



**Parks & Recreation**

City of Hermiston

April 13, 2023

## **Parks and Recreation Committee Meeting**

Committee Members present: Trista Hindman, Erica Juarez, Jeff Kelso, Lydia Raath, Nicole Westing

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

Members not in attendance: Angel Aguilar and Carlisle Harrison

### **CALL TO ORDER**

Meeting called to order at 5:30 by Jeff Kelso

### **MINUTES**

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

### **INTRODUCTION**

Introduction of youth advisor Jeanine Heredia to the Parks and Recreation committee. Jeanine is a sophomore at Hermiston High School and a member of the track team.

### **REPORTS & BUSINESS**

#### **LEGACY PARK**

- Irrigation installation is complete and ready for grass. Hydro seeding the park was ruled out as an option due to the extremely sandy soil, multiple applications needed and immense volume of water that would be used to facilitate grass growth in such conditions. It was decided that sod will be used to cover the park.
- Sod will be delivered and installed on Saturday, May 20<sup>th</sup> as part of the "I Love My City" event from 9am-12pm. Community members are encouraged to join in this project.
- Review of the Community Park Naming Survey along with the Loma Vista Elementary student survey resulted in an expansive list of possibilities for the renaming of what is currently referred to as Legacy Park. Members of the committee reviewed and discussed a number of potential names eventually narrowing the list down to two names, North Vista Park and Horizon Park. A committee vote was held, five votes for Horizon Park and two votes for North Vista Park. A recommendation by the Parks and Recreation Committee to City Council will be to rename the park to Horizon Park.

#### **HODGE PARK**

- Due to the close proximity of Hermiston High School, Hodge Park is a popular hangout for high school students during lunch breaks and after school. Graffiti has become increasingly more prevalent on the play structure with profanity, sexual innuendos, and crude images.
- Consulting with our parks manager, paint will not stick properly to this type of poly plastic material to make it look representative of what we want in our parks.
- Group discussion regarding the value of keeping or removing the play structure in the park, possible additions to the park. No action taken.

#### **HEROS SPORTS COMPLEX**

- Fields have been seeded and grass is starting to grow, daily watering and recent rain has been beneficial.
- Robot striper has arrived and will start training on it soon.
- As part of the City's contribution, a wide area mower will be purchased to use at the complex.



## Parks and Recreation Committee Meeting

### *Parks & Recreation*

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

- Engineering on the curb/gutter system and sidewalks along 1<sup>st</sup> Street has been completed and submitted back to CA Skateparks for completion of construction documents.
- Official groundbreaking date will be announced at next meeting.

#### **MAIN STREET**

- On the morning of March 21<sup>st</sup> it was reported that a tree had been cut down on Main Street in front of Badder Ink Tattoo located at 182 E. Main Street. The owner of Badder Ink has repeatedly requested Parks and Recreation to remove the tree as far back as August 2022 as it was blocking the visibility of his new sign. Parks and Recreation has on multiple occasions denied the request to remove the tree.
- The very same morning the tree was cut down, a video surveillance camera on the front of Sweet Potatoes Closet, located directly across the street from Badder Ink Tattoo, was also stolen.
- A police report was filed, no update as of now.

#### **PARKS & RECREATION IS HIRING**

- Mya Hayden has left her position as Recreation Coordinator, however, will remain on as a Recreation Specialist while she pursues her new job with Good Shepherd Health Care Systems.
- Recreation Coordinator, Recreation Specialists, Lifeguards and Aquatic Staff

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

- On track to have water in both pools by May 10<sup>th</sup>
- Second grade swim lessons will begin on May 19<sup>th</sup>
- Pool will open to the public on June 16<sup>th</sup>
- Staff training in the water between May 10<sup>th</sup> - June 16<sup>th</sup>
- Supervisors, swim lesson coordinator, head certifier and assistant manager confirmed to return this year.
- Actively looking for a front desk/concession supervisor.

#### **BUDGET**

- Budget reductions are looming, our department is look closely at programs to determine what can be cut back, allowing us to focus on other programs to make better in addition to expanding popular programs creating more revenue.
- Budget committee meeting is scheduled for May 11 to overlook the entire city budget, more in depth conversations with the city manager regarding what the overall reductions will look like for Parks and Recreation moving forward. More details to come at next meeting.

### **UPCOMING EVENTS & PROGRAMS**

#### **OPEN DISCUSSION**

#### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

- No public comment

#### **ADJOURNED**

- Meeting adjourned at 6:35pm
- Next regular committee meeting, May 18, 2023