

**JOINT SESSION OF THE GLADWIN CITY COUNCIL,
PARKS COMMISSION AND PLANNING COMMISSION
March 27, 2013**

The Gladwin City Planning Commission was called to order at 5:00 p.m. by Chairman Darlington.

Planning Commissioners present: David, Clayton, Darlington, Stout, Alward and Wenzel. Absent: Hindman, Witkowski and Beyer.

The Gladwin City Council was called to order at 5:00 p.m. by Mayor Winarski.

Council members present: Alward, Caffrey, Smith, Jungman, Mienk, and Crawford. Absent: Hindman and Rowley.

The Gladwin City Parks Commission meeting was called to order by Chairman Jungman at 5:00 p.m.

Park Commissioners present: Jungman, Caffrey, Kehoe, Svetcos, and Weaver. Absent: Drey, Rowley and Platt.

Also present: Bob Moffit, Bernadette Weaver, Doug Jacobson, and D.D.A. members Jeff Zettel and Joe Myers.

The purpose of the meeting was to discuss long-range planning goals, orderly growth for the City of Gladwin and any ongoing projects or needed capital improvements to achieve these objectives.

An existing project list was presented by City Administrator Bob Moffit. Capital expenditures include the purchase of a police vehicle, dump truck and possibly a backhoe. The Downtown Development Authority is undertaking a project which would replace the lights in the downtown area with LED lighting.

Grants for biking paths/walkways are being pursued which would extend the existing trail system in the park (South of Cedar Avenue). The goal is to eventually link Gladwin and Beaverton Cities with this trail system.

A list of streets scheduled for upgrading was presented. It includes Clendening Road between Spring Street and M-18, Riverview Court, Maple Street West of Industrial Drive, the East-West alley North of Cedar from Townsend to State Streets, North Antler from Cedar to Maple and Riverview Court.

Areas with drainage problems for which the City Council is investigating solutions include Cemetery and Chatterton Streets and State Street North of Cedar to E. First Street.

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Items the Planning Commissioners noted that were in need of addressing were linking (infilling) areas of sidewalk in residential areas, particularly by the schools, the paving and remediation of drainage problems on State Street between Cedar Avenue and E. First Street, and the need for continuing efforts to provide safe walking / bike paths within the city. It was brought to light that quads coming into town at the South city limits were entering the park causing damage.

The City Council members and Mayor said that a 'splash pad' was being investigated to draw more children / families to the city park in addition to the project items presented by Administrator Moffit. It was added that another area in need of sidewalks was Parkway Court which continues to see increases in pedestrian traffic, particularly young children.

Parks Commission ongoing projects include the repair / replacement of the amphitheatre seating and replacement of the structure's sides with steel in addition to the construction of an enclosure which houses the sound system, removal of deteriorating flower boxes, and repair and painting of the stage. This will be accomplished in May.

The bathhouse will also be painted and possibly the exterior of the Community Center, with donated supplies and another rustic cabin may be constructed with the help of donated labor. New playground equipment will also be installed in May.

It was noted that a tree replacement program was sorely needed in the park and city overall.

Another area of concern was energy conservation as pertains to new construction and remodeling and the need for educating city residents as to its benefits. Recycling was another matter of which city residents needed more education as to the resources available in this community and the impact on our environment. The city should make every effort to take these messages to the local schools.

Walkways and bike paths are needed throughout the entire city, not just the park system. D.D.A. members in attendance questioned the status of plans which were drafted several years ago which incorporated several pathways throughout the city. It was explained that those plans were still under consideration but because of the lack of funds or need of funding elsewhere, it had not been accomplished. However, it was still a part of the long-term plans.

Attorney Jacobson presented the Rotary Club's plan to plant 75 trees within Gladwin and Beaverton Cities to commemorate the organization's 75th anniversary. He added that the Planning Commission was slated to plant approximately 5 of those trees in conjunction with Arbor Day.

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Joe Myers noted that the sports complex, located in the city and township was an integral part of the community providing much-needed recreational resources and has asked for little support in the past. However, due to maintenance costs and pressing equipment needs, they may be asking for a small stipend from both the city and county.

Comments as to the lack of maintenance of Highland Cemetery and the negative image this gives the city overall. As it encompasses such a large area, the visual impact is great especially when visitors see the lack of care given to the facility. Past and present maintenance expenditures as well as the financial restrictions imposed by the current economic climate were discussed as well as the ramifications of declining property tax revenues and escalating insurance costs.

It was questioned how the city budgeted for insurance and suggestions as to investigating the various options.

Motion by Commissioner David, supported by Commissioner Stout to adjourn the Planning Commission meeting. All ayes. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 5:50 p.m.

Motion by Councilperson Alward, supported by Councilman Caffrey to adjourn the City Council meeting. All ayes. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 5:50 p.m.

Motion by Parks Commissioner Kehoe, supported by Weaver to adjourn the Parks Commission meeting. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 5:50 p.m.

Bernadette L. Weaver, Recording Secretary