

Minutes for WGP 10/20/2021

Called to order by Chairman House. Pledge of Allegiance led by Brandon Lindsen

Roll Call We forgot to do roll call, but all directors were present except for Director Osborne.

Introduction of Guests Sharon Lewis, Sandy “Jake” Jacobson

Agenda Approval Director Lindsen moved to accept the agenda as presented; Director Peirce seconded; Unanimous approval

Public Comments Sandy Jacobsen advised the board that the Board of Supervisors on October 12th voted to utilize their ARPA funding (new federal relief funds) to initiate a new Parks and Recreation master plan in Nevada County. Her belief is that they are seeking to be in a position so that when funds are allocated, they have a master plan to apply for some project funding. Director Peirce asked how the Board of Supervisors can have a master plan and Sandy Jacobsen replied that it is in their General Plan that they “should” do regional type facilities such as trails and open space. In the public planning process, it raises the question of whether the BOS should change their approach. Director Peirce expressed some concern about whether it would change the Board of Supervisors’ interaction with the parks. Sandy Jacobsen said that the open space and trail management has “run amok” with the effects of Covid, and gave the example of the parking dangers along the Yuba River access areas. She states that there is a lot of grant money available but under the current circumstances, the county is not eligible for it because they don’t have an appropriate master plan.

Correspondence Director Peirce stated that the board has a request from bocce ball to come to future meetings to talk about doing some renovation work on the courts. She was also contacted by Penn Valley Yokum Swine 4H group and they would like a similar arrangement as the former one with Kentucky Flat Swine Group whereby they utilized Buttermaker’s Cottage for a 6 month period, once a month, and in lieu of payment they organized a work day at the park. Director Peirce encouraged the Yokums to bring their 4-H’ers to a future meeting.

Board Minutes Chairman House requested a motion to strike the minutes from the agenda, as we do not currently have the minutes from the previous meeting. Director Peirce made the motion. Director Thomas seconded. Unanimous approval.

Financial Report Director Peirce stated that Michelle (bookkeeper) was not able to prepare a full financial packet as usual, so Director Peirce prepared the Balance Sheet, which she feels is the most important. She also prepared the work request, showing where payments were made. Martin Webb of the solar company has provided information about how much the board should budget for the “true-up”. Director Peirce stated that based on the figures, once the solar is paid for, the park’s electric bill should be approximately \$200 a month where it was previously \$1000 a month. Director Peirce

feels that based on current balances and the next installment from the county due December 10th, that the park is in a very positive financial position. She asked that the board members begin to consider employee bonuses to be voted on at the November meeting. Director Lindsen made a motion to accept the September financial report as presented. Director Thomas seconded. Unanimous approval.

Old Business

Prop 68 Per Capita Grant - Sandy Jacobson stated that the application has been submitted to the state. We should be receiving a contract from the state by November 1st, which means the park can start billing for any expenses incurred, although we do not have an exact project specified at this point. We have received a second estimate for the playground safety audit from Safe2Play because the first audit seemed inflated. The second audit was roughly half the price. Director House has contacted Safe2Play and asked for them to do the inspections. Director Peirce asked what the estimate was and Director House said he believed it was approximately \$1270 for all three playgrounds to be inspected. The first estimate was over \$2700.

Nevada County Resiliency Grant - Director Peirce did the work to apply for this grant and it was submitted in early September. She stated that the board might have an answer on this grant by early November. She stated that there were 73 applicants and there was \$2M available. Sandy Jacobsen believed that the county would award approximately 50 grants. Director Peirce stated that since this grant was to be used as seed money for the park's proposed recreation program, it won't be awarded in time for this basketball season.

California State Rural and Recreation & Tourism Grant - Director Peirce reminded the board that this grant would be used for our proposed RV Park and the deadline for the grant has been extended to Thursday, January 20th at 5 pm due to districts being affected by wildfires. Director Peirce has talked to our grant writer (Doug) and he has already started working on it. He stated in an email to Sandy Jacobson that he needs to speak with Director House or Director Peirce for an update. Director Lindsen asked if the board had received a final quote from the contractor and Sandy Jacobson clarified that what the board has received at this point is only a (liberal) estimate from an engineer who has worked on two other RV Park projects in the county recently. Director Peirce stated that the estimate was \$400K, which would build 10 spaces for the entire project.

County Recreation Committee - Update was provided by Sandy Jacobson. The Recreation ad hoc committee comprised of Sandy Jacobsen and Supervisor Hoek met with the Penn Valley Community Foundation regarding the idea of building the proposed community center within Western Gateway Park. County CEO Allison Lehman liked the idea when presented with it, as did members of the PV Community Foundation, and that it might become a "Community Facilities District". It was suggested that two boards be formed, one from the Community Foundation and one from the WGP board, with Sandy Jacobsen being a neutral 3rd party to bring it together. It was decided that Director Lindsen and Chairman House would represent the park board to investigate this idea

more in depth with Sandy Jacobson, and then when bringing the two groups (WGP and Community Foundation) together for further discussion. Directors Linden and Peirce commented that some of our board members had already been discussing the benefits of having a community center building within the park. Director Peirce stated that one major benefit is that the park is already set up for rentals, and another is the potential for grant funding.

