

Thursday, April 15, 2021

6:30pm

Recreation Advisory Committee Meeting

NOTES

Members Present: Johnny Calkins, Ben Winker, Beth Frink, Scott Binder, Laura Bridy, John Kulstad, Charlie Caldwell,

Members Absent: Chad Sefcik, Jeff Dunk

Guests: Jennifer Ortega, Jack Durham

Meeting Notes:

Communications:

- None.

Public Comment:

- None

Recreation Director Report

- *Recreation Program Updates*

The Recreational Afternoon Program is running smoothly currently serving 18 elementary school children per day.

Staff completed and submitted two applications for the Statewide Park Development and Revitalization Grant program, one for the expansion and renovation at Pierson Park totaling \$4.1 million and one to develop and construct a BMX track and park at the Washington and School Rd. property totaling \$2.3 million. Award notifications are anticipated in June 2021. (If any Directors are interested in reviewing the applications, feel free to email Lesley).

We are currently hiring Leaders for our Recreation in the Afternoon Program as well as the MUSD Expanded Learning Program that will offer support and assistance during the school day to students participating in distance learning classes. Additionally, as we prepare to begin offering youth sport programming, we are seeking part-time staff to work a summer basketball program and our Tot-letics T-ball program this summer.

Staff hosted a second virtual Paint Night class on March 10th. The class had 7 participants, 3 of which joined the class from out of the state and one other from out of town. The next class will be painting a cute cow (pictured) and will be held on Saturday, April 24. Classes will be held virtually until it is deemed safe to host classes in person again.

- *Park & Facility Maintenance Updates*

Several open space zones received mowing, hedging and weeding maintenance and detention basins received clearing as part of the Open Space Maintenance Zone agreements. Downed trees were removed at Hiller trails. The Hiller Sports fields received fertilizer according to the annual schedule. The Parks crew and NHES continue the routine schedule for maintenance on Central Ave. landscaping. Staff continues to keep up with daily/weekly routine facility and vehicle maintenance. Monthly inspections were conducted on all facilities and Open Spaces. Swings at Hiller and Pierson Parks were replaced.

The Park Maintenance Supervisor completed online classes and passed the exam for Certified Playground Safety Instructor.

- *Humboldt State Student Capstone Project*

The HSU students walked the properties this month and gathered historical information from District files for the project. The students are working on the surveying and mapping of both the North Bank River property and the Hewitt Ranch property, as well as taking an inventory of native and critical plant species as well as invasive plant species on each property and developing a plan/strategy for the removal of invasive plants. The project will be complete by May 2021.

- Other updates:
 - After over 20 years of using District facilities for their church services, New Heart Community Church has found a new home and as of March 28th, is no longer using District facilities for their church services. We have appreciated their use all these years, and now staff are looking forward to taking advantage of the opportunities that additional time and space can provide for new programs.
 - Staff attended the McKinleyville Chamber of Commerce Annual Awards Dinner, (held virtually this year) as the District was nominated for Non-profit of the Year. Arcata Fire District won the award, but it was nice to be nominated and recognized amongst the many deserving non-profits serving our community.
 - Staff attended a meeting of the Mad River Rotary Club on March 25th and gave a presentation on the proposed BMX track and park project
 - The Recreation Director continues to plan and facilitate a series of communication skills workshops for all District staff. These are monthly workshops conducted in small groups. The communication skills topic will culminate in one to two more sessions.
 - Staff worked on budget projections for FY 21/22 as well as for the Measure B Engineer's report.
 - Staff attended Board meetings for board service on both the McKinleyville Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors, McKinleyville Family Resource Center Board of Directors and the Boys & Girls Club of the Redwoods Board of Directors.
 - Staff continues to provide administrative support to the Support Services Dept.

Committee members had no comments and no questions

BMX Track & Park Project:

- Staff submitted the Statewide Park Development (Prop 68) grant application for the development of a BMX track and Park on March 9th. Grant award notifications are anticipated in June.
- The BMX community has been meeting monthly, working on fundraising and planning. T-shirts are available for purchase.
- McK. BMX is considering building a local BMX team

Community Forest

- Staff continues planning and preparing for the acquisition of a Community Forest.
- Staff met with staff of Green Diamond Resource Co. on March 1st and April 5th. Access points were discussed as well as a list of tasks/requirements for the District to fulfill prior to acquisition.
- On March 23rd, staff participated in the initial kick-off with Greg Blomstrom and Mark Andre of BBW Associates as well as Katherine Gledhill of West Coast Watersheds and the NCRP for the technical assistance work funded by the NCRP for the development of a community forest management plan.
- Staff continue to provide the following messaging to the public regarding questions about the future community forest:
 - MCSD cannot and will not begin any Community Forest development projects before the property transfer is complete.
 - MCSD will not begin any development projects until a Community Forest Management plan is in place.

- Formal Public access to the forest is not likely within the next two years. There is a lot of planning and research that the District will need to do before the Community Forest can be formally accessed by the public.
- Updates on the Community Forest project status will be made at monthly Park and Recreation Committee meetings as well as at monthly MCSD Board of Director meetings. The public is welcome to attend these meetings to get the most recent information on the project.

Committee members and guests asked some clarifying questions regarding the discussion with GDR and easements for access points. Staff re-iterated that access points were under discussion only and no decisions have been made.

Program Fee Increases

- Committee reviewed the current and proposed program fees up for increases. Discussed considerations made in assessing the increases and suggested ways to accommodate low income families.
- Member John Kulstad moved to recommend the proposed fee increases. Johnny Calkins seconded and the committee voted unanimously to recommend the increases to the MCSD Board of Directors.

Budget Review

- Staff presented the DRAFT Parks & Recreation operating budget for FY 21-22. Scott Binder asked about a pending request for Quimby funds. Staff clarified that the requested Quimby Fund disbursement was for projects completed in the current fiscal year and not part of the draft budget presented.
- No other comments or questions from the committee.

Report on Actions of MCSD Board

- Staff reported on actions taken by the Board of Directors on March 3rd and April 7th
- Member Laura Bridy asked a clarifying question regarding the Notice of exemption filed for the Community Forest.

AdHoc Committee Reports:

- Hewitt Ranch—No report
- Skate Park—HSC did not receive the Headwater's fund grant. Still waiting to hear from Coast Central Credit Union. HSC will be bringing the next Qtrly report to the May MCSD board member
- School and Washington Property—no report
- River Property—no report
- Fischer Ranch Estuary project—no report
- BMX— See notes on above
- Requested that the Community Garden be added as an AdHoc Committee with Ben Winker as the Lead

Agenda Items for next meeting:

- Community Forest
- BMX Update
- Discuss Criteria & Process for new developments

Adjournment:

- Adjourned: 7:17pm