

**CITY OF SILVERTON
PARKS AND RECREATION TASK FORCE MINUTES**

Silverton Community Center – Council Chambers – 421 South Water St.

May 29, 2019, 6:30 p.m.

I. CALL TO ORDER, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND ROLL CALL

Chairman Kyle Palmer called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m. and introductions were made.

Present	Absent	
X		Kyle Palmer
	Excused	Dave Ullan
X		Becky Ludden
	Excused	Brandon Lemon
X		Charles Baldwin
X		Chuck White
X		Richard Schmidt (<i>left at 8:38 p.m.</i>)
	Excused	Colin Scott
X		Ray Hunter
X		James Rise
	Excused	Ty Boland
		Vacancy

Staff Present:

City Manager, Christy Wurster; Public Works Director, Petra Schuetz; Community Development Director, Jason Gottgetreu; and Assistant to the City Manager/City Clerk, Angela Speier

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Member Baldwin made a motion to approve the minutes from the meeting held on Tuesday, April 16, 2019. Member Rise seconded the motion. There was no discussion and the motion passed unanimously (7-0).

III. PUBLIC COMMENT – None.

IV. OVERVIEW OF SURVEY RESULTS

Paul Mason with the Center for Public Service at Portland State University provided an overview of the key findings from the recent parks and recreation survey that was distributed in the region. He said there were 968 surveys started and over 740 completed surveys with 74 percent of respondents being city residents. He explained the survey showed that parks are in relatively good shape, but are not necessarily meeting the need of the community. A quarter of respondents said it was difficult to find recreational activities. There was also strong support to develop the Pettit property.

He reviewed how each of the facilities were ranked and what individuals indicated as their top activities to do. When asked how they would vote on the formation of a parks and recreation district 46.5% indicated they would vote yes, 14.7% would vote no, and 38.7% said they were unsure. Mr. Mason explained in his experience the unsure voters will most likely vote no at the ballot. He reviewed the location of responses and how the survey results broke down between people living inside the city limits versus outside the city limits. He also noted that more women completed the survey as compared to men. The survey asked respondents to indicate on the map where they live and the Task Force members reviewed where the

supporters, opponents, and unsure respondents reside. Mr. Mason stressed that if the Task Force decides to put the formation of a parks and recreation district on the ballot they will need to think about how they can sway the unsure voters to vote yes.

The survey also asked about the current tolerance for taxes and fees and the most common response was that people pay neither too much nor too little. The survey results showed people would be willing to tax themselves in order to pay for parks and recreation services. Approximately 60% of respondents said they would be willing to pay \$1-\$20 per month for these types of services. Mr. Mason reviewed the demographics of the survey respondents and how that compares with census data in order to gauge if the respondents were a good representation of Silverton. Member Baldwin asked if the survey is statistically valid. Mr. Mason replied that it is not, but will offer the Task Force guidance on boundary location and a possible rate.

Mr. Mason also held stakeholder interviews with people who are involved in youth sports and the message received through those was that the partnership with the school district is good, but they are at capacity with no room to grow. They also voiced concern about field access and if policies are being followed. The Task Force members discussed how to create messaging for the entire population, including families actively involved in youth sports and older adults without children that would like to see more trails for walking and biking and better utilization of the Marine Park. Member Baldwin noted the youth sports constituency will help campaign if more sports fields and courts are provided. These families are not interested in general parks and pools, but want more organized activities and leagues for their children to be involved in.

V. PRESENTATION OF SPECIAL DISTRICT SCENARIOS

Kelly Sherbo introduced herself to the Task Force. She reviewed the top issues from the meeting that took place on April 16, 2019. Chairman Palmer said he felt that a comment should be added to the list stating that the school district should not have to provide recreation for the community. He explained as time goes on people are not aware of the City's role in the development of the outdoor sports complex on Pine Street. The City also gives the district \$20,000 per year for the maintenance of that complex. The Task Force discussed the current fees and how that would look under a parks and recreation district. Member Rise said he envisions the school district being able to turn to an entity like a parks and recreation district and say here is our availability and then they would turn around and schedule time for the various groups.

Ms. Sherbo reviewed the current available revenues at the City for parks and recreation services which equates to \$634,235 and the total expenditures which are approximately \$507,626 for programming and operations and \$145,000 for total capital. She explained that this does not include unrecognized costs such as the \$20,000 that is given to the school district for field maintenance and what the school district does in terms of programming.

Ms. Sherbo explained the estimated levy rates are based on the Silverton Fire District. By using the fire district it allowed them to provide a template for revenue computations. She provided a range of what revenues would look like at the various rates per 1,000 of assessed value and what the annual cost would be to a property owner of a house assessed at \$275,000. For example at \$1.00 per 1,000 of assessed value the hypothetical district would bring in over \$1.3 million and it would cost the property owner \$275.00 per year. Chairman Palmer asked if the City has captured how much is being expended off-the-books for pool maintenance. Public Works Director Petra Schuetz said there have been a lot of maintenance issues at the pool and staff is doing an eight week audit on how much time is spent performing those tasks. The pool levy is only used for capital improvements. This expense will need to be captured when discussing a possible permanent rate for a district.

