

City of Milton-Freewater

Parks & Recreation Committee Minutes

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

Meeting Date/Time: February 4, 2025

Meeting Location: Public Library, Monahan Room, 8 SW 8th Ave, Milton-Freewater OR.

1. OPENING

- a. Chair Ryan Westman welcomed everyone and opened the meeting at 5:03 p.m.

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

Committee member(s) absent: George Gillette was excused.

City staff present: City Manager Chad Morris and Public Works Assistant/Project Aide Krista Gannon.

Citizen(s) present: Jean Ann Mitchell, Jennifer Riley, Kevin Riley, Leanne Steadman and Dave Fox.

- b. Appointment of Committee Chair for 2025. Ms. Gannon share that the City Charter outlines that the Parks and Recreation Committee shall select one of their members to serve as chair and another as vice chair at the first meeting of each calendar year, for the calendar year.

Jacquie Barthel-Fox moved to appoint Ryan Westman to serve as the 2025 Chair. John Mitchell seconded the motion. All members present voted in favor. Mr. Westman will serve as the 2025 Parks and Recreation Committee Chair.

Ms. Barthel-Fox moved to appoint Danny Sanchez to serve as the 2025 Vice Chair. Mr. Mitchell seconded the motion. All members present voted in favor. Mr. Sanchez will serve as the 2025 Parks and Recreation Committee Vice Chair.

- c. Adoption of Agenda – Ms. Barthel-Fox asked that the agenda be amended to include the following item:

b. *New Business:*

3. *Little League Program and Facilities Update*

All members present voted in favor of such amendment to the agenda and adopted the agenda with the one change to add Little League Program and Facilities Update.

Prior to the beginning of the formal agenda Ms. Barthel-Fox asked about some unfinished business from September and inquired about how many visitors had been to the pool last year and that it would be helpful to have that information to know how many patrons had passed through the doors.

Chair Westman stated we could add another business item.

Ms. Barthel-Fox asked with the YMCA season end report they referenced unreturnable items from the snack bar and would like to know the status of those items.

City Manager Morris stated that he did not have the total count of patrons but could check into that for the next meeting. He also shared that opened cases that were partials that were unable to be returned were donated. He stated the budget of \$140,770 came in under at \$115,176 in actual costs.

Ms. Barthel-Fox shared her impression of the six visits she made to the facility the water was a wonderful temperature, maintenance condition and staff were inviting but it was quite apparent that it was heavily staffed. She stated there were two lap swimmers, including herself and five lifeguards posting with one rotating and the staff number in the snack bar was heavily staffed.

Chair Westman recommended staff hold off on further discussion and continue with the agenda as adopted.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Mitchell motioned to approve minutes from the September 10, 2024 minutes as presented. Ms. Barthel-Fox seconded the motion. All present voted to approve the September 10, 2024 minutes as presented.

Ms. Barthel-Fox stated that the number of attendees should be recorded because they use a clicker to track patrons and that she would like to know how many attended last summer.

City Manager Morris stated he would get that information for the next meeting.

3. PRESENTATIONS – N/A

4. STAFF REPORT/BUSINESS ITEMS:

a. OLD BUSINESS

1. **Freewater Park Grant Update** – City Manager Chad Morris shared that the Request for proposals for the Multi-Use Court and Walking Path paving were out for bid. He stated that Demo will occur when the weather warms up and the asphalt plants begin starting up for the season, as we do not want to tear things up and leave work unfinished for any duration of time, if we can help it. He shared he will evaluate how much will be done inhouse vs contracted out based on how bids come in to meet the grant and match requirements. The ADA sidewalk work will be one by staff and we will wait for weather as well for the ramps and sidewalk work.

Ms. Barthel-Fox asked who the project manager will be. Manager Morris stated Steven Patten and himself.

Mr. Mitchell inquired about which types of work could be done by staff to save money at cost vs. grant and in-kind. Discussion ensued.

Danny Sanchez asked about the play equipment and what that would consist of.

Manager Morris stated it would be natural play area similar to what has been placed at Yantis Park.

Mr. Mitchell asked about the old swings and what the plan was with them.

Manager Morris stated that the swings will have the footings covered and sand hauled in for safety as is for now, but we hope to replace them at some point in time. He shared that it is important that very small children also have opportunity with parents at the park to allow for all ages of opportunities. Once the renovations are complete, he stated options and funding will be evaluated to possibly replace the toddler swings.

