Recreation department going forward with our programs and activities. No actions taken.

PUBLIC COMMENT

- No public comment

ADJOURNED

- Meeting adjourned at 6:35pm
- In place of our regularly scheduled June meeting, we will meet at the groundbreaking Teen Adventure Skate Park Groundbreaking on June 5th, 2023