



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

May 14, 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 April 9th, 2013 meeting**
- 2. Parks/Recreation Staff Reports**
- 3. Dog Off Leash Sites Meeting Report**
- 4. Alternate Landscaping Presentation – 12:00noon**
- 5. 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.*

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May 14, 2013
11:30am

STAFF REPORT

1. Approve minutes of the April 9th, 2013 meeting – Commission

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

2. Parks/Recreation Staff Reports - Staff

Enclosed are the Parks & Recreation Staff Reports

3. Dog Off Leash Sites Meeting Report– Staff & Commission

Last month's Commission meeting, it was recommended to have one more public meeting about a dog off leash pilot program for Vista Bonita Park. Staff sent letters to the property owners within 500' of the park. The meeting was held on Tuesday April 23rd.

As part of the letter, a short survey was included with all the mailings. As of Tuesday May 7th, the results of the surveys follow:

Vista Bonita Park – 66 mailings

Yes – 5 No – 7

There were five neighbors that showed up and all five were against the pilot program. They stated similar reasons as we heard at the other meetings. 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 and; 3) worried about the dog waste and who would be responsible for the cleanup.

Staff recommendation is: do not implement the dog off leash pilot program at Vista Bonita Park.

Currently we are out of options for this year; we will continue to work with the Magic Valley Canine Social Club on their fund raising efforts for Baxter's Park. Also staff has submitted funding requests for the dog park in the City's 2013-2014 budget year. In the

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fall, we could consider Auger Falls as an off lease site for a pilot program, that pipeline project should be completed end of September or in October.

4. Alternate Landscaping Presentation – Hailey Barnes – 12:00noon

Hailey Barnes' company, Final Cut Synthetic Turf offers synthetic turf as an alternate way for residents to landscape their property. She is requesting the City to allow this type of landscaping in any type of development that requires landscaping as part of their development standards.

One section that the Parks & Recreation Department deals with is the Common Area Maintenance's landscaping, the City Code reads as follows:

Landscaping Requirements, Code 10-12-4-2 (O) Landscape and Sidewalk Placement:

O) Landscape And Sidewalk Placement: Landscaping and sidewalk placement required adjacent to arterial and collector streets. A tract of land eleven feet (11') in depth behind the curb line will be dedicated as part of any residential development adjacent to arterial and collector streets. Within that tract the developer shall install landscaping six feet (6') in depth with a sprinkler system and with grass and trees behind the curb line and shall also install a five foot (5') sidewalk. The landscaping will be maintained by the city and funded through a fee added to the water bill of each account within the development. Irrevocable restrictive covenants for this development and maintenance shall provide for this funding. Alternative landscaping other than trees and grass may be approved by the city. (Ord. 2850, 2-21-2006)

The City has allowed rocks and/or xeriscaping as an alternative landscaping in these CAM's.

There are multiple sections of the City Code that deals with development standards for businesses and others to comply with concerning landscaping.

There are the Commercial Central Business District (CB), C1 - Commercial Highway District, M-1 – Light Manufacturing District, M-2 – Heavy Manufacturing District, OS – Open Space, AP – Airport District, OT – Old Town District, CM – Commercial Mixed Use District, RM – Residential Mixed Use District, CSI – College of Southern Idaho District, PRO – Professional Office Overlay District, CRO – Canyon Rims Overlay District, Special Landscaping Requirement for Gateway Arterials, Special Landscaping Requirements for Properties Fronting the College of Southern Idaho (CSI) Property, and the Parks Stormwater Retention/Detention section.

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All these codes discuss the amount of landscaping they require; some requires a certain amount of trees and/or shrubs, or certain types of trees. In the CSI zone, it does mention about berms must be planted in grass. Landscaping is not defined in the City Code. The code does define open space as: An area retaining a natural ground cover free of any buildings, structures, streets or parking areas.

Staff is requesting for the Parks and Recreation Commission to make a recommendation if the City should allow or not allow synthetic turf as an alternate landscaping in development requirements. The Commission's recommendation will be forward to the Planning & Zoning Commission for their consideration.

5. Other Items from the Commission

Other items that the Commission may have questions about or issues the Commission wants to discuss. Arbor Day – beautiful day, four trees were planted. The volunteer efforts of the LDS Church at the Kiwanis Nook area at Shoshone Falls were outstanding. Over 100 volunteers showed up and work hard for 2 hours. The results are amazing. A couple of photos are attached. Thanks to Craig Manning in getting this organized.

Attachments:

1. Staff Reports
2. Photos of Kiwanis Nook area