I. CALL TO ORDER

II. ATTENDANCE

III. NEW BUSINESS

*A. Minutes – November 21, 2019

*B. Bowler Park Master Plan – Public Hearing

*C. Westside Downtown Urban Park Master Plan – Public Hearing

D. RecTrac Software Update and Demo

E. Citizen Engagement Request – Katie Fite, WildLands Defense Director

*F. Executive Session: 1) Pursuant to Idaho Code §74-206(c) to acquire an interest in real property which is not owned by a public agency, and Idaho Code §74-206(f) to communicate with legal counsel for the public agency to discuss the legal ramifications of and legal options for pending litigation, or controversies not yet being litigated but imminently likely to be litigated.

IV. ADJOURNMENT

Pursuant to Idaho Code Section 74-204(4), all items on the Agenda marked with an asterisk * are action items that require a vote. Identifying an item as an action item on the Agenda does not require that a vote be taken. All Consent Agenda items will be enacted by one motion, unless a Commissioner or citizen requests the item be removed from the Consent Agenda and considered in the normal sequence of business.
MEMO

TO: Jon Ruzicka, President, Boise City Parks and Recreation Commission  
FROM: Doug Holloway, Director  
DATE: 1/17/2020  
RE: January 23, 2020 Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting

DIRECTOR’S REPORT

Please find enclosed the descriptive information supporting your agenda topics for this meeting. The meeting is anticipated to last 45-minutes and will take place in the Maryanne Jordan Council Chambers at City Hall.

NEW BUSINESS AGENDA ITEMS

A. MINUTES – NOVEMBER 21, 2019 – Requested by Doug Holloway, Boise Parks and Recreation Director (See Item III.A. on the agenda)

RECOMMENDATION: The department requests that the Boise Parks and Recreation Commission review the November 21, 2019 Boise City Parks and Recreation Commission Minutes (Exhibit A) and approve the minutes if there are no recommended changes.

B. BOWLER PARK MASTER PLAN – PUBLIC HEARING – Requested by Trevor Kesner, Parks Planner (See Item III.B. on the agenda)

The Bowler Park Site is approx. 24-acres of undeveloped land situated below the rim in Southeast Boise, near Surprise Valley. The property was acquired from Beth and Bruce Bowler in 1995. The park site is unique and offers expansive views of the Boise Foothills north of Barber Valley; however, due to its topography, only about 12-acres of the site can be improved.

The Surprise Valley Eagle Christian Church is situated next door to the Bowler Park Site. Department design staff engaged with church leadership early on in the design process to understand the church’s goals and potential expansion plans. The department and church worked closely on the design concepts to incorporate shared parking and access that would benefit both parties and the public. The department also worked with Idaho Power and United Water (both adjacent land owners) to form partnerships that will enhance the overall park aesthetic and amenities mix.

Feedback from the public engagement process guided the design concept. The department held a public meeting on Sept. 25 at the Surprise Valley Eagle Christian Church and offered an online survey presenting three general concepts for the park’s design. Most survey responses preferred a concept that would preserve much of the existing native sagebrush, offers connectivity to surrounding subdivisions, and introduces fire-wise and pollinator areas.
A final design rendering was produced and presented to the public in December (Exhibit B). The proposed master plan includes parking, picnic shelters, water misters, a traditional playground and natural play areas, dog off-leash areas, a fitness station, a skate plaza, bocce ball courts, disc golf and turfed open-play areas.

Public comments and survey results are included in for this agenda item (Exhibit C).

A public hearing is to be included for this agenda item.

RECOMMENDATION: The department recommends that the Boise Parks and Recreation Commission approve the Bowler Park Master Plan.

C. WESTSIDE DOWNTOWN URBAN PARK MASTER PLAN – PUBLIC HEARING – Requested by Jennifer Tomlinson, Parks Superintendent (See Item III.C. on the agenda)

In 2016, the City of Boise adopted the Downtown Parks and Public Spaces plan. This plan outlined the need to provide open space for downtown residents and workers to enjoy. Since the plan was adopted, the department has partnered with the Capitol City Development Corporation (CCDC) to work with the landowner at the corner of 11th & Bannock Streets. The site is currently used as a parking lot with leased spaces and visitor parking for the office building across the street. The landowner has a long-term lease on the site and is interested in developing a downtown park space that supports the vision of the Downtown Parks and Public Spaces plan. The site sits on half of a city block, and the leaseholder will retain one-third of the site to be used for continued visitor parking. A high-level design concept was completed in 2018 to better understand the possibilities for the site and more detailed planning occurred last summer.

Boise Parks and Recreation allocated $1 million in the FY18 Capital Improvement Plan for downtown parks and public spaces. This funding is being matched by $2 million from CCDC for an urban park in the west end of downtown. Additionally, Boise Parks and Recreation worked with the Boise Public Works Department to direct tree mitigation costs ($380,000) that resulted in the Lander St. expansion of the site for increasing downtown’s tree canopy.

CCDC will serve as the project manager for the construction of the park and will turn over the improvements to the city upon completion of construction. Boise Parks and Recreation and CCDC worked with the public, property owners and the leaseholder to refine a design concept. The current timeline anticipates construction starting July 2020.

Two public meetings were held— one in the summer of 2018 and one on Jan. 14, 2020— to reintroduce the design concept of the park. The proposed master plan (Exhibit D) considers public comments and feedback. The master plan includes a staging area, turf, extensive tree planting, preservation of some existing parking, and an art and fog feature as the focal point of the park.

A public hearing is to be included for this agenda item.

RECOMMENDATION: The department recommends that the Boise Parks and Recreation Commission approve the Westside Downtown Urban Park Master Plan.

D. RECTRAC SOFTWARE UPDATE AND DEMO – Requested by Karen Bledsoe, Administration Superintendent (See Item III.C. on the agenda)
The department is updating its registration and reservation system to a newer version that is more intuitive for users. The software (RecTrac) is used to make a park reservation or register for an activity and is utilized by department staff and the public.

Karen Bledsoe, Administration Superintendent, will provide the commission an update on the software implementation and deliver a demonstration of the system.

**RECOMMENDATION:** No recommendation is needed as this is an informational item.

E. CITIZEN ENGAGEMENT REQUEST – KATIE FITE, WILDLANDS DEFENSE DIRECTOR – Requested by Doug Holloway, Boise Parks and Recreation Director (See Item III.D. on the agenda)

The department received a request from WildLands Defense Director, Katie Fite, to speak to the commission on concerns regarding Julia Davis Park *(Exhibit E).*

The materials provided as background for the presentation are:
* Open Space Levy ballot language *(Exhibit E.1.)*
* “Decline of the North American avifauna” from ScienceMag.org *(Exhibit E.2.)*
* New York City Code: Bird Friendly Materials *(Exhibit E.3.)*
* “Bird-Friendly Building Design” from the American Bird Conservancy *(Exhibit E.4.)*
* Cottonwood Creek Daylighting Environmental Assessment *(Exhibit E.5)*
* “Guest Column: BLM proposal guts foothills, other land protections” *(Exhibit E.6.)*
* Commission Meeting Minutes on Idaho State Historical Museum *(Exhibit E.7.)*
* 1938 aerial of Boise, ID *(Exhibit E.8.)*
* 2019 Julia Davis Park restroom site plan *(Exhibit E.9.)*

Ms. Fite will have 10 minutes to address the Board of Commissioners.

**RECOMMENDATION:** No recommendation is needed as this is an informational item.