

City of Milton-Freewater

Parks & Recreation Committee Minutes

Members: Jacque Barthel-Fox, George Gillette, John Mitchell, Danny Sanchez & Ryan Westman

Meeting Date/Time: July 9, 2024 / 5 p.m.

Meeting Location: Community Building, Rotary Room, 109 NE 5th Ave Milton-Freewater, OR.

1. OPENING

Chair Ryan Westman welcomed everyone and opened the meeting at 5:00 p.m.

Committee member(s) present: Jacque Barthel-Fox, George Gillette, John Mitchell, Danny Sanchez and Ryan Westman.

Committee member(s) absent: None.

City staff present: City Manager Chad Morris, Parks and Buildings Maintenance Supervisor Matt Chesnut and Public Works Assistant/Project Aide Krista Gannon.

Citizen(s) present: Jean Ann Mitchell.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes from the June 4, 2024 meeting were presented in packets to members prior to the meeting. **All present voted in favor of approving minutes. Minutes were approved and signed by Chair Westman.**

3. PRESENTATIONS – N/A

4. STAFF REPORT/BUSINESS ITEMS:

Parks Supervisor Matt Chesnut shared that right now he and his crew are just trying to keep up and there are no new tournaments.

Ms. Barthel-Fox asked what is going on with the log and big rock at Yantis Park.

Chair Westman brought the meeting back to Old Business order.

A. Old Business

Mr. Westman asked when the order of mulch was expected to arrive.

Ms. Gannon stated it was on order and that there was a bit of a hiccup with the manufacturer pushing the date back into June for production and mid to late July for delivery. She shared that once the mulch arrives the project can be wrapped up and closed out for final grant draw down and project completion.

Discussion ensued about natural play areas and climbing.

There was interest of when the Freewater Park improvements were slated to begin. Ms. Gannon shared that she was not aware of the plan for that, but would certainly be asking for an update for the next meeting and recalled that the asphalt pad would be one of the first elements in order to allow it to cycle through several seasons prior to coating to allow for the oil to process and not bleed through the coating.

- Golf Course – Ms. Gannon asked Mr. Gillette to share updates on the Mother's Day and Father's Day golf course promotions. Mr. Gillette stated the Mother's Day promotion was ok but the Father's Day was much more successful and there were 56 that took advantage of the buy one, get one at half price special. Mr. Gillette stated they are seeing an increase of about 20% of those playing being new players to our course.

Freewater Park Project – The question was again raised when the city planned to start working on Freewater Park. Ms. Gannon shared she would ask and get back with an update on the plans for those improvements and a preliminary timeline.

Mr. Sanchez stated the parking lots at Yant's and Rotary Fields both really need stalls painted to allow for maximized use of minimal space. Ms. Gannon shared that this had been discussed and some had been done but she will share this with the department.

Mr. Westman asked when the Parks and Recreation Master Plan would start to be updated and when it would be good time to begin such as every five (5) years or so.

City Manager Morris stated that the Council is going to start working on and reviewing goals and their strategic planning and it is ideal to allow for that to happen first and then align the other plans to those goals and update those plans. He stated he anticipates it to be about a year from now that would take place and he would like some direction from council around November/December before budgeting begins.

Ms. Mitchell stated that there is quite a positive change in the attitudes of the YMCA staff at the pool lately and that the staff greets you upon arrival. She said they have positive attitudes and hopes lap swim times don't go away due to low attendance. She shared it is time to rebuild trust and get word out that the water is nice.

Ms. Barthel-Fox recommended that there be better communication encouraged from the city. She stated she showed up Sunday for lap swim at 11:30 a.m. and there was a family there waiting to get in and open swim wasn't open until 1 this year and there were no posted hours to be seen from outside for instance. She recommended they post them on the windows facing out on the doors. She shared that the reader board needs updated and it appears to not have been updated this year other than the strange motto message they had for recruitment this year and that our web page and Facebook could be used to promote much more adequately.

Manager Morris shared that communication methods and channels are being looked at for improvement city-wide.

Mr. Gillette stated that it is best that posted hours be kept consistent.

Discussion ensued and the question arose on who is responsible for updating the reader board at the pool periodically. It was shared that there is a suction tool and letters inside the facility as well as at the Community Building.

Mr. Mitchell stated he had just looked up the pool information adequately on his phone right then and didn't have a problem.

Mr. Mitchell asked why we close on the 4th of July. Ms. Gannon shared that historically, when the city managed the pool, the attendance was down on the 4th. The question came up of how many patrons have come through the door. Ms. Gannon stated she does not receive that information any longer. It was asked if the feedback box was out in the lobby yet this year that was promised by the YMCA for compliments and complaints and if they had been shared with the city. Nobody present at the meeting could recount whether they had seen one or not.

Discussion came up about missing fence slats around the pool and complaints about people looking in. Ms. Gannon and Manager Morris shared that Manager Morris had just authorized a purchase order and the slats had been ordered.

Manager Morris shared that he has been working with staff and the YMCA on stocking the concession stand better as well as finding alternate suppliers for items in high demand.

Manager Morris shared that while the committee is an advisory committee to the Council, he is open to them coming to him at any time with issues that he may be able to address immediately resulting in immediate results rather than allowing them to get worse and having to wait. He wanted everyone to know they are welcome if they have concerns to come to him as well as council anytime.

Those present were grateful to hear this and for his attendance at the meeting.

It was asked who people need to contact if they have complaints or concerns with YMCA staff and who the contact would be for the YMCA. Manager Morris said he prefers they come to him to address the YMCA and then he can ensure it is handled and progress is made without multiple citizens making multiple attempts to different people.

Those present shared appreciation for Manager Morris and his leadership having an involved City Manager.

Ms. Barthel-Fox shared that she had been approached by YMCA guards about the safety of the wooden slide structure.

Mr. Chesnut stated that while he is not a structural engineer, he did inspect it and found no imminent danger.

Manager Morris stated the Safety Committee for the City checked it out some and a specialist on wood structures will need to readdress the concern.

ADJOURNMENT

Being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:33 p.m. by Chair Westman.

Approved as read this 13th day of August, 20 22.

By: Ryan Westman
Ryan Westman - Parks and Recreation Committee Chair