

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING  
OF THE HAILEY PARKS & LANDS BOARD  
Held Tuesday, March 3, 2009**

**Present:** Board members Janet Fugate, Tom Downey, Dean Hernandez, Darin Sales, Cheryl Kramer & Kathy Noble; Becki Keefer and Tom Hellen, staff. **Not present:** Jill Swanger, Board member; Fritz Haemmerle, Council Liaison.

**Old Business:**

**Review Park Reservation Policy and Procedures:**

The Board had reviewed and discussed this in depth at their February meeting, and had asked to see their revisions on the Park Permit forms. Tom Hellen said that the new park signs all say, "For park reservations call 788-4221" [the front desk at City Hall], so all parks can be reserved? Yes, except for Jimmy's Garden. Janet said the fees are intended to offset or mitigate the impact on the park, even those impacts caused by recreational leagues, such as the Saturday-morning soccer leagues. Tom Hellen asked to make sure – okay to reserve Fox moor and Deerfield parks? Becki said that these are the city's parks, and the city should be in control of them; if other entities are using our parks for recreational leagues, then they should be reserving them. Janet agreed, and added that if fees stay the same for the reservations regardless of whether or not there are restrooms or a picnic pavilion, the reserving party can choose more amenities for the same price, in theory. The Board felt that limiting the size of groups in the various parks seemed like a reasonable idea, and noted limits for each park. These limits are mostly driven by the number of parking spaces available, such as the limited parking at Foxmoor Park and too many cars parked for the Saturday morning soccer league.

What about Curtis Park? Appropriate for a wedding? Yes, but at that point the Special Event Permit applies because the number of attendees is likely to be more than 50 (the threshold for a Special Event Permit). Tom Hellen pointed out, though, that a wedding may not be a "customary and usual use" of the park; the Board agreed. Janet noted that a birthday party with a large inflated "bouncy house" would not be customary and usual, either. Tom Downey pointed out that some of these events are educational and outreach events, which we would not want to discourage with onerous fees. Janet agreed, but pointed out that our mandate is to take care of Hailey parks for Hailey citizens first. What does the Community Campus charge for classrooms, the auditorium, gym, etc.? There are fees associated with use of those facilities, and these are educational components, as well. What about a waiver of fees for some, and if so, who (excluding the Northern Rockies Folk Festival)? The Board discussed this in depth, and finally took a straw poll – five are in favor of NO waiver of fees, and one favors being able to waive fees for some events.

Dean moved to approve the amended fees and language as presented; Darin seconded the motion, and all voted in favor. Tom Downey added that parks are more than the physical space, they are community gathering places and belong to our entire community. Someone else added that if the Council keeps the waivers for non-profits in the Ordinance, the P&L Board may accept responsibility for granting waivers on fees.

**Goals and Priorities for 2009**

The Board reviewed the list of priorities that was developed from their discussion at their February meeting. Becki asked if the Board would recommend use of city funds for some or any of the improvements at the Rodeo Grounds? Tom Hellen said that the City has CIP funds available, but that every department has needs that those funds would address. Becki suggested that city funds could go to planning costs and parking/site improvements. Janet would like a financial commitment from the

Rangers before going too much farther. We have a plan, Hailey Ice should be able to start construction as they've got the funds to do so. Dean said that we still don't know if the improvements were going to fit. Tom & Becki mentioned that ownership of the remainder of First Avenue is still unclear, and that the Council was working on that with Blaine County. However, if we don't have the First Avenue portion, our plans won't fit. Janet suggested that we get a real plan and then we can look closer at the city's financial participation in the improvements. Denise Jackson (attending public) noted that there is currently a lot of public momentum on this project. It was also noted that this should be a three-way partnership on project costs, although the city should pick up the costs for a real site plan.

The Board asked to review the Balmoral Park Master Plan to fit in restrooms and a picnic pavilion.

The Board also discussed what they perceive to be our Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats; that discussion was added to the Board's 2009 Strategic Plan.

## **Reports**

Tom Hellen shared an email that he had received from the Northern Rockies Folk Festival Board, in which they ask for assistance on a list of needed improvements to Hop Porter Park. Essentially, the request was to repaint the picnic shelter and to pave the road. The Board agreed that the road needed grading with the potholes filled in, however, paving may not be the most cost-effective fix. Recycled asphalt works well in keeping the dust down, and is relatively cheap. Tom Hellen said it would be a two-day project for the Street Crew, and could be finished before the Festival. The Board suggested using the Sheriff's Community Service Work Crew to paint the shelter, but it isn't a big priority. Fencing around the park, requested by the NRFF, was considered to be too costly and impractical by the P&L Board. However, the Board did note that this event is highly-valued by our community and we want to do what we can to support it.

The Board asked for a list of parks with their next packet so that they can split into teams to review each park for remedial repairs and maintenance items.

## **Minutes:**

Cheryl moved to approve the Minutes for February 3, 2009, and Dean seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

## **Adjourned.**