Park Board
April 6, 2026

CALL TO ORDER: Park Board Chair Al Vorderbrueggen called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL: Al Vorderbrueggen, Blaine Golden and Hillary Hoffman: Present. Al Kirkpatrick: Absent.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:
A motion was entered by Golden, seconded by Hoffman to approve the minutes of the previous meeting. All yes.

REGULAR BUSINESS:
Pool Update:
City Administrator Matt Hammer and Mayor Jim Retzer informed the park board the city purchased a slide for the pool in the original contract with WMS. Since that time WMS discovered the slide, the city purchased is no longer approved for public pools in Washington State. The cost of the slide was $80,000 and due to this turn of events we now have a credit with WMS. Hammer distributed pictures of a climbing wall and basketball hoop proposed to replace the slide for the pool.
Retzer specified the slide that was purchased was only rated for juvenile kids to use and he has looked into other possible slides that would work with our pool, but so far has not found one that would work for our pool size.

After reviewing the options, the consensus of the park board is no to the climbing wall, as the longevity of this type of structure is unclear. However, they would be supportive of purchasing the basketball hoop.

Hoffman suggested shade structures, table and chairs could be a good plan.

The city has hired Janni Burt as the pool manager and we have received 10 lifeguard applications so far.

Hammer will coordinate with WMS to plan a start up of the pool to make sure everything is in working order.

Skatepark:
Hammer has been in touch with ARC (American Ramp Company), they have a contracted with a local painter that will come touch up the paint on the ramps. Right now, they are waiting for warmer weather.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Hammer stated the McDonald Park Clubhouse balcony is failing. The park fund is extremely low this year following the pool renovations so Hammer will put that into next year budget and also contact the school to let them know of the situation so they can plan accordingly for their budgeting.

Elaine McClintock requested a memorial park bench placed for Bones McClintock. McClintock and Hammer walked the path and chose a spot along the river side of the McDonald Park walking path.

Hoffman stated there is $2,800 left from the Chamber of Commerce fundraising for the skatepark renovations and suggested we use those funds to relocate the gate to the skatepark from the park to the parking lot side of the skatepark and do some fence maintenance.

Golden stated there is a new organization PERO (Palouse Empire Recreation Organization) that wants to get more involved with the community. They are working with the Port of Whitman on hopes for a community center and sports center.

Mayor Retzer thanked everyone for volunteering their time so sit on the park board.

UPCOMING MEETING:
Next meeting will be May 18th at 5:30 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT: Chairman Vorderbrueggen adjourned the meeting at 6:32 p.m.

Lynda Kramlich

Lynda Kramlich, City Clerk