



# Western Gateway Recreation & Park District

## MINUTES

BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING  
Wednesday June 19, 2024, Regular  
Meeting 6:30 pm Buttermaker's Cottage

- 1) **Call to Order** Meeting called to order at 6:30 PM; Director Lindsen led the Pledge of Allegiance
- 2) **Roll Call** – Nancy Peirce, Chairman, present; Sharon Lewis, Vice Chairman, present; Dan House, present; Brandon Lindsen, present.
- 3) **Introduction of guests** – Sue Hoek, District Supervisor; Jeff Thorsby, Nevada County Chief Clerk, Erika Seward, Nevada County Senior Admin Analyst; Art DeLeon, resident; Mary DeLeon, resident; Max Lopez, Sierra E-Bike; Dion Reif, Sierra E-Bike, Tom Hartnett, Dog Park, Dave Ryan, Dog Park; Chris Ryan, Dog Park; Marko Glendinning, Dog Park
- 4) **Agenda Approval** – *In order to accommodate guests, it was agreed to move up 8a, 8b and 9e following Public Comments. Unanimously approved.*
- 5) **Public Comments** – Art DeLeon belongs to a Grass Valley pickle ball club and is interested in resurfacing the dilapidated tennis courts to create pickleball courts. Pickleball is currently the fastest growing sport in America. Chairman Peirce stated that the park had received a recommendation based on the tennis courts' structural integrity to demolish the site and rebuild. Mr. DeLeon stated that he had been involved with the resurfacing of courts in Mexico that looked worse with favorable results. Further, the Grass Valley club has funds to assist the park on this potential project. Mr. DeLeon would like to bring in a contractor to assess the site and provide an estimate. Chairman Peirce indicated contractor estimates would be welcome and that the park would be open to fundraising and/or grant writing options. Mr. DeLeon emphasized the popularity of the sport and potential future income for the park.

Tom Hartnett requested funding assistance for electrical on Dog Park shed. Chairman Peirce recalled that the Dog Park was to be responsible for the addition but that regardless the board would need to know who was performing the work, what it entailed and specs or diagrams for the project. Mr. Hartnett stated that the bid has many of these details and inquired if Director Lindsen would review his information before he presented it to the board. Director Lindsen agreed.

Erika Seward introduced the Nevada County Recreation & Resiliency Master Plan. Input was gathered from area parks, sports organizations, environmental groups, etc. to create a master plan which identifies recreational needs and future planning for parks, sports, trails and outdoor access potential. Ms. Seward offered to provide a scheduled, more detailed presentation of the plan at a separate meeting. Chairman Peirce offered to add the link to the plan to help promote education on the county's recreation goals.

Dion Reif of Sierra E-bike would like to become an ambassador of the Gateway Bike Park, focusing on its maintenance and keeping the trails clean and usable, at no cost to the park. Mr. Reif has a considerable customer base that would both use the trails and benefit them via fundraising. Chairman Peirce inquired with Mr. Reif if he knew Jet Lowe, who is active in the group currently maintaining the bike trails. Mr. Reif has not yet had the pleasure and reiterated that he would like to be an ambassador to the park's bike trails as many in our area are not aware of the park, or it's bike trails.

- 8)b. **Dog Park Bench** Tom Hartnett updated the board on the memorial bench for Jeri Stone. Both the bench and the plaque have been received. An existing bench was moved to a new location and Jeri's bench was placed in its stead. This location had concrete footing, vs the concrete pad they were planning, but they have secured it well. Mr. Hartnett would like to schedule a dedication to commemorate the bench, on a not too distant morning. Chairman Peirce indicated an open schedule for during the week mornings for the next two weeks. They agreed to schedule a date and Mr. Hartnett will send an email invitation.
- 8)a. **County of Nevada Fees Waiver** Jeff Thorsby dug into the history of the waiver agreement, and did not conclude the intention was to continually extend the waiver. Mr. Thorsby does not anticipate the proposal would pass on consent and would require a full presentation to the Nevada County board at a future board meeting. Supervisor Hoek interjected that the paperwork indicates a hard stop. Chairman Peirce explained the history of the park being a donation to the county from Boise Cascade, with the park district leasing the land for \$1/yr. The county did not want to continue own the park land and it was transferred to the managing park district. The park receives no funds from the county. A discussion ensued regarding other entities which may receive county funding, and any impact of WGR&P district receiving an advantage not offered to other districts. Supervisor Hoek stated there is no funding in the county budget for park districts. Chairman Peirce assessed that any permit fees that might have been paid over the past ten years since the deed transfer would be negligible and Mr. Thorsby agreed that there would have only been twelve permit fees in ten years. Ms. Seward expressed concern about grant money management in reference to playground and RV park grants. The county has tried to reach out to assist with project progress. Chairman Peirce stated that the waiver precedent has already been set and the impact of other districts is a moot point. Ms. Seward again expressed that the county has staffing and expert resources to help the park. Chairman Peirce asked if the resources could be pointed to cleaning out culverts where the road crosses the creek. She had previously been advised the county would clear out the culverts the next time work was being done in the area some months ago. Director Lindsen asked about the process for a presentation to be agendaized. Mr. Thorsby responded that we are not there yet in the process. Director Lindsen again requested an agenda

