

**City of Chelan  
Parks and Recreation Advisory Board  
October 16, 2014**

**City Hall Council Chambers**

**6:00 PM**

**CALL TO ORDER:** Ryan Robinson called the meeting to order at 6:10 p.m.

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

**Board Members Present:** Chairman Ryan Robinson, Larry Bradley, Gary Searle

**Board Members Not Present:** Bill Crego and Terry Emery

**Council Liaison:** Erin McCardle

**Staff Present:** Director Charles Sablan

**CITIZEN COMMENTS:** None Present

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

The September minutes were approved with a motion by Larry Bradley and a second from Gary Searle.

***Agenda Items:***

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**Comprehensive Plan Workshop – Tom Beckwith:** The workshop began with introductions of those in attendance and who they represent: Russ Jones, sailing and boating interests; Mike Haerling, Slam n Jam event; Keith Truscott, and Director of Natural Resource for the Chelan County PUD. Beckwith gave the board an overview of the Comprehensive Plan. The GMA (Growth Manage Act) requires cities to develop Comprehensive Plans with a 20 year vision and corresponding population development consistent with each other. It must have a 6 year financial plan. The mandatory elements of the City Comp Plan are land use, transportation, economics, capital facilities, and public facilities. Parks and Recreation are an optional element but to be eligible for grants or have standings on projects it behooves the city to create the matching elements. This is a stand-alone document developed by the parks commission which is adopted by the planning commission and council and does not have to be incorporated in the GMA plan. RCO judges the Pros Plan the same as the GMA plan with the same criteria, so it is best to be consistent. The portion taken out of the Pros Plan and put in the GMA plan is the 6 year capital facilities program plus long range visionary graphics. The legislation states that if a project is not identified in physical form or in goal statements then you cannot pursue it. City council cannot adopt projects that have not been vetted through the Comprehensive Plan process. For all practical purposes, the idea is to be as inclusive and visionary as possible to avoid missing out on any possible opportunities. There is some qualifying language in the text that states some of these things are conceptual and subject to more details. So far in the process all sites have been inventoried and demand and need for all kind of recreational activities and facilities are being looked at. The plan will then sort out who the providers will be; whether it will be the city, the PUD, the county, nonprofit or for profit agencies. Implication of future

populations was discussed. The most important will probably be the change in composition as Chelan is an aging population in which Chelan is a prime attractor but Chelan will also always be a family community. Therefore, what kinds of demands do these age specific populations create and what will this do to the city in 10 to 20 years for capacity of the facilities as far as the resident population. What is the impact of visitors to Chelan? The chamber is sponsoring this outreach survey and to date there are approximately 200 completed surveys. This will be left on the web site for one year to see the difference month to month and season to season comparisons, what kinds of people come and what they do. Traditionally, Parks and Rec was looked at as a leisure activity, but when you look at what attracts people and corporations the top two items are education and recreation. Therefore, it does have an economic development component. RV Park surveys are up to 89 and resident surveys are up to 129. These surveys are behavioral as to what do you use, how do you rate it, and what do you find deficient. Toward the end of this process a representative survey will be done for voter households regarding specific projects and proposals and how they should be financed. The 1% limitation on property taxes is affecting all city governments because the revenue on property cannot increase more than 1% per year, so if inflation is 2% you have automatically lost 1%. This is depressing the revenue available for capital facilities and increasingly it is forcing cities across the state to focus more on mandatory services under the state's constitution, which is public safety and less on the discretionary things such as parks and streets. Beckwith would like to have a draft plan done by Thanksgiving and have the plan to the planning commission and council by the first of the year to be eligible for the grant submission schedule next year. Issues and objectives were discussed by those present.

Mike Haerling discussed issues and objectives for the Slam n Jam a two day event he organizes which is held annually the third weekend in August. Haerling would like to have a contact with the city for this event which brings in about a 1,000 people. The location of some of the courts makes it difficult for spectator viewing. The event is promoted on the lakechelanslamnjam.com website but it is mostly promoted by word of mouth. Haerling's definition of success is measured by how much money is left to purchase basketball jerseys for the city AAU program. Haerling discussed the need for additional facilities such as gym space for basketball and there are times when the school still needs to use the city baseball fields for JV baseball and softball. Field allocation is by youth preference with centralized scheduling done by Haerling for the city programs on city fields. Kent field is in need of leveling and re-sodding. The only regulation soccer fields are the high school fields. Haerling stated another softball field would be useful especially for the senior men as they have 4 doubleheader games a week.

