



## **PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES**

**January 15, 2025 at 3:00 PM**

**Council Chambers at City Hall - 1123 W. Lake St. Sandpoint, Idaho**

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### **Call to Order**

The meeting of the Sandpoint Parks and Recreation Commission was called to order at 3:02pm on Wednesday, January 15, 2025, by Chair Chris Ankney in the Council Chambers of City Hall, 1123 W. Lake St., Sandpoint, Idaho.

### **Roll Call**

#### **PRESENT**

Chris Ankney  
Cynthia Reopelle  
David Miles  
Eric Donenfeld  
Jessica Janssen  
Josh Delucchi  
Taylor Long

#### **ABSENT**

Gwen Victorson  
Tyler Wagner

### **Meeting Minutes Approval**

The December 11th, 2024, meeting minutes were approved as presented by unanimous vote of Commissioners present.

Motion made by Long, Seconded by Miles.

Voting Yea: Ankney, Reopelle, Miles, Donenfeld, Janssen, Delucchi, Long

### **Old/Unfinished Business**

#### **1) Idaho Parks and Recreation Grant Application Reviews**

Community Planning and Development Director, Jason Welker discussed two grant applications that will be submitted to Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation prior to a January 31st deadline.

The Waterways Improvement Fund Grant, if awarded, would go towards repairing the City Beach boat launch and parking lot. The Recreational Vehicle Fund Grant, if awarded, would go towards refurbishing the City Beach RV Park. Mr. Welker proposed the city provide a \$50,000 match for the RV Fund Grant and \$100,000 match for the WIF Grant. After discussion, commissioners supported the proposal.

## New Business

### 1) 2025 Lifeguard Recruitment - Update

Recreation Superintendent Katie Bradbury shared that recruitment for City Beach Lifeguards began in December and will continue through March. Human Resource benchmarking puts the hourly lifeguarding rate at \$14.50-\$16 dollars an hour; \$14.50 being the Idaho State average. Ms. Bradbury continues to advocate a starting wage closer to \$16 if the budget allows it. The job is posted on the City of Sandpoint Website, Parks & Recreation Facebook page, on the Sandpoint High School job postings and advertised in the Reader.

### 2) 2025 Youth Basketball League - Update

Ms. Bradbury informed commissioners that she has a meeting with Skyhawks next week to discuss a partnership to offer a retailored youth basketball league in March, and possibly tennis and pickleball classes at the James E. Russell Sports Center in February. Skyhawks would provide the staff, while the City of Sandpoint would facilitate the space.

### 3) James E. Russell Sports Center – Update

Mr. Welker provided a brief update on the James E. Russell Sports Center, which included expenses, revenue and staffing schedules during the first month. Currently the facility is closed on Sundays, but the city is working toward hiring additional part-time staff to keep the facility open 7 days a week.

### 4) 2025 Outdoor Shooting Range – Maintenance Update

The City of Sandpoint Outdoor Shooting Range needs sound abatement maintenance. Ms. Bradbury shared that efforts to improve the situation have been scheduled and improvements should be complete by the time the range opens in April.

### 5) Draft Parking Policy Review

Mr. Welker introduced commissioners to a draft parking policy which proposes bringing paid parking back to Sandpoint to maintain our parking facilities. After reviewing the draft, he encouraged commissioners to reach out to him with their thoughts, comments and concerns, prior to the February 19th City Council Meeting. The draft policy will reappear on the February 12th Parks and Recreation Commission Agenda for further discussion.

### 6) 2025 Travers Park Capital Projects – Update

Due to time limitations, the final agenda item, 2025 Travers Park Capital Projects - Update, was not addressed and will be carried over to the next meeting.

## General Announcements/Comments

Mr. Ankney proposed that the regular monthly meeting time for the Parks and Recreation Commission begin at 2:30pm henceforth. Commissioners present were in favor. The proposal will be added as an action item on the February agenda.

**Adjourn** The meeting was adjourned at 4:02pm

I presided over the meeting and can confirm that minutes, prepared by the Board Clerk and City Staff Liaison, were approved by the Parks and Recreation Commission during their regular meeting held on 2-14-25.

  
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Gwen Victorson, Vice Chair

  
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Kami Omodt, Board Clerk