item next month. Chairman Peirce advised she will investigate information she has received regarding Truckee and Bear River. Supervisor Hoek mentioned that grants are intended to also cover fees. Chairman Peirce responded that a portion is for administration and that the less spent on administration the more can be used for the project. It was decided that two WGR&P district board members should meet with Supervisor Hoek and Board Clerk Thorsby in a separate meeting, after each has done due diligence, to discuss the issues and further prepare for a presentation to the county board. Mr. Thorsby concluded by saying the park is a jewel of the county and that the county wants the park to succeed. Mr. Dion Reif suggested collaborating with offered county resources is a benefit to the park. Chairman Pierce will call Mr. Thorsby to schedule the meeting.

- 9)e. Director Position** – Dion Reif provided a summary of his background, philosophy and goals in regards to the open board position. Director House motioned to invite Mr. Reif to the Board of Directors. Director Lindsen seconded the motion. Unanimously approved.
- 6) Board Minutes** – Director House moved and Director Lindsen seconded to approve the May minutes as presented. Unanimously approved.
- 7) Financial Report** – Director House moved and Director Lindsen seconded to approve the April financial reports as presented. Unanimously approved; *Director Lindsen moved and Director House seconded a motion to approve the May Financial reports as presented. Unanimously approved.*
- a. Budget 2024-25 – *Director Lindsen moved and Director House seconded approval of the budget. Unanimously approved.*
- 8) Old Business**
- a. *County of Nevada Fees Waiver - Addressed following Public Comments*
- b. *Dog Park Bench - Addressed following Public Comments.*
- c. Bocce Ball Courts. Jeff Stoops obtained estimates from Young's Carpet. These will be used as baselines for fundraising and grants.
- d. Mower Repairs – *Skagg is up and running today after throwing a pulley; the John Deere is currently up and running; the GrassHopper, for the softball fields, is now down due to crack in plastic housing and in need of a radiator. We have two bids and will most likely choose the lower bid with the plastic housing as Mr. Gomes feels the crack was an anomaly. Chairman Peirce and Mr. Gomes will be looking at a \$7000 mower on June 20<sup>th</sup>.*
- e. Ball Fields – *Gray Electric was able to trace the electric outage issue to a broken hot wire under the parking lot pavement. It was also discovered that there was an unused conduit run under the pavement; this was used to run 110 feet of new wire. Gray Electric estimated the invoice would be \$3500.*
- f. *Park Sign – Louie Osterude will be ordering thicker letters and adding ventilation to combat heat retention and warping.*
- 9) New Business**
- a. Parcel Fees – *Director House moved and Director Lindsen seconded resolution to request park parcel fees be collected by the county. Unanimously approved.*
- b. Board Elections – *Director Lindsen moved and Director Lewis seconded motion to consolidate 2024 BOD election with the county. Unanimously approved.*
- c. Solar Array Picnic Area – *Director Lindsen moved and Director Lewis seconded motion to raise the recently improved solar array picnic area reservation fee to \$75. Unanimously approved.*
- d. Park Sign Policy – *Director House and Director Lewis seconded a motion to approve the park sign policy as presented. Unanimously approved.*
- e. *Director Position – Addressed following Public Comments.*
- 10) Advisory Groups - Presentations**
- a. Buildings and Grounds.
- i) *General Park Maintenance – Filters on the sprinklers are clogging up. Director Lindsen recommended a self flushing filter be sourced. Jacob found a second filter; it will be added to his weekly maintenance list.*
- ii) *Asphalt Patching – No update*
- iii) *Firewood Program and CRV Program – recycling to be taken on Thursday.*
- b. Upcoming events and reservations report
- 1) Upcoming Events Report** – *Just had disc golf tournament and movie (The Fall Guy) in the park. Coming up Little down.*
- 11) Director Comments** – Director Lindsen: initial meeting with disc golf on the 20<sup>th</sup>; would like to get both disc golf and bike trails on the next agenda; would like to support a portion of the dog park's electrical expense and include it on next agenda as well. Director House: will still be around to assist park regardless of resignation.

Supervisor Hoek added that she will get stuff together to meet with board members. Mr. Thorsby stated he will come up with outline.

- 12) Adjournment** Meeting adjourned at 9:20 PM.