

June 26, 2023 Valley County Recreation Advisory Council Meeting Minutes

- Call to order 5:38 pm
- Members present: Valley County Recreation Planner Dave Bingaman, Recreation Director Larry Laxon, Commissioner Thompson, April Whitney, Drew Kirsch, Jeff Mousseau, Emily Sehloff, Erik Weiseth, Shane Hinson, Jim Klum. We do have quorum.
- Presentation by Evelyn Banfield and Nancy Bloomfield with the Valley County Pickleball Club. Only 1 dedicated pickleball court in Valley County is open to the public. In the fall of 2020 8 member volunteers started the pickleball club. Their goal is to build 9 pickleball courts. Community seems to support the movement. They have 50 letters of support and support from Kurt Wolf from City of McCall parks and rec. They would like to see the use of the pickleball courts to be public and free. The cost for individuals to participate is low and is beneficial to the underserved members of the community. Multi court facility has big benefits to the community. Valley County dedicated the land in Lakefork, all pre site work is complete including a 9-court design with a county approved engineering plan. Projected costs is 600K for 9 courts. 170K raised already. How many courts will depend on funding availability. Asking for Covid relief funds. They think their project would work with our council to help realize their goal. Use of ARPA funds align with the construction of the pickleball courts. Also made an appeal to create more than just pickleball but also a multi-use recreation area. The pickleball club ask us to ask the commissioners to donate the money to build the courts using ARPA funds.
- Emily Sehloff motions to approve last meeting minutes, Drew Kirsch Seconds, motion passes.
- Introduction to Commissioner Thompson. We all introduced ourselves. Commissioner Maupin has asked Commissioner Thompson to take her place.
- Plans for Little Lake Campground submitted to IDL. Seems that IDL would like Valley County to partner with them and it would be easier to achieve this goal because Valley County already has a lease in place for the area. Fish and Game would like Valley County to maintain and take over the boat ramp.
- Heinrich project. Still working on that, no real updates.

- Council member priorities by April Whitney and Erik Weiseth. April would like to see things stay safe and operate at a high level. Keep areas clean. Indoor recreation important. We need to spread out the tourist traffic and promote other areas besides just the lakes or high use areas. Erik feels like our area is unique and we should prioritize our uniqueness. Create things that are specific to our area, such as Payette River access, and promote that. Improved communication to spread out crowds and educate what we have here.
- Jeff Mousseau gave an update for Big Payette Lake on Idaho Endowment land. United Payette coalition formed to keep some of the leases from being used privately. They would like to see the leases used for public use, such as mushroom hunting, hiking, etc. Lease approved to Valley County to lease the land. The coalition pays IDL 20K per year for the lease. Lands included are by Crestline Trail and Green Gate. Larry Laxon mentioned that we need to perform to keep IDL happy.
- Discussed McCall Recreation Complex and how do we support/be involved. Debated if this is in our wheelhouse or not. At this time we would like to be kept up to date as to progress and eventually find a way we could be of use.
- Larry Laxon discussed match money for projects. Larry and Dave would like to see us ask the Valley County commissioners to set aside 2 million dollars from ARPA funds in an interest-bearing fund and the interest to be used to matching funds for projects. It is easy to make decisions on this money for the commissioners because there is not a lot of red tape. Jim Klum made a motion to send a letter of support to the Valley County Commissioners. Shane Hinson seconds the motion and motion passed.
- Jeff will put an action item on next month's agenda to see what we want to do in supporting the pickleball club.
- Commissioner Thompson commented that he is excited to be on the committee.
- Larry would like us as a council to brainstorm on things we can do for some of the far reaches in Valley County such as Yellowpine and Deadwood.
- Meeting adjourned at 7:12

