

A Meeting of the Nibley City Council held at Heritage Elementary School, 925 West 3200 South, Nibley, Utah, on Saturday, December 12, 2015.

The following actions were made during the meeting:

Councilman Hellstern motioned to adopt Resolution 15-12: A Resolution Amending the Nibley City Parks Master Plan to Include A Conceptual, Non-Construction Design for a 20-acre Expansion of Virgil Gibbons Heritage Park, as written; with a reference to alternative 3; and to move forward to a second reading. Councilman Jacobsen seconded the motion.

Councilman Jacobsen motioned to amend to strike the next to last whereas “Whereas, the City wishes to have the development of the Park Expansion be the City’s highest priority in park development.” from Resolution 15-12; and to include the memo included in the 12-12-15 public information packet. Councilman Bernhardt seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously 5-0; with Councilman Jacobsen, Councilman Bernhardt, Councilman Hansen, Councilwoman Beus, and Councilman Hellstern all in favor.

Councilman Jacobsen motioned to amend to strike all “non-construction” references in Resolution 15-12. Councilman Hansen seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously 5-0; with Councilman Jacobsen, Councilman Hansen, Councilwoman Beus, Councilman Hellstern, and Councilman Bernhardt all in favor.

The amended motion passed unanimously 5-0; with Councilman Hellstern, Councilman Jacobsen, Councilman Hansen, Councilwoman Beus, and Councilman Bernhardt all in favor.

OFFICIAL MINUTES OF THE MEETING

Minutes were taken by Deputy City Recorder Cheryl Bodily

Opening Ceremonies—Mayor Dustin

Mayor Dustin asked Scout Sam Searle, who was present at the meeting, to lead the meeting in the Pledge of Allegiance. Boy Scouts Nicolas Chesley, Spencer Coleman, and Preston Baughn with their Leader Ed Hegemann representing Troop 409.

Call to Order & Roll Call

Mayor Shaun Dustin called the Saturday, December 12, 2015, Nibley City Council meeting to order at 2:02 p.m. Those in attendance included Mayor Shaun Dustin, Councilman Larry Jacobsen, Councilwoman Kathryn Beus, Councilman Ron Hellstern, and Councilman Thomas Bernhardt. Mr. David Zook, the City Manager and Chad , the Nibley City Recreation Director, were also in attendance.

Mayor Dustin asked the City Council to consider waiving the public comment portion of the meeting because they were holding a public hearing and that public could saying anything they wanted during that period.

Approval of agenda; and approval of the December 3, 2015 meeting minutes

Councilman Bernhardt made a motion to approve the previous meeting minutes and the meeting agenda with a modification to waive the public comment period. Councilwoman Beus seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously 4-0; with Councilman Bernhardt, Councilwoman Beus, Councilman Hellstern, and Councilman Jacobsen all in favor.

Public Hearing: A hearing to receive comment concerning a proposal to amend the Nibley City Parks Master Plan to include a concept regarding the design of a 20-acre expansion to the west side of the Virgil Gibbons Heritage Park

Mayor Dustin explained to the public present why they were holding a public hearing at this time on a Saturday. He explained that the city had been given a donation that allowed them to purchase land and have a new park. He discussed city process and plans and said this park land needed to be incorporated in the master plan before they could expend a lot of time and effort. Mayor Dustin said they were also holding the meeting at this time so that Councilman Hellstern, who was finished his term at the end of the month, could be involved in the process. He said they were holding the meeting to maintain the process, maintain openness, and to allow Councilman Hellstern to participate in the process.

Mayor Dustin gave rules and direction to the public present.

Councilman Hansen arrived at 2:09 p.m.

Councilman Hellstern described how he had chaired a committee to study the proposed property and to put together alternatives for the property. Councilman Hellstern said there was a wetland that went across and dissected the property diagonally. Councilman Hellstern described other resources, landmarks, and wildlife that were present on the property. He said that the property could be eligible for wetland mitigation. Councilman Hellstern discussed the firefly population and the four items that needed to be present on order to maintain the firefly species; i.e. water, moist soils, tall grasses, and no light. Councilman Hellstern described the bird species that had been observed on the proposed park property. Councilman Hellstern addressed the historical significance of the property and that there was some belief that the property was the original site of the historic Elkhorn Ranch. Councilman Hellstern discussed the historic cracked willow tree on the property.

Councilman Hellstern had a slide presentation of the four proposed uses for the Heritage West location. He described a high recreation alternative, a reduced recreational use alternative that included a trail or a mixed use, a passive use alternative, and discussed a fourth option that was eliminated by Cache Landmark

Engineering and the City Council. Councilman Hellstern said the committee recommended the third alternative with no athletic fields at all and passive use and no use of herbicides or pesticides. He said Nibley City staff and volunteers (boy scouts, church groups, the Wildlife Association, Cache Volunteers Group, USU College of Natural Resources, etc.) would do all maintenance. Councilman Hellstern said they intended to remove thistle and other noxious weeds manually. He also described the type of fencing that could be used. Councilman Hellstern said they could connect the proposed trail on this property to the regional trail system and he reiterated educational opportunities this property could provide.

