



Twin Falls Parks and Recreation Commission Minutes

Tuesday, October 10, 2023, 11:30 AM

Overflow Room CH-116
203 Main Avenue E, Twin Falls, Idaho

Members: Kirk Melton, Chairperson; Jade Titus, Vice-Chairperson; Debbie VanEngelen, Corey King; Ashley Squires; Michael Metcalf; Heather Muth; Todd Shaw; Christiana Sipe-Pauley

1) Confirmation of Quorum/Call Meeting to Order

Present: Vice Chair Jade Titus, Heather Muth, Debbie VanEngelen, Christiana Sipe-Pauley, Ashley Squires, Todd Shaw, Michael Metcalf, Corey King (*arrived late*)

Absent: Chair Kirk Melton

Staff Present: Wendy Davis, Parks & Recreation Director; Chance Munns, Parks Superintendent; John Pauley, Aquatics Supervisor; Craig Hawkins, Council Member; Lorrie Bauer, Recording Assistant

Vice Chair Jade Titus called the meeting to order at 11:35 AM. A quorum was present.

2) General Public Input

None.

3) Consent Calendar

MOTION: Michael Metcalf moved to approve the consent calendar. Heather Muth seconded the motion. Roll call vote showed all members present voted. Approved 7 to 0.

- a) Request to approve the meeting minutes from the September 12, 2023 meeting.
- b) Consider a request to remove two Spruce trees at 228 8th Ave E.

4) Items of Consideration

- a) Consider a request to remove nine Ash trees at 736 Main Ave W.
Chance Munns presented the request and shared the arborist review as included in the packet. He recommended that five trees be replaced at a 40' spacing, with a 5' minimum landscape strip around the trees. Discussion ensued.

MOTION: Michael Metcalf moved to approve the request to remove nine ash trees at 736 Main Avenue, replacing only five trees; however, the owner or contractor needs to work with the Parks Department and meet their requirement for root space and tree species. Christiana Sipe-Pauley seconded the motion. Roll call vote showed all members present voted. Approved 7 to 0.

- b) Presentation of Baxter Park Survey Results.
Chance Munns reported the survey results. After posting a QR Code at the park and using social media to request responses about the park, 40 responses were received. Responses to the survey show:
 - The majority of users are from Twin Falls.
 - The majority use the large dog area.
 - Use is regular on a daily or weekly basis.
 - The majority of users come alone but do visit with others while at the park.
 - 17% feel unsafe for unknown reasons.
 - Amenities are average.

- The quality of lawn and turf is low due to the mud and damage.
- The quality of seating is poor.
- The quality of accessibility is good.
- The quality of the landscape is good; the trees within the park are not in the best condition.
- The quality of the perimeter chain-link fence is in good condition.
- More waste stations, mud elimination, better separation of small and large dog areas, more shade and seating, and a water feature such as a dog wash station were requested.

Discussion ensued. The information will be shared with the landscape architect, Jensen Belts, to help create a concept design.

- c) Results from the site visit to view the 2nd Avenue East, South and West right-of-way trees. Chance Munns shared ash trees are growing in a 1-2 ft. planter and are in rough shape due to being in the wrong place. In an urban forestry management type scenario, we want to maintain as much urban forest canopy as possible because of the added benefits. At this time, no trees are at a high rate of despair. Eventually, they will need to be addressed, possibly in connection with another project. Discussion ensued. Landscape planning and management will be ongoing in cooperation with Planning & Zoning. Recovery grants may be an opportunity to help. However, a plan for underserved areas will be needed, as well as a match in funding.
- d) Continue Park Use Fee Discussion
Parks & Recreation Director Wendy Davis was not prepared for this discussion. Therefore, this item was canceled.

5) Department Updates

Steve Meyerhoeffer - Golf Department:

- The 2023 season is winding down; one event left.
- The greens were aerated in mid-September.
- The 3-month leaf pick-up project is about to begin with winter maintenance work following.
- Some part-time workers will be laid off in mid-October, having 5-6 employees by the end of November.
- Staffing the kitchen has been tough all year.
- Old equipment is still a major issue; hoping to get on a better replacement program ASAP.
- The city did chip-seal and repair the parking lot, which was a nice improvement.
- The 2024 golf schedule is being prepared and expect another busy year. Trying to balance open play with events.
- Pleased with the condition of the golf course this year minus some of the dry areas from sprinkler issues.

Chance Munns - Parks Department:

- Frontier pickleball court area landscaping has been redone on the north and west sides, which allows access to the north gates.
- Harrison Park construction has begun. Concrete pathways are done. The restroom is on a 180-day waitlist. Playground to arrive in January. Other amenities are also on order. The project is currently on hold until items are received. The park will contain a playground, a small child bouldering element, new solid picnic tables and picnic area, a single-room restroom, new landscaping, and an entry sign on Harrison Street.

- Rock Creek trail cleanup is ongoing,
- Canyon Rim trail patch jobs have been completed. A new fence has been installed. Boards have been replaced on the bridge crossing by Sportsman's Warehouse.
- Four employees are currently attending the National Recreation and Parks Conference in Texas.

Wendy Davis - Parks & Recreation Director:

- Attended a meeting with the State Historic Preservation Office and discussed the potential of the Evil Knievel jump site being included as a National Historic Site. The Historic Preservation Commission has been talking about this and would like to discuss with this commission about pursuing the idea.
- This past summer has been full of discontented people telling us all the things we're doing wrong. A lot of criticism over the Frontier Park work and the Pole Line medians. Issues with the Sunway Splashpad and the Downtown Commons Fountain. The team tries to keep everything in perspective and focus on the positive.
- Shoshone Falls:
 - Park is currently closed due to the quagga mussel response by the Department of Agriculture.
 - Overlook is about finished.
 - Turnaround space is limited and needs to be addressed. Currently directing large vehicles to Dierkes to turn around even though the lake is closed.
 - Road repairs are scheduled for this Fall.

John Pauley - Aquatics Supervisor

- Pool bubble is up.
- High school swim season is finishing up.
- Scheduling capital projects; new pump will be installed in February or March
- Trying to add more lap swim capability to the schedule.

Christina Sipe-Pauley requested to add a discussion about accessibility in the parks to next month's agenda.

6) Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 01:01 PM.



Lorrie Bauer, Recording Assistant