



# 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

November 18, 2014  
11:30am

Twin Falls City Council Chambers  
305 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue East

### AGENDA

**11:30 a.m.** Call to Order

- 1. Approve minutes of the September 9<sup>th</sup>, 2014 meeting**
- 2. Parks & Recreation Staff Reports**
- 3. Update on the Parks & Recreation Master Plan**
- 4. Update on Bicycle Facilities Project**
- 5. Other Items from Commission**

Si desea esta información en español, llame Leila Sanchez al (208)735-7287

*\*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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## TWIN FALLS PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION

November 18, 2014

11:30am

### STAFF REPORT

- 1. Approve minutes of the September 9<sup>th</sup>, 2014 meeting – Commission**  
The Commission needs to approve or amend the proposed set of minutes

- 2. Parks & Recreation Staff Report - Staff**  
Enclosed are the Parks & Recreation Staff Reports

- 3. Update on Parks & Recreation Master Plan – Staff**  
There will be a kick-off meeting for the Steering Committee on Wednesday December 3<sup>rd</sup> at 6pm at the City Council Chambers. Our timeline for the Master Plan will be pushed back some due to the late start with the Steering Committee, should have the plan completed in May or June of next year.

The direction staff received from the City Council on the Steering Committee is to have it open to all citizens that want to participate, similar to what the City has done with the Waste Water Treatment Plant and now the Facilities Committee.

Staff is putting together an inventory and conditions assessment for each park, trail and open space owned by the City. The assessment applies to each individual amenity or piece of equipment within the park.

- 4. Update on Bicycle Facilities Plan – Staff**  
On Monday October 27<sup>th</sup>, staff presented to the City Council the following report, this is a recap of the report and the direction Council gave staff.

Last November, the City hosted a bicycle open house/forum to take the pulse of the community on the City's needs for bicycle routes/lanes/paths. There were approximately 50-60 community members in attendance. Attendees were asked where they currently ride their bikes and where they would like to ride their bikes. There were large maps posted where the audience drew their preferred bike routes/lanes/paths. Questionnaires were also collected to gather additional input from the community on bicycle issues. In addition to the maps and questionnaires, Art Hoag and Bob Seastrom prepared a map with their desired bike routes and presented it to the City at an earlier date.

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Following the open house/forum, City staff reviewed all the information and began to formulate a plan to accomplish some of the requests for bike routes/lanes/paths on existing streets and roads in the community.

There are three types of bike facilities staff proposed to the City Council:

1. Bike Lane – striped, on-street lanes specially marked as bicycle lanes. There are three existing bike lanes in the community. 1) East side of town, from the City/YMCA pool along Falls Avenue to the top of the grade at Shoshone Falls, 2) West side of town, from North College Road West, south on Sparks to Blake St. N. east on Shoup Avenue West to Harrison St. then north on Harrison to Falls Avenue. There is also a section of this lane that is along Caswell Avenue in front of I.B Perrine Elementary school and Robert Stuart middle school, and 3) South side of town, from the south water tanks, north on Washington St. South to Park Avenue, then west on Park Avenue to Oregon Trail Elementary School, and including a short section on Lois Avenue along the Oregon Trail Youth Complex.
2. Shared Use Path – designated pathways that can be separate from streets, or on the sidewalks of streets. The canyon rim trail system is designated as a shared use path, along with the pathway on Washington St. N. from Falls Avenue to Pole Line Road and the sidewalk along Pole Line Road.
3. Shared Lane Marked – designated streets that are marked with “sharrows” to inform all motorized and non-motorized vehicles that these designated streets are to be shared. Roads designated with sharrows are usually low volume, low speed roads. A photo is attached to show what a sharrow looks like along with the proposed signs.

The attached map shows where the three bicycle facility types are existing or proposed to be. Care was taken to increase connectivity while keeping bicycle traffic separated from vehicular traffic as much as possible. The map also shows the Phase I, which was included to show how what could be implemented with an initial expenditure of \$20,000. The Phase I was also drawn in an attempt to include as much of the City while enhancing connectivity throughout. It should be recognized that this additional infrastructure will require ongoing maintenance to include regular sweeping and to ensure pavement markings and signs stay visible.

On Thursday October 9th, the City hosted another bicycle open house to present this proposed bicycle facilities map. There were approximately 35-40 community members

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in attendance. There were five large maps showing the draft bicycle facilities map along with photos of the existing bicycle lanes and the shared use paths the community

currently has in place, what sharrows would look like on the proposed shared lane marked roads, and what the directional signs would look like. Staff reviewed how this draft map was developed, explained the three types of bicycle facilities and then invited the audience to review the maps up-close. Staff then open the rest of the evening to comments and questions. Generally, the comments were very supported of the City's proposed plan. There were several comments that staff agreed that should be reviewed and researched, there were:

1. Education for both motorists and bicyclists
2. Review existing city codes
3. Coordinate with Twin Falls Highway Districts for connections to other communities
4. Move bike lane from Shoup Avenue to Heyburn Avenue
5. Protection for bicyclists – i.e. tubular markers or delineators on bike lane lines
6. Park and Bike areas
7. Ensure sufficient maintenance, sweeping of bicycle facilities regularly
8. Preference of scenic routes over straight routes
9. Controlled intersections at high traffic streets for bicyclists
10. Instead of standardize green guide signs; make them stand out with a unique color

This item was scheduled at the request of Council members to provide a status report on this project. Staff presented this draft bicycle facilities map in an unscheduled fashion to the Safety Traffic Commission on Thursday October 9th. The Safety Traffic Commission asked if there has been any studies on how much the bike paths are used and if they is any studies showing locations that are prone to bicycle accidents and does the proposed plan remedy those locations. Staff said they have not been any studies on usage of the bike paths and staff will investigate if certain locations are more prone to bicycle accidents or not. Staff told Council that this report will be presented to the Parks & Recreation Commission's November meeting for their review and input.

The City Council gave the green light for staff to proceed with Phase I of the plan and review the 10 comments/suggestions received at the last public bike forum.

## **5. Other Items from Commission**

Pillar Falls and the Knieval canyon rim trail sections have been paved, and other capital improvement projects. Other items that the Commission may have questions about or issues the Commission wants to discuss.

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## **Attachments:**

1. September Meeting Minutes
2. Staff Reports
3. Draft of Bicycle Facilities Map
4. Sharrows and Sign Photo