

NEWS RELEASE

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CITY OF TONASKET UPDATING PARK AND RECREATION PLAN

November 6, 2019 Public Workshop to be held on Tonasket's Park and Recreation Plan.

The workshop, which will be at City Hall beginning at 6:00 pm, will feature a short presentation providing background on the planning effort with the remainder of the workshop featuring individual listening stations for each of the Town's parks. Attendees will be asked to provide input on needs and desires for City parks as well as helping prioritize projects/improvements.

The City of Tonasket began the process to update its Park and Recreation Plan as required to maintain eligibility for grant funding from the Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) in the early summer of this year. The Plan was last updated in 2011 with funding eligibility expiring in 2018.

A Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee has been formed and four meetings have been held to get the update process underway. Timing of the update is critical in that the Tonasket Youth Baseball Association has been awarded a \$250,000 grant to improve/replace existing ballfields in Chief Tonasket Park and the 2011 Park and Recreation Plan states that updating the Master Plan for Chief Tonasket is a high priority. With this in mind, the City decided to move forward with the plan update in order to ensure the ballfields project would "fit" within an overall master plan for the park.

The advisory committee has been working on three parallel efforts: the first is conducting a park and recreation survey; the second is developing and discussing options for layout of baseball and soccer fields in the park that considers ingress and egress to the park and various attractions (including the planned south access), parking areas and access to sports fields, restrooms and concessions, trails, Water Ranch, and space for potential future uses; the third piece is updating the population and other data in the 2011 Park and Recreation Plan.

Jordan Weddle headed up the effort to update the 2011 Park and Recreation Survey which was available online through much of the summer, through social media and paper copies. The survey, which asks the same questions as the survey used in 2011, will be used to determine community priorities for the existing parks as well as priorities for potential future improvements, activities, and facilities.

Justin Haug has been developing options for possible field layouts to assist the committee in assessing the potential impacts, positive and negative, of various field configurations. To date the committee has evaluated three options and have selected one that clusters all of the primary baseball and soccer fields on the upper level of the park for further review by the two primary sports associations and further analysis by the committee and City staff.

Kurt Danison, Highlands Associates, the City's planner, has begun reviewing the 2011 Park and Recreation Plan and making suggested edits to the text as well as updating data. The most important parts of the plan, including the goals and policies, Action and Capital Improvement Plans will be the result of the October 15th workshop as well as subsequent meetings this fall. The final plan will also be subject to a public hearing before the City Council prior to adoption.