



July 13, 2023

# City of Hermiston Parks and Recreation Committee Meeting

## *Parks & Recreation*

Committee Members present:

Carlisle Harrison  
Jeff Kelso

Lydia Raath  
Nicole Westing

Also present: Jackie Myers, City Councilor  
Brandon Arts, Parks & Recreation Director  
Kasia Robbins, Parks & Recreation  
Kelly Schwirse, Parks & Recreation

Members not in attendance: Angel Aguilar, Trista Hindman, Erica Juarez

### **CALL TO ORDER**

Meeting called to order at 5:30 by Jeff Kelso

### **MINUTES**

Motion to approve minutes from May 2023 Parks & Recreation Committee meeting made by Carlisle Harrison, seconded by Nicole Westing. Motion carried unanimously.

The 2023 Recreation Projects Fund Advisory Committee received a total of eight applicants that presented to the committee on June 20<sup>th</sup>. The committee unanimously recommended to award the full requested amount to each applicant and submitted to City Council for approved. All applicants were approved by council. Council recommended that the committee reopen to review several applications received after the deadline in addition to new applicants through July 28, 2023. Committee meeting date for presentations to be determined.

Approval minutes for this meeting are under the purview of the Parks and Recreation Committee. Motion to approve minutes from 2023 Recreation Projects Fund Advisory Committee meeting made by Lydia Raath, seconded by Nicole Westing. Motion carried unanimously.

### **REPORTS & BUSINESS**

#### **JULY 4<sup>th</sup> CELEBRATION**

- Western Display put on a great firework show off the Butte. Positive public feedback from the community.
- Entertainment and activities were scaled back as we had limited staffing. Large variety of vendors attended.
- Considering moving start time of celebration to 5:00pm.
- Pool Party attendance was average with roughly 130 tickets sold.
- Suggestion to rename event to "Blast the Butte".

#### **TEEN ADVENTURE SKATE PARK**

- Official groundbreaking was held on June 6<sup>th</sup>.
- Initial start date was delayed in the plan review as an ADA parking space needed to be added on site.
- Construction to begin on July 24<sup>th</sup>.



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### **HARRISON PARK**

- Made to Thrive is the recipient of a grant from the Ford Foundation in the amount of \$50,000 in addition to the \$15,000 TRT grant from the Recreation Projects Fund for the Harrison Park project.
- Groundbreaking to be organized within the next month.

### **RIVERFRONT PARK**

- Playground project has been completed and open for kids play.
- Solar lights were installed along parking lot for added safety.
- A porta potty has placed at the park and will remain throughout the summer months.

### **HARKENRIDER SENIOR ACTIVITY CENTER**

- September 2023 concludes the Seniors Only Activities agreement within the senior center.
- A business plan is being developed for September 2023.
  - o Senior operations are from 8am-4:00pm with a variety of senior programs and lunches served on Tuesdays and Thursdays.
  - o City operations after 4:00pm for additional programming and rentals.
- Portland based architects, Hacker, has been hired for the renovation of the Harkenrider Activity Center basement as well as the public library and unfinished space in city hall.
- Stakeholder Group being formed for design ideas for the basement area. Volunteers from Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee are encouraged. Group will meet on Wednesday, Aug. 2<sup>nd</sup>

### **THE ARC BUILDING**

- The Public Safety Building, home of police and fire departments, will be undergoing renovations and will require the police department to temporarily move their operations to another location. The Arc building was chosen as the temporary location for police operations during the time of construction that will last up to a year..
- Current tenants, The Arc of Umatilla County, have been notified that we will be taking over the building in February 2024. Renovations and upgrades to the building will directly benefit The Arc of Umatilla County when they eventually return their office to the building.
- Office space for The Arc of Umatilla County will be made available at the Carnegie Building and programs to be held at the Harkenrider Senior Activity Center and Community Center.

### **HERMISTON FAMILY AQUATIC CENTER**

- NEW: Lap Swim and aqua fit classes have been merged in with public swim hours during the weekend (Fri-Sun) reducing costs significantly.
- NEW: Only allowing personal sized coolers during public swim hours reducing the high volume of outside food and beverage being brought into the facility and dramatically reducing overall garbage generated. This new personal cooler rule does not apply to patrons that have rented the picnic shelter or lazy river area, larger coolers and extra food is still allowed.
- Improvement made to existing shade structures along the deck, newly installed shade over the concession stand, lifeguard stand and added to the lazy river picnic area.
- Water clarity issues in the 50M due to paint during the first two weeks.
- Broken glass from goggles in the 50M pool on June 30, closed for one day.
- New credit card payment processor had yielded significant issues, frustrating both staff and patrons.



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### **HERMISTON FAMILY AQUATIC CENTER continued**

- Scheduled pool closures on Wednesday, Aug. 16 and 23.
- Significantly understaffed since the departure of our second full-time salaried position earlier this year. Evaluating for next year and developing a plan for opening the facility while only having one fully time position dedicated to the pool. Considering the possibility of contracting with someone to open the pool, train staff and work during the season until a full-time position can be approved.

### **HORIZON PARK**

- Grass is green, growing and has established very well.
- Lamb Weston has dedicated \$50,000 of their Enterprise Zone Funding toward the playground project.
- Working with designers on playground features.
- Possible installation of sport court/half court by fall.

### **BUDGET**

- City Council presentation on September 11<sup>th</sup> .
- Explanation of Parks Operations and staff.
- Explanation of Recreation Operations and staff including Hermiston Family Aquatic Center, Hermiston Community Center, Harkenrider Senior Activity Center and HEROS Complex.
- Explanation and review of fees and grants.

### **UPCOMING EVENTS & PROGRAMS**

- Movies in the Park, Butte Park, July 14<sup>th</sup> , 21<sup>st</sup> , 28<sup>th</sup>
- Kids Triathlon, Hermiston Family Aquatic Center, July 29<sup>th</sup>
- Science in the Park, Highland Park & Sunset Park, Tues & Thurs thru August 11<sup>th</sup>
- Melon Fest, Main/Festival Steets., Aug. 19<sup>th</sup>
- Summer Camps now registering:
  - Spanish Classes for Beginners
  - Color Your World Art Camp
  - Ninja Warrior Parkour Camp
  - Advanced Wilderness Survival Camp
  - Missoula Children's Theatre

### **OPEN DISCUSSION**

- No public comment

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

- No public comment

### **ADJOURNED**

- Meeting adjourned at 6:34pm
- Next meeting, September 14 5:30pm