

**Minutes**  
**Regular Meeting of the Parks & Recreation Commission**  
**Council Chambers, City Hall**  
**January 27, 2014 – 6 p.m.**

The meeting was called to order at 6:04 p.m. by Chairman Espich.

**Pledge of Allegiance:** The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all in attendance.

**Roll Call** was taken by Recording Secretary Marty Stinson.

**Members Present:** Chairman Michael Espich; Commissioners Tim Alderman; and Nikki Hathaway.

**Members Absent:** Vice-Chairman Jeff Selbig; and Kristen Woodbury.

**Others Present:** Susan Montenegro, Assistant City Manager and Director of Community Development.

**Approve Agenda for January 27, 2014 meeting.**

A motion to approve the agenda for January 27, 2014 meeting was made by Commissioner Alderman and supported by Commissioner Hathaway with the addition of Business Item # 4, the Polar Plunge.

Ayes: all. Motion carried.

**Approve Minutes from November 25, 2013 meeting:**

A motion to approve the minutes from the November 25, 2013 meeting was made by Commissioner Alderman and supported by Commissioner Hathaway.

Ayes: all. Motion carried.

**Public Comments:** None.

**Board Comments:**

Discussion about starting a non-profit Friends of Owosso Parks and Recreation foundation and getting more people involved with the board. Need to get more creative in reaching other people to work on fund raising; a possible ice rink; and maybe additional splash pads.

**Communications:**

1. Staff memorandum
2. November 25, 2013 minutes

**Business:**

**1. Bentley Park Review**

Susan Montenegro, Assistant City Manager and Director of Community Development, reviewed some items about the Bentley Park: inspections are getting done; grants are being closed out by the end of March; and tables and benches will be placed by the splash pad. There was a discussion about security cameras and signs regarding the surveillance. It was mentioned the police department, insurance companies, and 911 should be consulted for further security information. Chairman Espich will be speaking with Chief Lenkart tomorrow.

**2. Disc Golf Status**

Chairman Espich commented that Pete Carsten, Baker College President, serves on the cemetery board where the disc gold course will be. He wants more information on how it will be maintained. Ian Granger and John Beebe are really busy right now with snow removal but are very excited to get going on the project.

**3. DIG – Curwood Castle Park**

Ms. Montenegro described the Downtown Infrastructure Grant of \$695,000 that will be awarded on February 28 in the Council Chambers at 11:30 am. She invited the Parks and Recreation Commission to attend the ceremony as it will also involve areas around the Curwood Castle Park. They will be redoing the parking area by the Curwood Castle, join the CIS trail, and tie into the Armory project. They will also deconstruct the Chamber of Commerce building and move the roof to make a pavilion for the Farmer's Market. They will be working on the retaining walls and make stairs down to the bridge.

Ms. Montenegro suggested the commission check out a couple sites such as grants.gov and grant watch.

**4. Polar Plunge**

Chairman Espich explained the last two years' history of the Polar Plunge to Ms. Montenegro. Commissioner Hathaway enthusiastically asked to take charge of this project. Discussion involved Jerry Hebekeuser and Ben Frederick helping out; a warming tent; needing about 15 people to jump; pledges made ahead of time; possibility of raising money by having people pay **not** to jump in; snacks; shirts; and a couple businesses were mentioned for refreshments / hot beverages. An organizational meeting will be scheduled the week of February 10 and the plunge may be scheduled March 15 or 22.

**Public / Board Comments: None**

**Adjournment:**

**A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Commissioner Hathaway and was supported by Commissioner Alderman. The meeting adjourned at 6:48 p.m.**

**Ayes: all. Motion carried.**

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Susan Montenegro, Secretary

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