

# City of Milton-Freewater

## Parks & Recreation Committee Minutes

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

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**Meeting Date/Time:** August 13, 2024 / 5 p.m.

**Meeting Location:** Freewater Park, 17 NE 8<sup>th</sup> 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 and Ryan Westman.

Committee member(s) absent: Danny Sanchez was excused.

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

Citizen(s) present: Jean Ann Mitchell.

### 2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes from the July 9, 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:

#### A. Old Business

Yantis Park OPRD Grant Update – Public Works Technician Steven Patten shared that the Yantis project has been complete and final reporting has been submitted.

#### B. New Business

Freewater Park OPRD Grant Site Tour – Mr. Patten walked those present over to the existing tennis court and shared the plans for the removal of the existing tennis court to house a larger multi-use sports court. He shared the fencing and surface will be completely removed and a new surface will be placed along with new fencing and lights. Discussion ensued about lighting being on all night with having residential dwellings nearby. Ms. Barthel-Fox inquired on security cameras and if they would be included as part of these improvements. Mr. Patten shared that there were already security cameras in place at the location and pointed them out. He stated that as part of the splash pad project, Rotary contributed to the installation of security cameras rather than donating funds for future maintenance. Mr. Mitchell inquired on what the surface material would consist of for the new multi-use court. Mr. Patten shared it would be asphalt and then coated with a sports court surfacing material. Mr. Patten shared that staff is working to determine if the work will be done by crews or contracted out. Mr. Westman asked about painting the asphalt after surfacing and how soon that could happen. Mr. Patten shared that the asphalt will need to be allowed to oxidize to eliminate the oil from bleeding through the paint/surfacing. Mr. Westman asked which types of lines will be painted on the court(s). Mr. Patten shared that is yet to be determined. He shared at this time it is planned that users will need to bring their own

nets and by using portable nets it allows for the multi-use of the area rather than fixed nets. Mr. Westman asked if service clubs could maybe organize checking out nets that the city purchased for use. Manager Morris stated that could be something that could be looked at.

Mr. Patten shared that another part of the project is for the installation of a path to connect around the block with the existing sidewalks. Benches are planned to be acquired and placed along the path within the park. The construction of ADA ramps is also in the plans. Mr. Mitchell asked if the path would allow bicycles. That has yet to be determined, but there is a good chance bicycles, skates and skateboards will be seen on it due to the park housing the skate park. Mr. Gillette asked what the planned width of the path is. Mr. Patten shared that the path is planned to be the same as an asphalt paver, which is 8 feet wide. This way it is more efficiently done with the equipment and is also less expensive due to less manual labor and hand work.

Mr. Patten then shared that there will be a natural play area where the play area that has been removed was. He stated that the rubber mulch was ordered at the same time that the additional mulch for Yantis was ordered and delivery is expected any day.

Mr. Patten shared that the existing park restrooms will have some minor updates along with the construction of a new ADA ramp and path to the restrooms and a small sidewalk from the existing sidewalk to the play area to comply with ADA requirements.

Parks and Recreation Supervisor Matt Chesnut asked what was planned with the existing old swings and if we were replacing them. Discussion ensued and Manager Morris shared that he is open to ideas and they could be taken into consideration when the time comes along with cost and priority. Right now, staff will address filling in the fall protection under the swings ensuring safety the best we can with what is in place.

#### **OTHER BUSINESS NOT ON THE AGENDA:**

Discussion ensued about maintenance of weeds and the trail to the monument at Marie Dorian Park falls. Manager Morris shared that right now is not the ideal time to spray, as the weeds are tall and already dead or really dry and to cut them it would be quite labor intensive and spring would be a much more effective time to consider options. He shared that we have limited resources and funds and when they are used in one location, another may have to go without.

Citizen Jean Ann Mitchell stated that maybe this is something that could be an October Make a Difference Day project.

Mr. Gillette stated that it seems that the public wants more and more and with limited resources it is becoming more difficult to sustain and maintain what we have without adding more. Discussion ensued and Manager Morris stated he will go out on site and inspect the concerns himself and see what can be done.

#### **Freewater Park - continued**

Moving over toward the skate park, for the age of the park and heavy use there was some constructive feedback used from some youth using the facility at the time. The biggest issue noticed was some drainage issues that were noted and shared with Public Works Staff to address the following business day as directed by Manager Morris.

Due to the Labor Day holiday the next meeting was moved to Tuesday, September 10, 2024 at 5 pm.

## ADJOURNMENT

Being no further business, the meeting was adjourned by Chair Westman.

Approved as read this 10th day of September, 2024.

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



# Freewater Park Improvements

## Multi-use Sports Court, Walking Paths & Play Area

### Freewater Park Improvements



ADA Ramps



Proposed Walking Path



Proposed Benches



Existing Sidewalks

*Install new walking path to create park loop with benches*

*Remove Tennis Court  
Replace with Multi-use Sports Court*

*Bathroom upgrades*

*Playground equipment already removed  
Install natural play area with fall protection chips*

0 25 50 75 100 125 150 ft

Created by Steven Patten - March 2023

