

**City of Chelan  
Parks and Recreation Advisory Board  
November 20, 2014**

**City Hall Council Chambers**

**6:00 PM**

**CALL TO ORDER:** Ryan Robinson called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

**ROLLCALL:** Chairman Robinson took roll call.

**Board Members Present:** Chairman Ryan Robinson, Bill Crego, Terri Emery, Gary Searle

**Board Members Not Present:** Larry Bradley

**Council Liaison:** Erin McCardle – not present

**Staff Present:** Director Charles Sablan, Administrator Schmidt

**CITIZEN COMMENTS:** None Present

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Gary Searle moved the minutes of the October meeting be approved and Bill Crego seconded the motion with the record showing the change from Redmond to Renton in Robinson's statement regarding his personal experiences in recreation.

***Agenda Items:***

**NEW BUSINESS:** (was discussed prior to Old Business)

**2015 Swim Lesson Proposal:** Director Sablan distributed Administrator Schmidt's comments regarding the proposed swim lessons. Sablan gave a summary of this proposal. The parks department was approached in September by the Lake Chelan Community Hospital Foundation to help fund swim lessons for children in Chelan. Currently free swim lessons are available for Chelan and Manson youth through the Manson Parks District. The Foundation's mission is to fight obesity, promote healthy lifestyles and with the swimming, to help save lives. Sablan was asked by the Foundation to prepare a proposal to provide swim lessons for Chelan. The plan states it is a lack of opportunities and the means to partake in water activities which are taken for granted by our visitors and up to 60% of the Hispanic children cannot swim. Farris went before the Foundation with a request through public-private partnerships for approximately \$14,000 annually over the next three years. The Foundation was hesitant as they felt the city should have some monetary investment in this program. Sablan stated he feels these swim lessons are very necessary for the valley. Sablan stated that in reading Administrator Schmidt's comments he has some concerns about the direct cost of swimming lessons to the city. The City should try to recoup some if not all direct costs for the recreation services they provide. He feels there should be a nominal fee and if things are free that it can leave the impression that it is of little or no value and may not be taken seriously. Schmidt asked if the parks department can afford to increase costs without additional revenue. Scholarship programs can be easily established to assist those potential swim students not able to afford lesson fees. Sablan stated he moved forward with the no fee proposal as when working with the swimming program coordinator,

Vicki Downey from the Manson Parks department, she has a very successful program at no cost. There were approximately 380 student/classes on a requested donation as a base fee. The Foundation questioned if Manson is supplying lessons why does Chelan need to? Also, out of the 380 students, how many are from Chelan? Downey stated transportation is an issue and 50% of those taking lessons are from Chelan. The number of Hispanic students is 50%. Emery stated swim lessons should be categorized differently from the other sports the parks offer, as knowing how to swim is a safety issue and saves lives. Emery's argument for the no fee is basically a safety factor and she would like to see lessons available for anyone that does not know how to swim. Crego stated that he has no problem with a minimal fee and he understands what Administrator Schmidt was saying, in that a fee provides an incentive to be committed to finish the lessons. Sablan stated the parks would request the students to "pay what they can" and along with that also request sponsorships from various service groups. Transportation to and from the swim lessons was discussed such as school transportation and possibly making this a part of the school physical education program. Searle stated he was in favor of a fee as it makes students more responsible to show up and complete the course. Robinson asked if the liability was different for a fee based program versus a free program. Sablan stated the liability would be the same regardless of whether or not a fee was charged. Sablan stated the parks currently has a scholarship program in place for our AAU registrations. Administrator Schmidt asked what the hospital Foundation role was. Sablan stated the Foundation would like to fund some of the costs and have their healthy choices Max program be a part of the literature. Schmidt stated it has been his experience that in recreation programs the fees usually don't cover all the costs of the programs. Schmidt stated he felt it would be prudent to have the Foundation cover 50% or all of the scholarship costs. Sablan would like a motion to proceed forward in the research and development of a swim program at reduced costs for the youth of Chelan. Terri Emery moved to support the parks in finding out more information on talking to the various entities, the hospital, schools, and whomever else in finding possible full scholarships and/or if a nominal fee needs to be charged to move forward on this. Bill Crego seconded the motion and the motion was opened for discussion. Searle asked if it was a reduced cost for the Chelan participants, in which Sablan's response was the reduced cost would be for all those registering. The primary focus is for local residents. The first year cost for the program is approximately \$14,720 which does not include staff time. Searle questioned what the initial charge per student and what the reduction would be. Sablan stated that based on 200 participants as a cost of \$35 per week or \$70 for the two week classes and the parks would like to garner about 50% of that cost. Sablan would like to move forward with the Foundation in regards to the scholarship. Crego stated there was not enough information presented for the board to make a decision and there needs to be research and development of the program and Sablan needs to come back to the board with the facts and with what amount the hospital foundation is willing to give toward the program. The board discussed the motion on the floor and the statement to proceed was in question. Emery amended the motion to proceed with more research and development to find more funding for the program to alleviate the monetary burden on the city council and the citizens of this great city. Crego seconded the amendment and the motion passed. Sablan stated as this moves forward it can be a very tedious process and with everything on his plate, Farris said this program may not happen in 2015 but he will move forward on this.

