

Wednesday, March 20, 2024

6:30pm

Parks & Recreation Committee Meeting

NOTES

Members Present: Johnny Calkins, Julie Giannini-Previde, Phil Heidrick, Jane Fusek, John Kulstad, Heidi Conzelmann, Jennifer Ortega, Scott Binder, Charlie Caldwell, Dana Merrill,

Members Absent: Ciara Torres, Patti Stuart

Meeting Notes:

Communications:

Laura Bridy resignation

Baduwat estuary work day

Trails Summit June 1st

Public Comment:

None

Botanical Garden Volunteer Recruitment

Member Jane Fusek shared a draft recruitment flyer that included information regarding a monthly volunteer workday, which will be on the 3rd Sunday of the month beginning April 21st.

Jane also reported that the Master Gardener program may be able to help recruit volunteers and/or help with garden education activities.

Rules & Regulations Revision pertaining to Community Forest

Staff recommended that the ordinance be passed as it is. Making substantive edits to the ordinance at this time would require that it go through a first reading and then a second reading (a two-month process) before it could be included in the District's rules and regulations.

Several members of the mountain bike community spoke up to voice disagreement with the draft rule 47.02 restricting the use of e-bikes in the community forest. Public comments regarding rule 47.02 encouraged allowing class 1 & 2 e-bikes on the trails. Several members of the public present were e-bike riders who without e-bikes, would not be able to enjoy trail riding. Members of the public in attendance suggested that MCSD use the same or similar policy language as the City of Arcata regarding multiple users and e-bikes in the Arcata Community Forest. Several suggestions regarding wording changes to the draft ordinance were made by members of the public and members of the PARC committee.

There was a discussion and suggestions for various ways to move the existing draft ordinance forward so that the committee could be formed while also offering a revision to rule 47.02.

Member Charlie Caldwell moved to recommend to the MCSD Board of Directors: to Accept Ordinance 2024-01 at the second reading and recommend the PARC draft a revision to rule 47.02 that includes allowing class 1 & 2 e-bikes in the McKinleyville Community Forest to be presented to the Board for a first reading at the May 1, 2024 MCSD Board meeting. Member Julie Giannini-Previde seconded the motion. All PARC members present voted unanimously in agreement of the recommendation.

PARC Nominee to the McKinleyville Community Forest Committee:

Member Johnny Calkins nominated Jenn Ortega as the PARC representative on the MCF committee. After discussion and other members providing comment in support of the nomination, Phil Heidrick seconded the nomination and the committee voted unanimously for Jenn Ortega to be the PARC representative on the MCF Committee.

Community Garden:

Charlie Caldwell is developing a plan with Boys & Girls Club teen center staff to get teen club members involved in the rehabilitation of the garden. He hopes to have it cleaned up and looking better in time for Pony Express Days weekend.

Dept. Director Report:

Recreation Program Updates

- Drop-in Pickleball is on Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings 9:30am to 12:30pm at the McKinleyville Activity Center. Drop in is \$4 per person.
- Beginning Pickleball class was full. The class ran March 6-March 27th. The next class will run April 23-May 14th.
- Drop-in Kung Fu is on Tuesday and Thursday evenings 5:30pm-7:00pm \$10 per person per class. Bulk class passes are available to purchase at \$7.50 per class.
- Drop-in Tai Chi is Sundays 11:00am-12:00pm \$10 per person per class. Bulk class passes are available to purchase at \$7.50 per class.
 - The Martial Arts classes are averaging 5-8 people per class.
- Fast Break Friday's, a drop-in basketball program for youth ages 13 to 17. Drop-in is \$5 per participant. It is averaging 18-20 participants per week.
- Sunday Night drop-in Basketball is averaging 8-10 participants per week.
- Playgroup for children 0-5 years old is running every Thursday from 10:30am-12:30pm.
- Pee Wee Basketball league for Kindergarten thru 2nd grades is full. The league begins April 2nd and ends on May 18th.
- The Totletics Soccer program that started on March 9th is full. This program is for 3-5 year olds and hosts 40 children per class series
- Breakout: Skate Camp April 15-19 is currently accepting enrollment. Breakout is a day camp program for youth age 6-11.
- Cooking classes for kids: The March 2nd class was a Mexican food class and hosted a full class.

Park & Facility Maintenance Updates

The Parks crew and NHES continue the routine schedule for maintenance on Central Ave. and Open Space Zone landscaping. Staff continue to keep up with daily/weekly routine facility and vehicle maintenance. Maintenance staff have spent many hours this last month preparing Hiller Sports Site for Little League and youth Softball Spring seasons. Monthly inspections were conducted on all facilities and Open Spaces.

Facility Rentals & Use

- 13 Azalea Hall Rentals plus a weekly and a bi-weekly meeting room rental in March through April.
- 5 parties were booked through the Party Program at the Activity Center in March through April.
- 24 Activity Center Rentals March through April.

Vandalism Report

Vandalism in the restrooms at both Pierson and Hiller Park are an on-going issue.

Hewitt Ranch Property Updates

No updates at this time.

North Bank River Property Updates

No updates at this time.

Other updates:

- Staff has been preparing for the Recreation database software program upgrade.
- Staff continues to work with MUSD to provide staff for the school districts after school programs.
- Staff continues to participate as members of the McKinleyville Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors, the McKinleyville Family Resource Center Board of Directors and the Boys & Girls Club of the Redwoods Board of Directors.
- Staff continues to provide support to other departments of the District; assisting with accounts payable, and payroll.

AdHoc Committee Reports:

- Skate Park—a plaque acknowledging Pat Hanson as a founder of the McK. Skatepark is ready to be installed on benches at the Skatepark
- Fisher Ranch Estuary project— Work day on March 23rd.
- BMX— staff gave update construction bid documents and bid process
- Community Garden—see agenda item note

Agenda Items for next meeting:

Rule 47.02

Community Garden Plan

Draft Parks & Rec Operating Budget

Next meeting will be Wednesday, April 17, 2024

Adjournment:

- Adjourned: approximately 7:49pm