Ms. Sherbo explained a levy at 0.89 per 1,000 of assessed value would cause some properties in Silverton to go into compression. She explained if the pool levy is retired it would allow for more room and there may be a bigger cushion because the district would likely expand further than the city limits. Ms. Sherbo reviewed four funding concepts for consideration. They are hoping to get feedback from members

on what services and programs to add, what could be dropped off and different ways to structure administration, staffing, and revenues.

Option 1: Recreation District

This option would mostly be a programming and administration district. It would lease time on the school district fields and parks and have no asset ownership or maintenance responsibilities. It would fund three FTE, including a part time position at the Senior Center. The pool levy would continue in order to fund the capital needs at the pool and the City would continue to contract with the YMCA for operations. This option would be a modest permanent rate of \$0.50 per \$1,000 of assessed value.

Option 2: Recreation and Aquatics District

Option 2 would provide recreation programming services and pool operations/programming. The City and school district would retain the ownership of their recreational properties and be responsible for the maintenance of the facilities. The pool levy would retire and the equivalent rate would be included in the new permanent rate for the district. This would require seven FTE.

Option 3: Recreation and Aquatics with Indoor Sports Facility

This would fund a complex that stakeholders and the Task Force members identified as a need at the last meeting. It provides recreation programming services and pool operations. The district would identify the site and build a multi-use indoor court facility and provide for its operations. The district would take over responsibilities of the YMCA for pool programming. The pool levy would retire. The City and school district would retain ownership of their recreation properties and be responsible for their maintenance. Under this option the new district would have bonding authority. This would require 10 FTE.

The Task Force discussed other revenue sources available to a district besides property taxes, including usage fees and grants.

Option 4: Full Service Parks and Recreation District

Option 4 would take over all functions of the parks and recreation services in Silverton and the surrounding area. The district would acquire the park property and pool assets from the City. It would lease field access from the school district. It would also build more athletic field complexes and develop recreational trails. This option would require 14 FTE and is comparable to the Crook County Parks and Recreation District. This option would cost \$1.5 - \$1.7 million.

Mr. Mason explained the survey reflected the willingness to pay at about the 0.75 mark which would bring in approximately \$1 million. This would be enough to pay for options 1 or 2. Member Ludden voiced her support for retiring the pool levy if the district forms. Mr. Mason explained that option 2 only helps solve the programming issues and would not expand the footprint of facilities. It could be that the City would need to go out for a bond to build a new complex.

Chairman Palmer said the City should retain ownership of their parks and would rather see an outdoor facility built over an indoor facility. Staff explained how these options could impact Parks System Development Charges (SDCs) and how capital improvements can be funded through SDCs. SDCs can be spent on anything that increases capacity, but the project must be included in an adopted Capital Improvement Plan (CIP). Public Works Director Schuetz said the preliminary budget includes funds to update the Parks Master Plan.

The Task Force discussed the possible boundary scenarios. Chairman Palmer said he doesn't see Scotts Mills voting in favor of the district. He recommended moving the boundary closer to Mt. Angel proper and gaining some property in the Waldo Hills area.

Member Baldwin voiced his concern that the only option that expands trails and supports the development of recreation activities at the reservoir is option 4, which according to the survey results is likely too expensive for people to support. The retired population wants more walking and biking trails and would likely vote no on any district that doesn't account for these types of programs. Chairman Palmer

said the City could continue to develop park properties and trails with SDCs which the district could eventually manage. The district could also provide operational support at the Marine Park.

The Task Force discussed pursuing an option 2.5 (a hybrid between options 2 and 3). They would like to see an outdoor complex prioritized before an indoor complex. Mr. Mason asked what the members felt the tolerance would be in terms of cost. The survey showed a tolerance anywhere from \$120-\$240 per year. The members were also in favor of retiring the pool levy and felt that new facilities need to be developed in order for the voters to support the levy. The parks need to stay under City ownership. Discussion ensued on how to capture the vote of the retirement community. Ms. Sherbo reminded the members that each option includes a 0.5 FTE for support at the Senior Center. City Manager Wurster explained that one of the biggest concerns from a staffing perspective is how to capitalize a sports complex, going out to the voters and selling bonds is an unknown at this point, but if it were to happen than the City would be responsible for the maintenance and would likely have to increase FTE.

Mary McNutt from the audience asked if a couple playing fields could be developed in the briar patch between Eureka Avenue and the Oregon Garden.

Mr. Mason indicated that he has received some guidance on the district boundaries which will go further than the Fire District in some areas and less in other areas. The possible rate will be determined by the survey results. The priority is how we would manage and organize an outdoor sports complex. The district could manage concessions at Marine Park. Member Baldwin voiced his uncomfortableness with the boundaries and thought the survey was going to give us a better indication on how to count votes. Mr. Mason said the survey is showing a mix of location for supporters and people in opposition. Member Baldwin would like to see how many voters are inside the city limits and how many are outside but within the boundary. Mr. Mason indicated that we will add that for the next meeting.

VI. OTHER DISCUSSION ITEMS – None.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

Member Ludden made a motion to adjourn and Chairman Palmer adjourned the meeting at 8:44 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

/s/Angela Speier, Assistant to the City Manager/City Clerk