Financial Audit - Director Peirce attempted to contact the alternative company, Robert W. Johnson CPA Group, and emailed a copy of the last audit but has not received a response. Jensen and Smith, who has done past audits for the park, did call back. It was decided that Jensen and Smith would do the park's audit, as it is needed as soon as possible by the Auditor Controller.

Holiday Fair - Director Thomas gave an update about plans. The fair is scheduled for November 27th. Currently there are 22 artists/craftspeople signed up as vendors. Director Thomas expressed concerns about the permitting process with the county Planning Department and whether a permit would be required. Sandy Jacobson suggested that the resolution from the county might allow all planning fees to be waived. She also suggested that Director Thomas contact Marnie of the Downtown Association for a list of craft and food vendors. There was some discussion about the requirements by the health department regarding Covid, and how many people would be allowed to be at the event. Director Peirce stated that the solar array would not be useful as a rain shelter because it is not watertight.

New Business

Bike Park Remediation - Director Peirce had a call from "Moss" (John) who was one of the first people involved in developing the original bike park plan. He and the new BONC president came to the park and did a tour of the bike park. No maintenance has been done all summer, the water leak has not been repaired. They are interested in taking down the last of the mounds in the "rogue" jump area. Director Lindsen asked if there is a schedule for bike park maintenance and Director Peirce said that the bike park's MOU stated that they are in charge of their own maintenance, but that Moss stated he is pleased at the condition of the bike park considering there had been no work days. Director Lindsen asked if the MOU stated how frequently they are expected to maintain the bike park. Director Peirce answered that it is not that specific. Director Thomas expressed concern that when they return to the "rogue" jump area to take down the remaining mounds that they will undo work she has done to re-connect the original trail. Director Peirce suggested that Director Thomas contact Moss to make sure the trail is reestablished once the soil is removed, or that portions of it remain as is. Director Thomas explained that she had met with two community members who will be bringing leaves to the "rogue" area as she directed so that new topsoil can be reestablished from composted leaves. Director Peirce and Sharon Lewis offered chipped material as well. Director Peirce asked if we should earmark all Holiday Fair proceeds for trail projects.

Advisory Groups

Director Peirce stated that an old sprinkler has been fixed over by the front playground and the bike path.

Director Lindsen asked if he could donate 8 - 9 young valley oaks along the front fence of the park, as he has some extras from his business that are not needed. Chairman House also expressed that there is a need for trees along the fenceline at the ball field as well. Director Peirce stated that the only consideration would be to space them to accommodate mowing.

Field maintenance - Chairman House stated that he has people working on ideas for improvements to the ballfield area. Top ideas are covered seating areas and food concession, as well as security and field maintenance. He expressed that there will be a need for better fencing if the RV park is built. He stated that there are plenty of people who are willing and able to do necessary work. Director Peirce asked what the status is of putting new gravel into the parking areas there and Chairman Lindsen said that Foster and Sons currently has the best pricing on driveway gravel, free delivery.

Irrigation Maintenance - Chairman House stated that there are immediate sprinkler issues he will fix himself. Brandon Lindsen had some questions about the park's NID usage, and Director Peirce stated that WGP pays NID from April through October. Because the water flows in the creek all year, the park can pump it anytime necessary. There is no schedule. Director Peirce does request from maintenance that they pump during PG&E off-peak hours to reduce the electric bill.

Firewood program - Chairman House stated that there is plenty of firewood for the program at present. There have not been any deliveries to customers yet.

Farmers Market - Director Peirce stated that there is nothing new on the Farmers Market. Directors Peirce and Thomas relayed the story of catching the CRV bandit in the act of stealing recycling but that he got away. A vigilant citizen followed him and provided a license plate number, and Director Peirce reported him to the sheriff that day.

Upcoming events and reservations - Director Peirce provided update. Grills and Grills canceled. Disc Golf had a tournament recently that included rentals. Picnic Area 1 and 2 were rented out for the upcoming weekend but the reservation has been canceled due to rain but it was then re-rented to a wedding meet and greet group in spite of the rain. There is a new rental in Buttermakers Cottage (Cottage Bible Study) Wednesday mornings. There is currently a regular Monday night group. AA is also renting Tuesday nights and another AA group Friday mornings. Jean from the Chamber of Commerce called and they would like to bring back the Chamber breakfast and will start the first Thursday in November and it will be a monthly event. Outdoor rentals are winding down for the season. The Reggae music planner will have his last season concert on October

23rd. There is also a drumming group interested in renting the stage but Director Peirce discouraged this idea because their dancers are inappropriately clad. Director Lindsen asked what the discrimination policy is for renters. Director Peirce shared a story about a comedian who has been using a picnic area recently and has been overly loud and rude when asked to reduce his volume.

Director Comments - Director Peirce had no comment. Director Thomas had no comment. Director Lindsen announced that there will be a daffodil planting/neighborhood cleanup event on November 20th from 9 - 10 am, planting from Spenceville Road to Broken Oak. Meetup will be at the office buildings at the corner of Spenceville and Penn Valley Drive. Chairman House did not have a comment.

Adjournment - Chairman House moved that the meeting be adjourned. Director Lindsen seconded. Unanimous approval. Meeting adjourned at 8:03