



TWIN FALLS PARKS AND RECREATION

136 Maxwell Ave. • PO Box 1907 • Twin Falls, ID 83303 • Phone: 208-736-2265 • Fax: 208-736-1548

TWIN FALLS PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION

April 9, 2013
11:30am

Twin Falls City Council Chambers
305 3rd Avenue East

AGENDA

11:30 a.m. Call to Order

- 1. Approve minutes of the March 12th, 2013 meeting**
- 2. Election of Officers**
- 3. Parks/Recreation Staff Reports**
- 4. Dog Off Leash Sites Meetings Report**
- 5. Bench Donation Request**
- 6. Other Items from the Commission**

**Any person(s) needing special accommodations to participate in the above noticed meeting should contact Nikki Miller at (208)736-2265 at least two working days before the meeting.*

The Benefits are Endless...



TWIN FALLS PARKS AND RECREATION

136 Maxwell Ave. • PO Box 1907 • Twin Falls, ID 83303 • Phone: 208-736-2265 • Fax: 208-736-1548

TWIN FALLS PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION

April 9, 2013

11:30am

STAFF REPORT

1. Approve minutes of the March 12th, 2013 meeting – Commission

The Commission needs to approve or amend the proposed set of minutes

2. Election of Officers – Commission

Each year, the Commission elects a Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson. Currently Kevin Dane is Chairperson and he has served for three years. Tennille Adams is currently Vice-Chairperson and she also has served for three years. There are no regulations on the number of years you can serve as Chairperson or Vice-Chairperson.

3. Parks/Recreation Staff Reports - Staff

Enclosed are the Parks & Recreation Staff Reports

4. Dog Off Leash Sites Meetings Report– Staff & Commission

Staff sent letters to the property owners within 300' of the five proposed sites of the dog off leash pilot program. Meetings were held on Tuesday April 2nd and Thursday April 4th. The five proposed areas are: Baxter's Park, Jason's Woodland Hills Park, Rock Creek Canyon Parkway (RCCP), Teton Park, and Villa Vista retention area.

As part of the letter, a short survey was included with all the mailings. Attached is a copy of the survey. As of Friday April 5th, the results of the surveys follow that includes surveys collected from the meetings held on Tuesday the 2nd and Thursday the 4th:

Jason's – 40 mailings

Yes – 3 No – 9

Baxter's – 35 mailings

Yes – 0 No – 3

RCCP – 93 mailings

Yes – 5 No – 12

Teton – 69 mailings

Yes – 4 No – 6

Villa Vista – 18 mailings

Yes – 1 No – 0

The Benefits are Endless...



TWIN FALLS PARKS AND RECREATION

136 Maxwell Ave. • PO Box 1907 • Twin Falls, ID 83303 • Phone: 208-736-2265 • Fax: 208-736-1548

At the Jason's Woodland Hills Park meeting, only two neighbors showed up and both of them were adamant against using this site for this dog off leash pilot program. From the surveys and the meeting, the neighbors that were against the pilot dog off leash program cited the following reasons: 1) the park is being used by many of the neighbor kids and youth sport teams practicing; 2) they felt it would be a conflict between park patrons and dogs off leash; 3) worried about the dog waste and who would be responsible for the clean up; and 4) too many homes back up to the park and could disturb the serenity of those neighbors.

The first meeting on Thursday April 4th was for Baxter's Park and the retention area at Villa Vista subdivision. Only one couple showed up and they lived over by the Villa Vista retention area. They were not against having dogs off leash, but they recommended using the north end of Vista Bonita Park instead of the Villa Vista retention area. They commented that dog owners are already using the park to allow their dogs to run off leash and they thought the retention area is too small of an area to use. With Baxter's Park being the site of the permanent dog park, there has been enough funds raised to start installation of the irrigation system this spring/summer and to seed the area. If this occurs, this site could not be used as part of this pilot program.

The second meeting on Thursday April 4th was for Rock Creek Canyon Parkway and Teton Park. This meeting had the highest number of neighbors and/or park patrons of these sites. The majority of neighbors and park patrons of Rock Creek Canyon Parkway were against this park from being used as a pilot dog off leash program. They cited the following reasons: 1) they felt it would be a conflict being park patrons and dogs off leash; 2) worried about the dog waste and who would be responsible for the clean up; 3) concerned about if there were an accident between a dog and a human, emergency personnel would have a longer and harder time to reach them and without any emergency phone boxes, it would take a long time for someone to run out of the canyon to call for help without a cell phone. The neighbors of Teton Park cited the first two reasons above and the following three: 1) many waterfowl use this site when the retention area has water in them; 2) this area is used for a shortcut from between the two streets of Heyburn and Shoup; 3) how often will the presence of enforcement be at the park and; 4) lack of designated parking just for the park, only on street parking is available, Shoup Avenue East (southern side of the park) is a dead end to the west and the northern side of the park, there is only about 70' of width of the park that borders Heyburn Avenue East. One neighbor did mention if they were some fencing, this pilot program might work.

The Benefits are Endless...



TWIN FALLS PARKS AND RECREATION

136 Maxwell Ave. • PO Box 1907 • Twin Falls, ID 83303 • Phone: 208-736-2265 • Fax: 208-736-1548

Staff recommendations are:

- 1) To host a neighborhood meeting of the owners around Vista Bonita Park to understand their thoughts and concerns about a dog off leash pilot program since they did not receive the letter and survey about the Villa Vista retention area. This site might be a viable site for this program.
- 2) Do not implement the dog off leash pilot program at the following sites: Jason's Woodland Hills Park, Baxter's Park, Teton Park, and Rock Creek Canyon Parkway due to the neighbor's and park patrons concerns and since construction might start this spring/summer at Baxter's Park.

Teton Park might work if some fencing is installed, but this defeats the purpose of this pilot program being low cost to implement. Does the Commission needs more input and discussion on this site?

5. Bench Donation Request - Staff

Staff has received a request for an enhanced inscription on a plaque for a donated bench along the Perrine Bridge East canyon rim trail dedicated to Deb Annest. The proposed bench location is adjacent to the far east overlook of this trail section. The request form is attached. A copy of the Donation Policy is also attached. The requested text is: "Dedicated to Deb Annest, for making Twin Falls a healthier community for over 30 years, July 11, 2013".

The section in the Donation Policy that deals with inscriptions states:

Inscription –The text of memorials to individuals may include the name of the person being dedicated to, honored, or memorialized, the dates of the birth and death of that person or the date of the dedication or when honored. Any additional text and any inscription for other donations must be directly related to the history of the community, and may identify groups or persons with longstanding ties to the community.

The Commission will need to determine if the additional text meets the conditions stated above. The Commission's recommendation will be forwarded to the City Council concerning their request for additional inscription.

Jim Annest and his family are requesting this donation request.

The Benefits are Endless...



TWIN FALLS PARKS AND RECREATION

136 Maxwell Ave. • PO Box 1907 • Twin Falls, ID 83303 • Phone: 208-736-2265 • Fax: 208-736-1548

6. Other Items from the Commission

Other items that the Commission may have questions about or issues the Commission wants to discuss. Dog Park fund raising update, reminder of Arbor Day is on Friday April 26th at 4pm at Harrison Park, and the City will take additional input on the draft strategic plan on Thursday April 11th at 6pm in the Council Chambers.

Attachments:

1. Staff Reports
2. Copy of Off Leash Dog Pilot Program Survey
3. Donation Request Form
4. Donation Policy