

CITY OF HEPPNER
BEAUTIFICATION COMMISSION MINUTES
HEPPNER CITY HALL, 111 N. MAIN STREET, HEPPNER, OREGON
July 13, 2023 at 8:00 AM

NOTE: Where stated "Motion Carried" is considered unanimous, unless otherwise stated.

ATTENDEES:

Corey Sweeney – Mayor
Cody High – City Council
Janelle Ellis - Member
Angie Hanson - Member
Blas Elguezabal – Member
Chad Doherty – Heppner Public Works
Thomas Wolff – Interim City Manager

ABSENT:

None

Members of the Public: None

VIA ZOOM: None.

City Manager Thomas Wolff thanked all members for their voluntary service and contributions to our City.

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Corey Sweeney at 8:01 am.

Mayor Sweeney led attendees in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of Our Country.

Mayor Sweeney called for approval of the April 13th, 2023 Commission meeting Minutes. Motion by Angie Hanson, second by Cody High, to approve said Minutes, Motion carried.

Items of Discussion:

1. **Mustang Mop-Up.** The City utilized a student crew at Hager Park, with good success. Work at the Shobe Dry Park was tougher. "Next year, let's think ahead and have the Beautification Commission prepare and plan projects and then utilize volunteers to lead the student labor teams" was the consensus.
2. **Replacement Play Ground Equipment Project.** Chad indicated MCURD (Morrow County Unified Recreation District) has reserved \$\$ for this project. Chad reported that Cyde Estes, of MCURD, has indicated the City should wait until next Spring (May) to order the equipment, with installation planned for October of 2024. A Canopy / Gazebo erected over the new equipment would greatly extend the life. The City's budget is \$70,000, plus the MCURD \$\$, plus potential grant \$\$ from Wildhorse and the Bryant Foundation. Chad volunteered / was directed to create a quality presentation for grant solicitations by April of 2024. Janelle Ellis had questions on the appropriate age-group user types of equipment. All agreed equipment is needed for the 2 yrs to 12 yr old age groups.
Cody High expressed questions on re-purposing the existing equipment? Donate it to another City? To another non-profit group?
Suggestions were also made for Hager Park equipment: A new Teeter-Totter and maybe a Spring Toy were said to be desirable.

3. **Additional Discussion.** --Commission members stated that the ODOT project Nelson Construction concrete crews are splashing concrete soup up and onto nearby business windows in their work, and are not washing it off timely. This creates extra burden on property care-takers.
- Blas Elguezabal mentioned area residents parking vehicles permanently and constantly in parking slots designed for visitors at the Exercise Park on Riverside Avenue. Many parked cars there do not move for days-at-a-time he reported. The City Manager suggested polite letters asking area residents not to park directly near the Exercise Park might be appropriate.
- The Tareena Nash (Healy) yards on Water Street were again mentioned for Code Enforcement action, both the upper and lower home sites. The City Manager indicated Code Enforcement actions would be initiated on these properties.
- Chad Doherty updated the Commission on the city-wide CCTV camera install project. The additional cameras will be installed next month. They must have internet connectivity. Hager Park area citizens have volunteered to donate Wi-Fi connections to get the cameras in their neighborhood. A camera is to be installed monitoring the rear of the City Library building. The Food Court area is to get a camera, along with each entrance to our City – a Fire Hall mount and near the Football Field stadium. The Gis-Bee building currently has a live-feed camera on it. A camera inside City Hall was suggested – one is not planned for there at this time. Members suggested using the recordings to enforce local dumping of garbage into “Hunter’s Use” receptacles.
- Tommy Wolff reported the Dumping Certificate program, in lieu of free dumping at the City Yard, was very successful, and recommended making this an annual program. Suggestions were to hold the program earlier in the Spring – during April or May. The Voucher program had great acceptance by our citizens. The only drawback was the closure of the Transfer Station during the last weekend in June. The City worked with the County Public Works office to extend dumping one additional weekend into July.
- The lack-of-use of the Hager Park Horseshoe Pits was discussed. The space could be utilized to a greater public good. City Public Works was authorized to remove the pit infrastructure.

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 08:57 am.