Mr. Edward Hegemann asked about the possibility of including a balance of sports fields on the far corner of the property. Councilman Hellstern said any sports use would eliminate a couple species of wildlife. Mr. Hegemann asked Councilman Hellstern his opinion of the balance between a kid seeing a firefly and a kid developing confidence through sports and athletics like t-ball. Councilman Hellstern said they recommended a better partnership with the school district and discussed some athletic use on and around the property.

Councilman Jacobsen asked Councilman Hellstern to describe the intended uses or vegetation for the colored areas of the map.

Steve Stowers asked about parking options in alternative 3 which Councilman Hellstern addressed. Councilman Hellstern answered a variety of questions from the public. Mayor Dustin clarified that these were concept plans and the purpose of the hearing was to make the development of this property a priority and to have it put into the Parks Master Plan. He said the specifics would be determined at another time and that they were establishing principles to give guidance and direction to the consultant and people that would design this park.

Mr. Zook described the purchase of the property and the funding that had been promised for the recreational development and use of the property.

Mayor Dustin opened the public hearing at 2:56 p.m.

Steve Stowers gave his perspective from the past and hope for the future. He grew up next to wetlands in Ogden. He said had walked the property and was excited about what he felt would be a rare resource. Mr. Stowers felt this was equally to if not more important than athletics because if it's diminishing proportion. Mr. Stowers felt the obligation to preserve the natural inheritance of Cache Valley. He wanted to preserve a portion of the past for future generations. Mr. Stowers asked the City Council to give strong support and consideration to the third alternative. Mr. Stowers said this property was equally beneficial to the entire population.

Corlyss Drinkard confirmed what Mr. Stowers said about the usefulness of this area to Nibley and Cache Valley. She explained the educational opportunities that had been presented by a visual artist at a previous City Council meeting. Ms. Drinkard

felt this opportunity would draw people from surrounding areas. Ms. Drinkard declared for alternative 3 and a passive use park Ms. Drinkard shared the poem "Nats Inside the Wind."

Spencer Coleman said he loved the alternative 3 idea. He described that he was a sports fan and a nature fan. He said this would be one of the largest parks that was just reserved only for nature that he had ever seen. He said he would vote as many times as he could for alternative 3.

Nicolas Chesley felt strongly towards Firefly Park alternative three. He said the soccer field and baseball fields were really close and that this was a chance that after a game their families could spend time at the nature park.

Ed Hegemann proposed a fourth alternative, a golf course. He said he was with Troop 409 who were working on their Citizenship in the Community Merit Badge. He said they had encouraged the boys to express their opinions and let their voice be heard. He appreciated alternative 3 with the idea of putting a couple of small soccer fields in the corner area by the baseball field.

Barbara Wilden discussed growing up in the South and the number of fireflies in the South. She discussed her children and recreation and felt there were alternatives to sports fields and soccer fields but there were no other alternatives to this park. Mrs. Wilden discussed the development of Logan. She said this would be a place everyone could enjoy. Mrs. Wilden spoke in favor of alternative 3.

David Frandsen described his youth in Nibley. He discussed his family's use of the soccer fields and said they had enjoyed Willow Park where his kids could play but also had the animals and nature. Mr. Frandsen said he was open to alternative 2 to some degree but would lean towards the preservation of the nature park. He said they had a great marriage with the nature park adjoining a play park.

Anthony Gardner said he had always observed the comment that "Nibleyites" wanted to preserve open spaces. He said this was a fantastic and unique opportunity and he felt they should go for it 100%.

Angelica Gardner discussed her upbringing in Germany. Mrs. Gardner said it was a beautiful area and they were blessed to have the area. She appreciated the opportunity to voice her opinion and was in favor of preserving the land for the wildlife and for them to enjoy.

Larry Jacobsen of Quarter Circle Drive discussed his history in Nibley. He said he had been in education since 1960 and knew the importance of getting kids out, into nature. Mr. Jacobsen said he would like to see all of alternative 3 preserved for families. He said there were so many things that could be done in cooperation with the land adjacent. He said he was very much in favor of alternative 3.

Mr. Frandsen spoke again and asked if the choice was made to put the park in the Master Plan if there would be more discussion on what would be in this location.

Sam Searle Said he like alternative 3 because he liked the open spaces. He said he had never seen a firefly and would like to.

David Man of Hyrum complimented the city on recognizing such a rare and important opportunity. He said they needed to hold to these things as tightly as they could. He said proposal 3 gave them the opportunity to preserve and develop without the interference of an additional soccer field. He recommended alternative 3.

Mrs. Gardner discussed more of her history in Germany.

Seeing no further comment, Mayor Dustin closed the public hearing at 3:22 p.m.

Mayor Dustin addressed Mr. Frandsen's question. He said the City Council would come back to make final design plans.