2. **Marie Dorian Park Grant Update** – Manager Morris shared this project will begin once Freewater is primarily complete and funding is valid through December 2026. The biggest cost will be the replacement of the old power house roof.

Chair Westman asked what the plan was for the sidewalks.

Public Works Assistant/Project Aide assured Chair Westman that the sidewalks are not going to substantially change and that staff remains aware of the frisbee golf course that Kiwanis installed and we do not plan to interfere with the course of play.

Chair Westman thanked staff for keeping that in mind.

Mr. Mitchell asked if there was any signage up there about the course and said our website didn't offer anything that he was aware of.

Manager Morris shared he could look into that.

b. New Business:

1. **Recreation Facilities Update** – Manager Morris shared that he has been working with M-F School Superintendent Aaron Duff seeking joint use property/facility intergovernmental use agreements and grants. They have discussed the enormous amount of funds it takes to operate our facilities that are jointly used and the updates needed. Manager Morris shared he had recently met with Senator Smith and requested some state funding to possibly help with this huge gap of funding needed for our joint use facilities such as the tennis courts. He stated the tennis courts will not be worked on this year before the season but they were hoping to be able to submit a grant application or two knowing they need about \$700,000 to make the improvements and add joint use pickleball courts. He stated they are planning on four tennis courts and eight pickleball courts.

Mr. Mitchell asked if they would be for general public access and Manager Morris said they will all be open. Details would be worked out to secure if necessary and tennis courts dedicated for tennis would be for school use first. These improvements would include everything torn out existing and new from the ground and surface to the lighting and fencing. He shared that there are some contractors willing to donate equipment and time as well as staff that could do the same saving some, but we would still have a large gap of funding needed for materials. He shared we are hoping for demo to begin as soon as the school season is over and to get done before winter.

Mr. Sanchez asked if two courts could be dedicated for tennis only specific for athletics to hope to bring league tournaments back to Milton-Freewater as well.

Discussion then came up about updating the Parks and Recreation Master Plan. Ms. Gannon shared that now that the Council has adopted their Strategic Priorities adopted, Manager Morris will be able to have the Parks and Recreation Master Plan updated once the budget is done. Manager Morris concurred, that we need to get a few large ticket items done and then move forward with the master plan update.

2. Summer 2025 Pool Update – Manager Morris stated he received a proposal from the WW YMCA to provide lifeguards for summer for \$107,000. He stated he is looking at several alternative options on how to operate this coming summer. He stated that Karen Hedine, CEO of the WW YMCA proposed a season of 6/16/25-8/23/25 = 10 weeks. Ms. Barthel Fox asked what Manager Morris' stance was at this point. Manager Morris stated he had no definite opinion, yet. Ms. Barthel-Fox shared that since it is February it would be a good idea to identify a CPO now and register for the three-day training, if they didn't already have the certification since it is a necessary requirement. The first CPO training was shown to occur in March. Audience member Jennifer Riley was a former Joe Humbert Family Aquatic Center manager for several years shared that the high school is no longer offer the classes because the funding was gone due to it being a grant that was previously available to M-F students for credit to obtain lifeguard certification. She stated since she managed, the equipment in the mechanical room has been updated as well, so it works more efficiently again. Ms. Barthel-Fox emphasized that no matter what we need to realize that to many families in our community our facility is many families' "SUMMER VACATIONS". Without it they wouldn't have summer vacation. Discussion ensued about season length. Ms. Riley shared that it would be helpful to create a focus group/committee to reestablish the city operating the pool and she feels it is possible with the volunteers and historical knowledge to help coordinate and that it will take manpower, but it can definitely be done. Manager Morris asked her to get with him after the meeting to set up a time to sit down and discuss her past experience in operating the pool and thoughts further. Chair Westman stated that time is approaching and is concerning. Jean Ann Mitchell stated the pool was vibrant when Jennifer managed the pool and it was a center point of the community. Mr. Sanchez asked why the city went with the Y to begin with and felt that question ultimately needed addressed. Discussion ensued.

3. Little League Update – Manager Morris shared that he along with staff had met with some of the members of Little League and that we would be fixing the roof of the Yantis announcers booth and that they reviewed some of the concerns and maintenance needs and issues and would be discussing further as far as maintenance and planning. Several of the items brought forward last year were discussed and some have been addressed and others are planned, with the largest being the score booth roof at Yantis.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Approved as read this 2nd day of April, 20 25.

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