**CITY OF LA GRANDE**

**PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY COMMISSION MINUTES**

**November 18, 2021**

**Zoom Videoconference**

Members present: David Moyal, Chair

Steve Antell

Bob Mills

Members absent: Meg Hawks, Jennifer Williams, John Briney

Guests: None.

Staff Present: Stu Spence, Parks & Recreation Director

McKayla Rollins, Recreation Supervisor

1. **CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL**
   1. Chairperson, David Moyal called the meeting to order at 5:36pm with three (3) of the six (6) Commissioners present. Since there was no quorum, there were no approvals.
2. **AGENDA APPROVAL**
   1. Since there was no quorum, the agenda was not approved.
3. **MINUTES APPROVAL**
   1. Since there was no quorum, the minutes were not approved.
4. **PUBLIC COMMENTS**
   1. None.
5. **OLD BUSINESS**
   1. **Field Turf Update**
      * Great project. Stu reported that the hydroseeding went great and some of the grass started to germinate. The rest will winter over and germinate in the spring. Fields will be playable after the grass is established. All that’s left is the perimeter fencing.
   2. **Master Plan Next Steps**
      * David says the focus groups were really helpful and constructive. Stu said that he was impressed with the participation and insight shared during the meetings.
      * David highlights common themes – accessibility to diverse and handicap populations, connectivity, preserve open space, and build youth programs, especially for teens.
      * Staff will tour the parks to look at priorities in all city parks, look at survey data and provide input.
      * Stu said that he would like to have a Commission work session to focus on the master plan data and draft a preliminary plan.
      * Timeline – staff input (Nov) – Commission work session (Dec) – draft plan (Dec-Jan) – public input (Jan) – final draft plan (Feb) – plan recommendation to City Council (March) – Council adoption (March)
   3. **Superintendent Recruitment**
      * David explained the process and finalists
      * Two finalists – Stu will decide either Friday or Monday
6. **NEW BUSINESS**
   1. **None.**
7. **STAFF REPORTS**
   1. **Aquatics**
      * November swimming lessons have 28 participants registered. We have one instructor for group classes and one for private swim lessons. We are looking at adding 2 more swim lesson levels, one would be a stroke techniques class and the other would be an endurance class. These would run one day a week until we get more staffing and then maybe twice a week.
      * A lifeguard training started on Nov. 8th with 5 participants all but one are in high school. Those 4 will be swimming during High School swim season and have school until 3:15 p.m. so we can use them between 3:30 to 7:00 p.m. They will be really beneficial during the summer months.
      * The High school swim season started Monday November 15th with 23 participants. We will see what they end up with after the first week because some usually drop out.
      * 3 new pumps are on order to replace #4 and #7 on the lap pool and there will be one for a backup. Plumber’s replaces #1, fixed a leak on the #2 filter, fixed the flow meter and a toilet in the women’s lock room. We have been changing over to the new style pumps as the old ones go out after 4 and 7 are changed there will only be 3 left to change.
      * Johnson Controls out of Boise will schedule a service to see why we have a tamper 3 alarm going off on our sprinkler system.
      * Agreements for La Grande Swim Club, La Grande High School and Grand Ronde Hospital have all been updated for another year.
   2. **Recreation**
      * After School Program in the elementary schools has been very popular! We have been at capacity for Central since the week of October 25. Our other schools are taking longer to grow registration, but those numbers are trending upward as well.  In total, we are averaging 25-27 registrations a week.
      * Staff has been able to hire on a total of 9 employees. With EOU hosting all of their student association meetings on Tuesday afternoons, Tuesdays are still difficult to staff, and we are looking for 1-2 more employees to round out our schedule.
      * Flag and Optimist football have wrapped up for the season.
      * The Skate Competition wasn’t as popular this year with only 4 participants. Staff are in the process of reevaluating this program to grow interest again.
      * The Doggy Howl-o-ween event this year was the best attended Dog Park event to date with 20 dogs in attendance. Petsense provided a small obstacle course this year as well. We hope to expand dog park offerings by hosting training events with Petsense this spring.
      * Pee Wee Basketball and Women’s Volleyball are up and running. We have 37 Pee Wee players this year, and started the season completely staffed with vomunteer coaches. Volunteerism is trending upward since the COVID shutdown.
      * Volleyball has a total of 4 teams, which is small. Many of our captains moved to new towns/took on new roles and weren’t able to field teams this year. Staff is looking into new strategies to bring more teams in for next season.
      * Unfortunately, we did not receive the Oregon Community Foundation (OCF) grant to help fund ASP, however OCF called to let us know that they passed on our funding to other funders and it was approved. This is in partnership with Arts Center East and will allow for more staff and cultural arts in the after school program. Waiting to hear from them.
      * Staff have started to plan for the Holiday Lights Kick off at Riverside park on Dec. 4th. A hybrid of our Light display in 2020, and our Santa’s Workshop event of 2019, this event will provide a place for the community to enjoy a holiday treat, donate food to our local food banks, play a few games, and enjoy the light display.
   3. **Director**
      * None

**VIII. INFORMATION**

1. Stu reminded the Commission that there are volunteer time sheets that have to be completed for any time outside of Commission meetings.

**IX. PENDING BUSINESS**

* + - * 1. None.

1. **COMMISSIONER COMMENTS**
   1. Steve thanked McKayla and Stu for their hard work on the Master Plan.
   2. David said to get out the word for the work session in the follow up email.

**XI. ADJOURNMENT**

Meeting was adjourned at 5:59pm. Next meeting is scheduled for December 9th at 5:30pm via Zoom Videoconference.