



October 12, 2023

City of Hermiston Parks and Recreation Committee Meeting

Parks & Recreation

Committee Members present:

Carlisle Harrison	Ericka Juarez
Jeff Kelso	Nicole Westing
Angel Aguilar	

Also present: Jackie Myers, City Councilor
David McCarthy, City Councilor
Brandon Artz, Parks & Recreation Director
Kelly Schwirse, Parks & Recreation
Mike & Melissa Boylan, Public Members

Members not in attendance: Lydia Raath, Trista Hindman

CALL TO ORDER

Meeting called to order at 5:35 by Jeff Kelso

Introduction of Youth Advisor, Rebecca Godoy, a junior at Hermiston High School joins our committee as a Youth Advisor.

MINUTES

Motion to approve minutes from September 14, 2023 Parks & Recreation Committee meeting made by Nicole Westing, seconded by Angel Aguilar. Motion carried unanimously.

REPORTS & BUSINESS

DIRECTOR'S REPORT *presented by Brandon Artz*

USDA FOREST SERVICE

- USDA Forest Service awarded City of Hermiston \$1,000,000 for urban and community forestry.
- Project: Urban and Community Forest Health and Biodiversity for Long-term Resilience.
 - o Funds will be used for the mitigation of invasive Russian Olive trees and focusing on the replanting of native trees in the west side of Hermiston encompassing Oxbow trail area.
 - o Funds are expected to be dispersed sometime in March 2024 via The River Network, our pass-through partner.
 - o Grant agreement requires funds to be fully exhausted within 5 years.
 - o Initial request was \$3.5M therefore the budget will need to be adjusted to work within the \$1M grant.

HARKENRIDER SENIOR ACTIVITY CENTER

- Monthly meetings with Hacker, Portland based architects, to review designs and updates.
 - o See presentation page 3, 4

HERMISTON PICKLEBALL

- Hermiston Pickleball Club is in the early stages of fundraising for the development of a pickleball facility at Butte Park with the support of Parks & Recreation.



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- Proposed facility will consist of eight standard courts and one ADA court.
- Plans also include substantial sound mitigation due to proximity of area residents.
- Design, budget, and fundraising details on presentation pages 5-7
- EOTEC is currently managing indoor pickleball.

BARK PARK SHELTER

- Marlette has been our partner on this project, providing volunteers and donation of materials.
 - Shelter construction is near completion.
 - Solar lighting will be installed for extended use.
 - Dog water fountain to be installed that was partial funded by the proceeds of the Hermiston Chamber of Commerce's Doggie Dash in June 2022

TEEN ADVENTURE SKATE PARK

- Concrete pouring has started.
- Permitting for ADA has been approved.
- Roughly five more weeks of construction still to go.
- Restroom, irrigation, and landscaping will continue after the skate park is complete.
- No official opening date set.

HORIZON PARK PLAYGROUND

- Currently working with three different manufacturers (MRC, PlayCraft, NW Playgrounds) for quotes on playground equipment for Horizon Park.
- \$70,000 Budget, expect to have all three quotes by next meeting.
- See examples in presentation on page 13-17

RECENT EVENT UPDATE

- Faith & First Responders and Kiwanis Kids Day hosted their events together at Butte Park drawing over 2,000 people in attendance. Idea for next year: possibly shut down all activities during presentations and performances on the stage.
- Cork & Barrell sold 250 tickets. Good crowd despite so many other events happening at same time.

UPCOMING EVENTS & PROGRAMS

- **Community Yard Sale**, Community Center Parking Lot on Oct 13th 3, 9am-4pm
- **Treats on Main & Beyond**, Main Street and Community Center on Oct. 31st 3-6pm
- **Let's Get Crafty**, adult craft night at Community Center on Nov. 2nd 5:30-7:30pm
- **Christmas Bazaar** at three locations, November 25 9am-4pm
 - Hermiston Community Center
 - Harkenrider Senior Activity Center
 - Maxwell Pavilion
- **Hermiston Tree Lighting Celebration**, Festival Street, 4:30pm
- **Lighted Holiday Parade**, Main Street, November 30th 5:30pm
- **Pancakes with Santa**, Community Center, December 9th 9:00am



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PUBLIC COMMENT

- Mike and Melissa Boyland joined our meeting to voice concerns regarding the 5G tower that was recently erected in Highland Park near the playground as well as additional 5G towers being installed around Hermiston. Primary concern is there has not been official health and safety studies as 5G is known to emit radiation and putting children and elderly in our community at risk of exposure and health risks.
- Director Artz will be gathering information, approvals and site plans about where 5G tower being installed and report back.

ADJOURNED

- Meeting adjourned at 6:46pm
- Next meeting, November 9 5:30pm