There was discussion on the proposed aquatics facility/community gym and status to date. McCardle stated she believed the proposal was put on hold as the size proposed for the facility was financially not a viable solution to cover the M&O costs. M&O costs were provided but the projected revenue was not done such as user fee options and rental fees. The YMCA would operate the facility. Beckwith stated that the general rule of thumb to operate a pool is a community population of 20,000. Chelan would be the center of the two regional pools which are located in Wenatchee and Brewster. McCardle stated the pool itself was not proposed as the money generator and it would be the other amenities in the facility that would fund the operation expenses. The gym, fitness center and community center rooms were very popular. The senior center would remain its own entity. Beckwith stated recreation centers are gyms and fitness, and community centers are class rooms that involve all ages which could include child care, arts and crafts, and dance. The only one that generates revenue is fitness and party rooms. Two surveys were done in which the last one was done in 2007 and the indoor pool and community pool were

at the top as far as priority. There were over 1,000 people who responded to the survey. Beckwith asked what in all of this did McCardle feel is needed, in which she stated more gym space and second in line would be a pool where people could go in the winter for exercise and fun. McCardle stated she is interested to see if a pool is still a priority for the community. Beckwith stated an example in other communities was that they ran the development and operation costs and then backed those off for what it would cost per swim and membership. Then these costs were included in the survey and if they wanted a pool this was what it would cost. If these fees were too much then a different type of pool and fee structure was included and if that didn't work then there would be no pool. Beckwith stated there needs to be a financial cost of a pool if this is included in the final survey. Bradley stated everyone wants a pool but over the last 20 years the surveys have never included a cost attached with the question. Beckwith stated the city inventory lacks indoor facilities such as gym space and when you rely on school gyms then there is no place for adult recreation during the day. The first issue would be multipurpose gym space, the second would be fitness and the third would be the classrooms. Beckwith stated he did not see visitor/tourist offsetting the cost of a pool during the summer months as they would most likely be using the lake or going to the Waterslides Park. The survey questions need to be as realistic as possible. The board discussed the idea of a recreation center without a pool and Bradley stated the pool is the driving force behind the recreation center. McCardle stated she would not want to see the taxpayers of the community having to support additional facilities that not everyone in the community would use. Beckwith stated the most underserved population are kids that live in resort communities and asked if the pool/recreation facility should be included in the 20 year vision and should there be enough realistic feasibility choices so people are aware that this may not be built right away and that this is subject to some stringent feasibility tests. Bradley did not see a problem of this being in the 20 year plan. Robinson stated through his personal experiences in Redmond the recreation centers were very valuable to the community but the pool was closed and turned into a water park. Sablan stated he had wanted to offer after school activities at the old library, but that facility was used for something different.

Keith Truscott stated the PUD has a long term operating license for the Chelan Dam vision 2009. The PUD did significant build out of parks with the most recent licensing including improvements to the trail down to the gorge. There are limitations on the south side of the gorge in the penstock area. The primary objective with the FERC license is to offer access to the water which is the reason the PUD parks are oriented the way they are with boat ramps and board walks. Beckwith stated the trails groups is concerned about a strategic plan to look for more waterfront sites. The PUD is not out actively acquiring waterfront land or trail development. If the PUD did develop trails it would be a leased partnership with a taxable entity that would be responsible for operation and maintenance of the trail. Truscott commends the city for taking this planning effort on. There was a lengthy discussion on the PUD Riverwalk Park upper shelter and its uses as it is considered a premier waterfront amenity. McCardle stated it would be nice to have a better connection from downtown to the park or better signage letting people know there is a beautiful one mile loop along the river with great green space. Searle stated the best access from Woodin Ave to the park is from the Episcopal Church.

Russ Jones represented the non-motorized water recreation, sailing association. Jones stated one improvement he would like to see is the marina parking lot stalls restriped for boat and trailer

parking only so there would be no need to disconnect and it would also help to keep the Lakeview Drive-In employees from parking in that area. There is a need for a staging area where the boats can prepare to launch and it needs to have a wash down to try to combat the transportation of mussels and aquatic weeds. The city needs to look at doing things to increase the competitiveness of the marina as there will be an additional 250 slips built in the next two years which will be drawing some of the city's market. Having clean restrooms and showers would encourage people to vacation on their boats at the marina. The dock on the down lake side of the launch needs to have the piling removed to increase use for revenue generation. Shaping the shoreline area from the boat launch to Campbell's parking area to make it a useable area or at least make it aesthetically pleasing. Allow the Sailing Association and Arts Council to paint the old round pump house to make it look like a lighthouse which they feel would turn it from an eyesore into an attraction.

There being no further business the meeting/workshop was adjourned.

**NEW BUSINESS:** None on the agenda

**NON AGENDA ITEMS & STAFF REPORTS:**

**Staff Reports:**

- **Director Sablan:**
- **Maintenance Supervisor:**

**Board Member Comments:**

- **Searle:**
- **Bradley:**
- **Emery:**
- **Robinson:**
- **Crego:**

Next meeting date will be November 20<sup>th</sup>.

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

Submitted by,  
Jane Farris  
Recreation & Facilities Supervisor