## **OLD BUSINESS:**

**2015 Budget:** Sablan spoke about raising the fees at the Putting Course and last year approximately 15,000 rounds were played at the course. Sablan will be bringing this proposal before the board at the January meeting. Sablan stated that based on the comp plan which Beckwith has been working on, with the equilibrium pricing, they are looking at pricing the seasonal moorage rates at more of a market price. Currently, there are approximately 118 people on the seasonal moorage waiting list and Sablan would like price seasonal moorage rate in a way

to have the waiting list go away. Sablan stated he spoke with a few people and they stated they would not pay \$1600 for a seasonal slip but they would pay \$1200. Emery stated she felt it would not be unreasonable to raise the putting course fees up to the cost of a movie ticket of \$8.50. Searle asked if the putting course was under the umbrella of the municipal course. Sablan stated that the parks works with the golf course on sharing of information and equipment. Crego spoke about the decline in golfers which results in a raise in prices to be able to maintain these courses with the smaller numbers. These courses are bringing in soccer golf. Sablan talked about the Jack Nicolas foundation and the golf 2.0 which is experimenting in ways to speed up golf and reduce the number of holes from 18 to 12. This is an alternative golf attraction to the regular 18-hole course for the purpose of luring people in. Crego stated there are 12 soccer golf courses set up at a cost to play of \$15.50 and there are people waiting in line to play the course. The Marina and Putting course proposed rate increases will be brought before the board in January.

