

**Park Board**  
**June 7, 2021**

**CALL TO ORDER:** Park Board Chair Al Vorderbrueggen called the meeting to order at 5:35 p.m.

**ROLL CALL:** Al Vorderbrueggen, Don Moore, Blaine Golden, Hillary Hoffman, Al Kirkpatrick and Don McClintock: Present.

**REGULAR BUSINESS:**

**Pool Update:**

Parks Steve Larkin reported the pool will open 1:00 p.m. on Thursday and will be free for the first day. This year we will be charging for the pool again. Larkin went on to say it is leaking roughly 35,000 gallons a day at this point. Right now they are able to capture most of it and pump it back in. Larking stated it usually leaks a little more at the start up and then the leaking slows down as the season progresses. Some of the valves and existing pipes were replaced with ¼ turn valves vs. the 18 turn valves and makes cleaning the filters much easier.

McClintock is now in attendance.

Vorderbrueggen suggested looking into water conservation grants for the pool.

Mayor Retzer is currently working on a couple different angles for funding for the restoration of the pool. He can fill the Park Board in on these at a later date, hopefully next meeting.

Kirkpatrick stated Garfield just received a million dollar grant for pool replacement. Vorderbrueggen said these were actually 2 separate \$500,000 grants one was federal and one from the state.

Larkin stated we will apply for those grants which open in January. Vorderbrueggen stated those go off of the biennium and won't be available for the year after next. He also pointed out RCO grants can actually match each other.

Golden asked how many gallons of water the pool holds.

Larkin replied the pool can hold 280,000 gallons of water, he can put 14,000 gallons back into the pool an hour.

Larkin also reported the lifeguards are all trained and ready to go, they have 4 returning guards, there were 8 total trained and recertified. There will be 2 younger attendees to help out at the front counter checking people in.

Hoffman asked about swim team.

Swim team will start Monday with practices 12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m. 5 days a week. They will have 3 home meets in July and the county meet will be the first Saturday in August. For limiting contact they plan to have just 2 teams at each meet this year.

The Thrifty Grandmother's will again donate this year to help out with family passes for low income families.

Larkin will ask local businesses to sponsor midnight swims again this year.

Hoffman asked if there are occupancy limitations this year.

Larkin stated the occupancy hasn't been an issue, they try to not go over the 75% capacity level anyways because that would require another guard to be on duty. Due to charging for entry this year and all the other areas pools being open, Larkin doesn't think this should be a problem.

### **Comp Plan:**

Kramlich sent out the existing Park Comp Plan for the Park Board to review.

Vorderbrueggen stated that this plan was done by Eastern Washington University students, he believes it is only in the PDF version making it more difficult for editing.

Kramlich confirmed it is only in the PDF.

Larkin remembered doing a Park Comp Plan the year before this one was done. The City Administrator Mike Rizzitiello at the time had the students do a new study and plan. The previous plan was strictly a park plan and on a much smaller scale, which is what we need.

Vorderbrueggen stated parts of this plan are pretty cool and asked if we would want to edit this document and take the good parts and make them part of the new plan. The Park Comp Plan is actually supposed to be a chapter of the city's overall Comp Plan.

Larkin would like to get something done so we are able to apply for grants because this one expires this year.

There is a lot of information in this one that is not accurate. The students toured the parks in the winter months when garbage cans and picnic tables were removed for the season. This plan listed all the parks needed these items.

Vorderbrueggen stated a park plan should not point out all your faults especially if you are applying for grants. You can include items that are needed and big capital project plans.

Vorderbrueggen remembers the park board and council accepted it as is without a bunch of changes because of all the work the students had done and we needed something, but this is definitely not the look we should be going for.

McClintock pointed out in previous years the plan always kept the pool separate and he thinks the pool really does need to be a separate plan.

Everyone agreed we should keep the park plan simple.

McClintock suggest each member come up with their own ideas for each park and bring those to the next meeting to discuss as a group. Then we can prioritize and get them in the plan.

Kirkpatrick asked if we should have a sub-committee that can get together to compile all the ideas and work on the putting together the new plan.

Golden stated the plan was really well done and he was pleased to see we actually had checked

off some of the projects listed in this plan. We did improvements at Codger Park, purchased new trash cans and installed a new playground at Eells Park. Golden would like to see the greenway project on the plan, knowing we are at the mercy of WSDOT, he would still like to see it on there as it is an important project.

Vorderbrueggen encouraged the board between now and next meeting to really go through and bring ideas back to the group next meeting. We need to get a plan completed and to city council by the end of the year.

Hoffman agreed this plan was pretty complex and a lot of updating needs to be done. She is willing to be a part of the small group to get this project done.

Vorderbrueggen pointed out that trails are usually a pretty high priority for park lists and we don't have a true trail in Colfax. He would like to see that added. He also didn't realize there was a park at Red Tail Ridge.

Larkin said that when that development went in all the property of the right as you enter was supposed to be given to the city for a park. They actually never gave to the city so we had the county put it back on the tax rolls. Larkin also said a section further out North Palouse River Road by the Enos house is city property as well, he always thought that would be a great place for a dog park. Currently there is nothing in city code requiring big additions to put in a park. Vorderbrueggen stated you would have to be careful with that because you put more parks in that drives up the costs for the city to maintain.

Vorderbrueggen and Larkin suggested removing that and also taking out the Golf Course, Whitman County Trail and the Rotary Fields as they are not city facilities.

#### **OTHER:**

Mayor Jim Retzer showed everyone samples of signs for all the parks. The new sign at the Stan and Lynn McClintock Lookout Park is now up and looks really good.

Also, next year will be the 150 year celebration for Colfax.

Hoffman had someone ask her about the maintenance at McDonald Park. There are a lot of weeds in cracks of the trail and no one has weed whacked around the trees.

Kirkpatrick said some of that was addressed this morning. He did some spraying and later this week he will be spraying for broad leaf. Kirkpatrick stated there was some miscommunications but confirmed these things will be addressed this week.

Vorderbrueggen interjected there is a contract with Scotty Parrish but there is a ton of stuff to do down there which takes additional volunteers.

Kirkpatrick agreed and everything is working out really well. He volunteers a lot for the Golf Course and works a lot with Larkin and Parrish along with the Rotary Fields. When a project needs done they all jump in and get it done and in the past it wasn't always done that way. There was a little breakdown in timing but it is all going to be addressed.

Next Park Board will be August 16<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 p.m. at McDonald Park.

Larkin added the Friends of the Parks are putting together a grant proposal for Frisbee golf at Schmuck Park.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Chairman Vorderbrueggen adjourned the meeting at 6:16 p.m.

  
Lynda Kramlich, Secretary