

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Hailey Parks & Lands Board January 22nd, 2020

Attending Board Members: Sara Gress, Bob Wiederrick, Lamar Waters, Penny Thayer

Attending City Staff: Stephanie Cook

Council Liaison: n/a

Absent: Nancy Linscott, Henno Heitur, Darin Sales

Attending Public: Jack Dailey, Ron Barclay, Denise Decoster, Jenna Vagias, Janie Coleman, Cathy Merrill, June Lane

Call to Order:

Call to order by Gress at 6:05pm.

Public Comment:

Wiederrick spoke on behalf of the Kiwanis Club, saying that Kiwanis is working with the City to put lights at the Skate Park. Kiwanis has approximately \$20,000 to put towards the project; next is learning what, exactly, is needed and final costs.

Approval of Minutes:

Wiederrick moves to approve meeting minutes from September 25th, 2019. Waters seconds, passes unanimously.

New Business:

Elect Chair and Vice Chair. Gress announces that she is stepping down from the board. Wiederrick nominates Waters to be chair, Gress seconds; approve unanimously. Waters nominates Wiederrick to be vice chair, Gress seconds; approve unanimously.

Old Business:

Continuation of discussion from September, 2019, to possibly accommodate pickleball at the existing tennis courts at Heagle Park. Gress explains that this is a continued conversation; a compromise by painting lines so there is a multiuse space at Heagle Park. Gress also reminds everyone that the tennis courts at Heagle Park are the only public courts in Hailey. Jack Dailey, of Beaver Brook, is agreeable to painting lines and leaving access as first come first served, and says places can get expensive when you have to pay to play. Ron Barclay says he has played tennis at Heagle Park for more than ten years and would like to share with everyone. Barclay is would like multiuse, Atkinson's Park tennis courts has pickleball lines and seems to work quite well. Denise Decoster, Sioux Drive, has played tennis at Heagle Park for ten years and likes that there is shade, it is a quiet area, nice atmosphere and would like to continue to play tennis, preference being first come first served with dedicated pickleball and dedicated tennis because many lines are distracting. Jenna Vagias, Director of Recreation with the Blaine County Recreation District (BCRD), speaking to support Heagle Park as an important space for recreation in the community; the more people the better, the idea is affordability, accessibility and making sure everyone gets to play. Vagias continues to explain that the BCRD's preference is finding a solution to use the space that allows as many people as possible to be active; a multiuse configuration to maximize space safely. Vagias says the BCRD uses temporary nets

that pickleball users set up and take down each time they play. Vagias says fall last year to fall this year, the BCRD saw almost a 50% increase in pickleball play and December alone had a 70% increase over the previous December. Janie Coleman, living South of Bellevue, says there are times tennis players cannot use the high school courts because they have activities for the kids and there is nowhere to go, except to go to Heagle. Coleman says the middle school is available but the courts are really bad and would like to see the City put in more tennis and pickleball courts somewhere in Hailey. Cathy Merrill, at E. Galena, says it's imperative that there is multiuse on both of the tennis courts at Heagle Park. Merrill says there's no reason to prefer one sport over the other, they're complimentary. The middle school courts are in horrible condition and the high school courts get very hot; Heagle is a great spot and tennis needs to be kept, tennis is lifelong sport like pickleball and there's room for both. June Lane, lives on West Meadow Drive, is representing pickleball and agrees that there should be multiuse facilities, but currently there are no other stand-alone summer play areas for pickleball except Hailey. Lane says there's nowhere else to go in the summer and is fortunate to have the BCRD. Lane says the pickleball players want to work with tennis players and parks and see what can be done to get the space needed for those summer months. Lane understands concerns of playing with lines, saying they all have played at Atkinson's Park and agrees that it's distracting, also stating that BCRD has many, many lines, but you get used to it. Lane says having just one pickleball court isn't enough; in 3 months over the summer, 600 people signed in playing pickleball and tennis at Heagle Park and those numbers keep growing. Lane says if you google places to play pickleball in Hailey, now Heagle Park comes up and people from New York, California, Florida were on the sign in sheet; courts were taped and it was pulled up, which is why the pickleball players requested permanent lines. Lane says they don't want to shut anyone out, but work with everyone so that everyone has what they need. An additional comment is that the area of the two tennis courts is large, enough room to maybe put four pickleball courts on one tennis court and leave the other tennis court. The tennis net would separate two pickleball courts that are perpendicular to the one non-lined tennis court; two pickleball courts on one tennis court. This idea with portable pickleball nets. Cook explains that the City is not opposed to single use facilities and is willing to help, the conversation came up a few years ago of having single use pickleball courts, but to do this is very costly. Cook suggests the pickleball community look into how other municipalities and organizations have funded single use pickleball courts. Cook says the City and BCRD already work together at the Heagle Park tennis courts, maybe some kind of agreement or partnership can happen to move forward with pickleball. Cook says it seems like everyone is in agreement that pickleball lines can go onto a tennis court the best way they can fit; everyone is amenable to multiuse. Cook says in the long run, lets see what we can do; it's a good thing to have- the people, tournaments, activity. Vagias says BCRD is always happy to have conversations with City and nonprofits to come up with community solutions that further recreation in the valley, whatever that may be; we are certainly open to continuing dialogue. Vagias also adds that the BCRD has a professional contractor who paints lines and they will have recommendations. Thayer suggests looking into seeing if the school district is open to multiuse courts. Waters suggests Keefer Park, the asphalt surfacing of the basketball courts isn't ideal, but there is a lot of space in that park. Wiederrick likes the idea of multiuse at Heagle Park courts, suggests court divider is probably needed, let's see what that need is. Gress sums up the conversation, saying the City needs to measure Heagle courts to figure out the number and configuration of pickleball courts, painting and portable netting as a short term compromise and

a long term plan of getting more single use courts and spaces, also the pickleball players teaming with the City and having a conversation with the school district.

Board/Staff Reports:

None

Discussion of Topics for Next Agenda:

Sunbeam Development

Adjourn:

Waters moves to adjourn the meeting at 6:58pm, second by Wiederrick; passes unanimously.