

City of Colville  
Park & Recreation Board Meeting  
Monday August 31, 2015  
Council Chambers- 5:30pm

Meeting called to order by Jake Wilson; Recreation Coordinator at 5:30pm.

Members present: Traci Baum, Dean Fisher, Matt Schanz, and Danny Todd

Members Absent: Vacancy one, Vacancy Two, and Vacancy Three

Staff Members Present: Recreation Coordinator Jake Wilson, Parks & Recreation Secretary Amanda Hallam, City Planner R.J. Keetch, Mayor Lou Janke, Council Representative Nancy Foll, and Council Representative Mallory Conner

**1) Who are we? Introductions- why did you decide to be on this board?**

Jake asked everyone to introduce themselves and tell why they decided to become a member of the Park and Recreation Board and tell a little bit about themselves.

Danny Todd started and stated that he was born and raised in Colville and became a member because he would like to see more recreational activities in Colville.

Dean Fisher has lived in Colville since 2000. Has been involved in sports most of his life. He has also been involved in the city and county politics most his life.

RJ Keetch City of Colville Planner, has been living in Colville for 9 months. Is here as a resource from the planning side of things.

Traci Baum has raised 4 children in the Colville area and loves recreation. She would like to improve the quality of life for the Colville area. Upgrade things and improve the things we have right now. Try to bring in more tourist dollars into the area.

Mallory Conner is a City of Colville Council Member and has been in Colville for 8 years.

Matt Schanz has lived in Colville since 2000. Has an interest in improving the quality of life and would like to improve on what we have in the area and see more happening like hiking, biking, and walking trails...etc. further develop what we do have available in the area.

Lou Janke is the present Mayor of Colville. He has been in Colville since 1977 and wants there to be a plan for the Park and Recreation facilities and more planning for the future of recreation programs. The city has no plan for the Parks and Recreation programs and facility's and he thinks there is a need for it so we can plan for the future and move forward.

Nancy Foll is a City of Colville Council Member and is the one who does the appointments to city boards and she put herself on this board because she likes to be in on the ground floor to build things. She likes

to help build things that will succeed far beyond herself. She also was on the City Council back in the day when the City used to have a Park and Recreation Board and saw what happened back then and does not want to see it happen again with this board. The old board felt like they were in charge of everything and had all the say. It got really difficult and she wants to make sure it doesn't happen again. She would also like to see more recreational activities for the older generation. She would like to see recreation for all age groups.

## **2) What would we like to see this board accomplish? What can you offer?**

Jake stated that the pool is a big thing because it is getting old and there are replacements that need to be fixed. The one big thing that needs to be fixed is the filtration system at the pool. They are big metal tanks that are rusting through and eventually they just won't work anymore. He thinks that it may be up to this board to decide how the city should go ahead with the pool. 1) Should we fix the pool or 2) look into creating a more year round facility. Another big thing for Jake is Colville Mountain trail system. He has been working for 2 ½ -3 years on it. There is another committee that has taken on the Colville Mountain Trail System. The Colville Mountain Trail System committee is made up of interested people who use the mountain for recreation activity and would like to see it continue to be used that way. The Park and Recreation Board could offer some input on the Colville mountain Trail System. Another issue in the Recreation department is the staffing. It used to be run with more staffing than it is now. With the staffing that we have now it makes it so we are limited on the quantity and the types of programs that we do. Right now we run with two people full time for 8 months and part time for 4 months. The last issue is the Parks and Recreation office. It is very outdated and does not meet a lot of health and safety codes.

Jake stated that he would like to hear what everyone would like to see come out of this board.

Dean Fisher stated that he thought we would review all the programs and see what is working and what is not working. Would like to see other programs added and more with trails. See who we can partner with and co-exist with them. We don't want to all start doing the same thing.

Traci Baum stated that she thinks the swimming pool should maybe be the main thrust of what this committee deals with first. If we developed an aquatic center we would have room not only for the pool but we could do an indoor gym and be able to do many programs and have an area to do card games, etc... The stage at yep kenum park is being poorly used. We could do more with the rotary pavilion. Why has park and recreation been separated and explore why and if it is a good idea for it to be separate. Loves the idea of a year round facility.