**Comprehensive Plan Workshop:** Beckwith distributed graphics to the board which included the community center pool options, marina parking lot, and the RV Park. Beckwith stated if the pool is not financially feasible which it probably isn't in this particular format as normally for this size pool is for a population of 20,000. One option is the plans shows this as a future pool as you have allowed for it in the plan even though you don't expect to finance it. It does meet the issue in the survey that everyone wants the option to have a plan for a pool if and when it ever happens. The other issue would be the gym and Beckwith discussed the different options but he feels it would be redundant to have two gyms. Beckwith stated if the plan begins shrinking then without the pool the building becomes manageable which means there is no need for addition staff to operate it. The second scheme keeps the fitness and lockers and in talking with the architect if the pool ever came about you would transfer the floor, lay the plumbing and then you don't need to plumb out anything that is not needed. The area could be multipurpose and possibly used for classrooms. Sablan stated he believes it was deliberate to add the other gym because of the lack of basketball gym space in the valley. Beckwith stated he felt that was a ligament thing to look at and one of the issues of siting facilities on school grounds is can adult use these facilities during school hours. The only issue would be if it would be available during school hours and do you really need to invest in this gym. Beckwith talked about a scheme where the focus is on classrooms, a grand meeting room, and fitness and aerobic areas and if a track is necessary then debate whether the track is over that area. The parking lots at the community field were discussed and since there is a slope of 6 to 8 feet, the area would be terraced to pull all the parking together. Beckwith would like to do more study on it if the board concurs in sizing the plans down more for the classrooms, great halls, and the combination fitness, which in most community centers, these are rented out to instructors for their classes. The other component which was strongly identified was childcare. You may want to also consider the option of a lap pool for swim instruction and leave room for the dream scheme at a later date. Searle stated if you're going to build a pool do it right and he likes the idea an Olympic size pool with low and high diving boards. Beckwith stated there are 3 options, one is just the lap pool which is the least expensive. The second option is make it Olympic size but make it multipurpose with diving boards and some of the slides for party functions. The third is separate pools with leisure and Jacuzzi. Leisure pool is a miniature version of a waterslide which has a lazy river, zero depth area, and water fountains for play. Adults use these for the lazy river to walk against it for exercise. The challenge is that you are looking at a 4 to 6 month use for this facility and when sun is out it will be vacant and there is a competing facility with many more attractions. The plan needs to show the public the options available and that these decisions do not need to be made yet but to explore the option of going in phases so that the first phase meets the most critical needs and the second phase is reserved for if and when you get there. This plan meets two objectives as every survey shows the pool as a top priority but every time you tested what it would cost people are not willing to pay for it. Every time you run a feasibility test

against the pool the city is not big enough to support one. Beckwith stated if the board is agreeable he would like to refine the plan to show they have met the obligation reflecting public opinion but you have to also come up with something that is probably a little more feasible. Beckwith will bring this back to the board to reflect hard costs for each of the different pool options. Parking lot and concessions were discussed and currently in some areas they are configured backwards and there is also no focus on the concessions. Beckwith gave a visual presentation of the different plans and locations of current and future concessions. The new arrangement is to basically improve the areas function and aesthetics to make the area more effective and efficient. The current concessions are not focused where the people are and storage is backwards. Schmidt stated his complaint is with the boat trailers taking up all the space for the users and if they could somehow be moved off site it would be a perk. He would prefer they be moved to the school parking lots. Schmidt stated there is interest in a pavilion for bands and entertainment and a fenced in area for festivals. The area being discussed is already fenced. Beckwith stated a challenge of the RV Park is that there are not very many pull through sites and it doesn't have the amenity package that newer RV parks are offering. People who come to the RV Park want to socialize and there are usually clubhouses available. One option is to increase the number of pull through sites by converting some of the areas to accommodate pull through sites which could potentially increase the RV capacity. Tennis courts would be moved to the day use park and combine it with basketball courts. Administrator Schmidt asked if there was enough room at the hanger area to relocate the maintenance shop. Sablan said there would be room for a shop but not enough room for all the vehicles. Beckwith stated the most successful type of concessions are refreshments. Emery asked about the idea of a group campfire area and Beckwith stated almost all parks have an outdoor fire pit area. Sablan stated we restrict fire pits in the RV Park but there are no restrictions on the BBQ's in the day use parks unless there is a fire ban. Beckwith stated anytime you have an indoor facility or something with fire you need someone present to make sure it is not abused or vandalized. The board discussed moving Rally Alley and what its revenue was. Sablan stated the revenue for Rally Alley was \$12,000. Beckwith stated moving it would be moving it away from the crowd and it would also be too expensive to move. Sablan confirmed that the board was in consensus with everything they discussed. Beckwith stated he could not meet in December as he had to go back to Washington DC and he will have all the documents ready for review in January.

Searle moved the board members be excused from the December meeting and it was seconded by Crego. It was moved and seconded that the meeting be adjourned.

There being no further business the meeting/workshop was adjourned at 7:45 pm.

#### **NON AGENDA ITEMS & STAFF REPORTS:**

**Staff Reports:** None

**Board Member Comments:** None

Next meeting date will be January 15, 2015.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 8:00 pm.

Submitted by,

Jane Farris

Recreation & Facilities Supervisor