

Minutes of Parks and Recreation Commission Special Meeting

July 26, 2016

- A. **Wendy Ranney** called the meeting to order at 6:04 pm
- B. **ROLL CALL:**
In attendance: Wendy Ranney, Stephen Phillips, Karen Hallquist, Miriam Dunbar, Kara Johnson, Marvin Van Den Broek, Susie Herschleb, Heather Brannon, and 8 visitors.
Absent:, Dave Zastrow.
- C. **Approval of Agenda:** **M/** K. Johnson to approve agenda, **S/** S. Phillips. **V/**Unanimous Approval.
- D. **Visitor Communication:**
1. April Beedle, owner of "Knot Crazy" feels the Cordova Center is not the best place for the Bidarki Holiday Bazaar. It was perfect at Mt. Eccles Elementary. People were overwhelmed at the Cordova Center, so she would like to return it to Mt. Eccles. She also thanked the Commission for calling the meeting so that the vendors could voice their concerns.
 2. Marleen Moffitt has been doing the Bidarki Holiday Bazaar for 20 years and agrees with April. The museum space was really cramped so it was hard to display art. Her Friday night sales were down from previous years, and she didn't make it up on Saturday. She encourages the organizers to find another venue for the Bazaar. Moving food to the Pioneer Igloo is not a good idea because it is not handicap accessible.
 3. Joy Rawlins was not a vendor this year, but has in the past. She talked to many visitors to the Bazaar and they said it was too crowded, and vendors were not happy. She hopes it moves back to Mt. Eccles.
 4. Sue Ervin agrees that the Cordova Center is beautiful, but did not allow for a good flow for the Bidarki Holiday Bazaar. Also at Mt. Eccles, the whole community can be together in the gym, but this is not possible in the Cordova Center. Her sales were down on Friday night, and many people did not come back on Saturday. She thanked the Commission for holding this meeting.
 5. Christine Hite noted that it is much easier for people in wheelchairs at Mt. Eccles.
- E. **Consent Calendar:** none
- F. **Director's Report by S. Herschleb:**
Letter to vendors is the report for this special meeting.
- G. **Unfinished Business:** none
- H. **New Business**
Bidarki Holiday Bazaar discussion. K. Johnson has safety concerns with the Cordova Center. How would we get people out of the second floor quickly since there are only 2 doors? K. Hallquist felt the event was very crowded and there was not a good flow this year. She feels torn, as having it at Mt. Eccles is very disruptive to the school. K. Johnson appreciated the Christmas decorations for the Bazaar that stayed up during the month of December. M. Van Den Broek wondered if all the vendors were notified about the meeting. H. Brannon assured him that they were. M. Van Den Broek noted that all 6 vendors who attended the meeting or wrote a letter were against having the Bazaar at the Cordova Center. S. Phillips asked how many people attended the event this year. S. Herschleb said they couldn't do a direct count, but that 550 bags were given out to visitors in the first half hour. She noted that they have never tried to control the flow of people entering. Having outdoor food vendors could help with that. The Bazaar was moved from Bidarki to Mt. Eccles because of over-capacity issues. H. Brannon noted that because of the low voltage breakers at Mt. Eccles, the food vendors were continually tripping the breakers. This was also a problem at the Cordova Center. S. Herschleb said that the food vendors are always the hardest ones to accommodate, so spreading them out could be helpful. Also having food vendors outside would help with ventilation. W. Ranney explained that the Bazaar's move to the Cordova Center

was done on short notice so the venue was not always used in the best way. Now we can add space or days to make the event fit the Cordova Center better. Having the Bazaar at Mt. Eccles displaces school activities and the school does not like to open the kitchen for the event. S. Herschleb noted that it is much easier for Bidarki staff to set up the event at Mt. Eccles. However, with the current Cordova School District policy, the facility can never be promised for a non-school event. Any youth program or school program can bump the Bazaar out of the building. H. Brannon said a building malfunction can happen that requires moving an activity to the Mt. Eccles gym at the last minute. The Commission could write a memo to the school board to try to change the policy. Joy Rawlins asked how many food vendors participate and S. Herschleb told her 5 and she noted that we could schedule different vendors in the Cordova Center kitchen, so that each was responsible for a different meal time. K. Johnson thinks vendors might see that as limiting. New state policies will make it harder to legally use either kitchen. M. Van Den Broek feels the Commission needs to form a consensus on which facility to use. S. Herschleb explained that the Commission can only make a recommendation, but that the school board makes the final decision on use of the school. W. Ranney suggested that we form a committee to plan the event, no matter which venue is chosen. Sue Ervin and April Beedle said they were willing to participate. Sue Ervin asked if the Mt. Eccles kitchen was previously used for Bazaar food vendors. S. Herschleb explained it was only used for washing, but someone left the kitchen a mess. April Beedle wondered if the food vendors could be moved to the Cordova Center, and the rest of the vendors be at Mt. Eccles. M. Van Den Broek made the motion that the Commission find a consensus on where the Bazaar should be held. Results:

Mt. Eccles-- S. Phillips, M. Van Den Broek

Cordova Center-- K. Johnson , K. Hallquist, M. Dunbar, W. Ranney

W. Ranney said that the Commission recommends that the Bidarki Holiday Bazaar stay at the Cordova Center for another year and invites vendors to be part of planning the event. She called for any additional visitor comments. Joy Rawlins suggested holding the bazaar over 2 weekends and having fewer vendors each weekend. Cathy Sherman said that the Cordova Center is already booked for most of the weekends in December. S. Herschleb said that she would walk the Cordova Center again to try to figure out how to make it flow better. Marleen Moffitt wondered if there are more 8 foot long tables available. S. Herschleb said there are very few in town. W. Ranney suggested that there still be a conversation with the school board to try to change the policy so that community events aren't booting out.

I. **Pending Agenda:** none

J. **Commission Comments**

K. Johnson wanted people to know that we are not ignoring the vendors' concerns, but just feel we should try the Cordova Center for one more year. W. Ranney reminded everyone that the Commission is only advisory. Sue Ervin asked when will the decision on the venue be made. S. Herschleb will report the Commission's recommendation to the City Manager, who then can make the decision. K. Johnson asked whether the committee will be formed. S. Herschleb said it would, but that she would like to be a part of it to give her input on past bazaars. H. Brannon noted that better signage and more advertising could help the event run more smoothly. W. Ranney said that once the City Manager is advised of the Commission's decision, the committee can be formed. K. Johnson thanked the audience for their input. M. Van Den Broek feels we would have to tear down the walls of the Cordova Center to make it work for the Bazaar. S. Phillips agreed that the building is not designed for this type of event. M. Dunbar prefers the Bazaar at Mt. Eccles, but as long as the school policy does not guarantee that the Bazaar can be there, she thinks we should try it at the Cordova Center for one more year. W. Ranney appreciates

the vendors coming. She feels that the Cordova Center was built to be the “heart of Cordova”, and thinks the Bazaar can be a great event here.

Next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, August 30, 2016 at 6 pm.

Adjournment: **M** to adjourn/ S. Phillips , **S/** M. Van Den Broek
Meeting adjourned at 7:13 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Miriam Dunbar, Secretary