Mallory Conner stated that the pool issue is a big issue for Colville and we need to look at it sooner rather than later. The pool is a big thing and it is very used. Look at how well all the programs we have now are working and look at what programs we can add and test to see how they do.

Matt Schanz agrees with a lot of what has already been said. At some point we will have to look at how we would support the recreational facilities and opportunities from a financial stand point. Maybe a recreational district would be an idea. There are all these desires there to do more but there is only

Amanda and Jake and their time does not cover all of it. He feels that there is a need for a recreational district that does not only deal with Colville but the surrounding areas as well. How would we go about a tax base to make it happen? If we lost the pool it would be very devastating to the city.

Mayor Janke agrees with everything that has been said and encourages the board to be open to all kinds of other things. There are lots of things that can improve the quality of life some are obvious and some are not. Ideas that Lou has heard are a fitness path, bike paths, more ballfields, more soccer fields, and lights at the yep kenum baseball field. The senior center would be a good idea to work with them maybe to reach the older population. Don't just honor the physically fit; there are physically challenged people also. Don't make this a standalone committee, part of the success of this committee will be selling your ideas and taking ideas from the public as well. Might be a good idea to have a forum to get ideas from other people in the community. Lou then explained that he had a few things put in the packets and what they were. Lou urges that when we come up with ideas to see how they fit with the council goals. Note that we are in a biannual budget and the next budget will start in 2017. Also in the packet are the options for the Park and Recreation facility and the pool that the council came up with and the council deferred it to the Park and Recreation Board to see what they thought. Also tie in with the comprehensive plan. A master plan has a lot of benefits. It would be a good idea to get a master plan for this board.

Nancy Foll stated that she would like to see some data put in the books like the park and recreation budget, how many out of city and how many in city are in each program, and how many programs we have and the total in each program.

Mayor Janke stated we have 6 exciting parks and to make all the parks a nice place to go and keep them looking good. All the parks vary in vegetation so we would want to look at all of them. The trees won't be there forever so that could be something this committee looks into how to deal with that. Also McDonald Park is a storm water reserved area so there is a conflict with not being able to use that park most times during the year. Dominion Park there is potential with to make it more inviting. A lot of people don't know about it and where it is located. Mayor Janke suggested that the board take a tour of all the parks as a group.

Danny stated that he is the vice president of the Northwest Trail Blazers that is a committee full of volunteer people who help to maintain and build trails. That committee would be willing to help with building and maintain the trail.

Traci Baum feels like we should come up to speed about how the last board went.

Traci Baum asked how the county ties into all this.

Mayor Janke said that if we expand our past the city limits then it would be beneficial to get the county commissioners involved.

Mayor Janke mentioned that he has heard that people would like some kind of Dog Park.

RJ stated that there is a big plan to get with educational opportunities, trails and ways to get out and be in nature. There is a group that the county has given their blessing to go forth and plan. It might be worth linking up with that group and figure out what they are doing.

### **3) How do you think we can get there? What should our goals be?**

The board would like some more information. Things like the Park and Recreation budget, fees, how many kids did we have in each activity and how many were inside the city limits and how many were outside the city limits.

### **4) Format- Quarterly Meetings**

To start we will meet more than quarterly to get things going but eventually we will be doing quarterly meetings. The next meeting will be Monday October 12<sup>th</sup> at 5:30pm at City Hall Council Chambers.

### **5) There are 3 vacant positions on the board, please help us recruit more people.**

Jake stated that there are 3 vacant positions and asked if any other board members know of anyone that would be interested who could offer their expertise and let them know about the board. We need people who live within the city limits. Traci asked how we could get that changed to have more than two out of city limits board members. Mayor Janke stated that, that would have to go to council to get the ordinance changed. Maybe let people that have businesses in the city but live outside the city could maybe be considered to be on the board for in city and Lou stated that the planning commission does have that rule and maybe it would be beneficial for this board to have the same rule.

### **6) Other thoughts, questions or concerns?**

The dominion meadows athletic association does not want to be known only for the golf course. They want to be considered an athletic association. It might be good for us to talk to them.

Lou stated that there might be other groups that might be interested in advocating programs.

There was talk about term limits. Jake stated that we will talk about it at the next meeting.

There was talk about the separation of Parks and Recreation.

Lou mentioned that there was talk at the council work session about combining Parks and Recreation under one supervisor.

Meeting was adjourned at 6:25pm