



September 14, 2023

City of Hermiston Parks and Recreation Committee Meeting

Parks & Recreation

Committee Members present:

Carlisle Harrison
Jeff Kelso
Angel Aguilar

Lydia Raath
Nicole Westing
Trista Hindman

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

Members not in attendance: Erica Juarez

CALL TO ORDER

Meeting called to order at 5:30 by Jeff Kelso

MINUTES

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

The 2023 Recreation Projects Fund Advisory Committee met on August 2nd to review additional applications that were received during the extended deadline period. The committee ultimately decided not to fund any of these requests and encourage them to apply again next year. Approval of the 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 on August 2nd made by Carlisle Harrison, seconded by Nicole Westing. Motion carried unanimously.

REPORTS & BUSINESS

DIRECTOR'S REPORT *presented by Brandon Artz*

CAMPING ORDINANCE

- Review of new Camping Ordinance adopted by the City of Hermiston.
- View at hermiston.or.us under Codes of Ordinance

USDA FOREST SERVICE

- USDA Forest Service awarded City of Hermiston \$1,000,000 for urban and community forestry.
- Project: Urban and Community Forest Health and Biodiversity for Long-term Resilience.
 - o The city plans to remove invasive Russian Olive trees and replant species native to Oregon which will improve the health and biodiversity of the urban and community forests.
 - o Focusing on the replanting of native trees in the west side of Hermiston encompassing Oxbow trail area in to improve environmental justice in Hermiston.



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HARKENRIDER SENIOR ACTIVITY CENTER

- Seniors Only Activities Agreement has ended, rental of the facility is available to the public.
- A business plan is being developed for September 2023.
 - o Senior operations 8:00am-3:00pm
 - o City operations 3:00pm-11:59pm
 - 60/40 split of revenue for event rentals
- Portland based architects, Hacker, has been hired for the renovation of the basement.
 - o Stakeholder Group being formed for design ideas.
 - o Timeline: Design completion, Nov. 3; Construction starting in late February; Completion approximately mid-May
- Senior Advisory Committee would like to have a representative from the Parks & Rec Committee.

THE ARC BUILDING

- Seniors and members of The Arc group met and worked out a schedule for usage as they will be moving into the basement in March once the renovations are complete.
- The Arc will remain at the senior center location until the police department is finished utilizing The Arc building during their renovation transition.
- Some specials events possibly to be held at the Community Center.

FUNLAND TACTILE MAP

- Tactile Map has been completed and ready for pickup. Visual map is in development.
- Back side of map will feature the donor sign.
- Map will be featured in a new Kiosk installed Funland park.

DOG PARK

- Concrete has been poured and posts for the shelter structure are installed.
- Marlette will begin building the rest of the shelter September 18.
 - o Volunteer hours and most supplies donated by Marlette.
- The finished shelter will also contain benches and dog fountain.
- New cement pad entry will reduce the wear on the grass in that area.

HERMISTON FAMILY AQUATIC CENTER

- Season Recap:
- 2023 attendance was slightly under last year's numbers due to some of the following:
 - o 10 fewer days during the season than normal.
 - o No kickoff weekend in June
 - o Maintenance issues with water clarity due to paint, glass goggles broken in pool and weather issues in August.
 - o Restrictions on cooler size dramatically reduced the amount of garbage generated by our patrons and alcohol being brought into the facility.
- Budgeted revenue will be exceeded for this season.
- Hermiston High School swim team is currently utilizing the pool 4-5 days per week.
- Black algae has been irradiated from the pool.



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BUDGET

- Presented before City Council meeting as part of the general fund explanation of department operations and revenue sources.
 - o Explanation of Parks Operations and Staff
 - o Explanation of Recreation Operations and Staff
 - Pool, Community Center, Harkenrider Senior Activity Center
 - o Explanation/Review of fees and grants.
- Presentation available for public viewing on hermiston.or.us

TEEN ADVENTURE SKATE PARK

- Concrete forms are being construction and likely to start pouring concrete next week reaching nearly 50% completion.
- ADA issues have come up, working to get them cleared up to avoid any stop work orders.
- Ribbon cutting slated for November when skate park is complete. Date to be determined.
- Grand Opening/Skate Fest in spring (March) with demonstrations, giveaways, and trick competitions.
- Skateboard designed by Nike graphic designer with spooky watermelon design that would be available for sale to the public. Additional designs for our commemorative skateboards provided by Daniel Wattenburger of PacWest.

FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS

- Chamber of Commerce, EOTEC and Parks & Rec along with stakeholders of the Festival of Lights met to discuss plans to grow the annual Festival of Lights in hopes of being a destination during the holidays.
 - o Christmas Village and Vendors on designated weekends
- Volunteer needed to be part of this committee.

UPCOMING EVENTS & PROGRAMS

- **Harvest Bazaar**, Community Center and Harkenrider Senior Center, Sept. 30th 9am-4:30pm
- **Kiwanis Kids Day and Faith & First Responders** at Butte Park on Oct. 7th 10am-2pm
- **Cork & Barrel**, Festival Street in Downtown Hermiston on Oct. 7th 5-10pm
- **Community Yard Sale**, Community Center Parking Lot on Oct. 13th 3, 9am-4pm
- **Treats on Main & Beyond**, Main Street and Community Center on Oct. 31st 3-6pm
- **Let's Get Crafty**, adult craft night at Community Center on Nov. 2nd 5:30-7:30pm
- **Youth flag football and volleyball** programs starting Sept. 30th.
 - o Lower than normal registration numbers this season. A new community football and volleyball league starting up in addition to restrictions by the Hermiston School District not allowing fliers to be sent home directly with students may be contributing factors to the decline in numbers.

PUBLIC COMMENT

- No public comment

ADJOURNED

- Meeting adjourned at 6:32pm
- Next meeting, October 12 5:30pm