Discussion and consideration of Resolution 15-12: A Resolution Amending the Nibley City Parks Master Plan to Include A Conceptual, Non-Construction Design for a 20-acre Expansion of Virgil Gibbons Heritage Park (First Reading)

Mayor Dustin discussed the three options the City Council had. He said he agreed with most of what had been expressed today. He felt there was also a lot of opportunity for active recreation around the perimeter of the property. He felt they should lean towards the option 3 because it was the right thing to do for the city and gave specific direction as to where Nibley's value were and where they wanted to go and gave the consultants direction.

Councilman Hellstern made a motion to adopt Resolution 15-12: A Resolution Amending the Nibley City Parks Master Plan to Include A Conceptual, Non-Construction Design for a 20-acre Expansion of Virgil Gibbons Heritage Park, as written; with a reference to alternative 3; and to move forward to a second reading. Councilman Jacobsen seconded the motion.

Councilwoman Beus said this plan was really loose and had a lot of flexibility in it. She asked if it was correct. Mayor Dustin said he interpreted that the number one priority was to preserve this as a nature park with passive recreation; or a nature park. Councilman Hellstern said he agreed with Mayor Dustin's interpretation.

The City Council was nodding their heads in agreement Councilwoman Beus' observation that this plan didn't specify items such as what would be mowed and the nitty gritty and that they were not getting into this at this time.

Councilman Jacobsen said he liked the Resolution but wanted it clearly stated that they were attaching alternative 3 with this Resolution. Councilman Jacobsen asked

Rod Elwood with the Nibley City Publics Works department if they would be able to afford the maintain on this park as a nature park. Mr. Ellwood said they could if the City Council understood the vision of what was taking place and was willing to support that funding. He didn't foresee it being a substantial amount of maintenance cost compared to a sport field or even Nibley's disk golf course. Councilman Jacobsen asked Mr. Elwood to help the City Council figure out a volunteer effort at this park. Councilman Jacobsen discussed the Stokes Nature Center conservation easement. He said he felt a great deal of synergy with this park and the Stokes Nature Center. The majority of the City Council nodded in agreement with this statement. Councilman Jacobsen felt the best planning was planning that took place with an unexpected opportunity. He felt this was the best thing to do. Councilman Jacobsen said he would like to see legends on the map at the second reading. He said this was the only thing that was keeping him from approving this as a first and second reading.

Councilman Bernhardt said he liked option 3 but didn't feel it precluded them from option 2. He really felt that option 1 was "chalk on nails" to him. Councilman Bernhardt said his biggest fear was that once they disturbed that earth then the fireflies would disappear.

Councilman Hansen asked Rod how large the property west of 640 was. Mr. Elwood said there was a total of 40 acres with a portion of this being used for the well site. Councilman Hansen said they had this regional sport complex and the utilities at the new High school to focus on for recreation. He felt this would have a significant impact on Nibley City and would help develop the identity of Nibley and what they wanted to become. He felt this would bring them into balance and balance was awesome.

Councilwoman Beus discussed her childhood. Councilwoman Beus said she liked the addition of a soccer field in the outfield. She asked Mr. Elwood if this was possible outside of a drawing. Mr. Elwood said the way recreation seasons went in Cache Valley was a problem and that scheduling was very intense for both of those uses. He described the scheduling conflicts and logistical problems. Councilwoman Beus asked about the possibility of keeping cows on the land. Mr. Zook said the National Parks Service said they couldn't use the land for any agricultural purpose. Councilwoman Beus said she really liked the plan but would like to see it evolve. She liked the ideas to keep it as open as they could be also to customize it.

Councilman Jacobsen read the next to last whereas, "Whereas, the City wishes to have the development of the Park Expansion be the City's highest priority in park development." Councilman Jacobsen asked if this part of the Resolution went to far and circumvented the planning process. Mayor Dustin said he assumed \$.50 on the dollar raised it from a prioritization standpoint. He said he would be fine with an amendment to remove this. Councilman Jacobsen said he'd like to consider priority for the city on a larger context. Mayor Dustin suggested they incorporate a memo

that gave the background into the Master Plan because he said this would give background on how to put this prioritization into context.

Councilman Jacobsen made a motion to amend to strike the next to last whereas "Whereas, the City wishes to have the development of the Park Expansion be the City's highest priority in park development." from Resolution 15-12; and to include the memo included in the 12-12-15 public information packet. Councilman Bernhardt seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously 5-0; with Councilman Jacobsen, Councilman Bernhardt, Councilman Hansen, Councilwoman Beus, and Councilman Hellstern all in favor.

Councilman Jacobsen said he felt conceptual design was all they needed.

Councilman Jacobsen made a motion to amend to strike all "non-construction" references in Resolution 15-12. Councilman Hansen seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously 5-0; with Councilman Jacobsen, Councilman Hansen, Councilwoman Beus, Councilman Hellstern, and Councilman Bernhardt all in favor.

The amended motion passed unanimously 5-0; with Councilman Hellstern, Councilman Jacobsen, Councilman Hansen, Councilwoman Beus, and Councilman Bernhardt all in favor.

Council and Staff Reports

Mr. Zook reminded the City Council of the live nativity going on that evening.

There was general consent to adjourn the meeting at 4:01 p.m.

Attest: _____
Deputy City Recorder