

Mayor Bunker called the public hearing to order at 6:00 p.m. He stated that notice of the meeting time, place and agenda had been posted at the City Building, had been published in the Millard County Chronicle/Progress, and had been given to each member of the City Council at least two days prior to the meeting. City Recorder Gregory Schafer acted as secretary.

Mayor Bunker stated that the purpose of the meeting was to receive public comment regarding the proposed skate park to be constructed, in Delta City, for use of area skate boarders. Mayor Bunker requested that each person in attendance sign the roll at the rear of the room and remind others who may come in at a later time to sign the roll also. Mayor Bunker again stated that this public hearing is being held for the purpose of receiving public comment and requested that anyone wishing to comment state their name and speak loudly enough so that everyone in the room can hear what is said and to keep the comments short in order to give others a chance to comment. The public hearing will be adjourned just prior to 7:00 p.m. so that the Council can hold their regularly scheduled Council meeting.

Mayor Bunker stated that, at the present time, consideration is being given to construction of a skate park in the City Park, where the current School District office is located. The School District has constructed a new office building and the current building is scheduled to be demolished later in the year. Any suggestions for location, design, etc., will be considered. Mayor Bunker also requested that those skateboarders in attendance complete one of the questionnaires at the back of the room. Mayor Bunker then opened the public hearing to comment from the floor.

A question was asked as to the proposed design of the skate park; i.e., size, above the ground or below the ground, type of material, etc. Mayor Bunker explained that, at the present time, some of that information is not known, however, they are tentatively thinking that the size limit would be approximately 12,000 square feet; i.e., about 100' by 120'. Mayor Bunker thought that the skate park would probably be constructed above ground rather than below ground, but that is not certain. If constructed above ground, it would be on a concrete slab 6"-8" above ground, for drainage purposes, with ramps, etc, being approximately four to five feet, and a back rail of approximately three feet.

Colton Griffiths suggested that four foot ramps were rather small and requested that ramps be larger. Mayor Bunker stated that ramps may be a little larger if a bowl type park was constructed. Mayor Bunker noted that the Council intends to fence the skate park, leaving one or two entrances, in order to control accident involving younger children wandering into the path of skaters.

Johnny Bunker commented that young children could not be allowed in the park. Millard County Commissioner Daron Smith expressed concern regarding the Millard County Bookmobile entering and leaving their office in the Delta City Library, which would be adjacent to the skate park. Mayor Bunker assured Millard County that there would be a route provided for the Bookmobile to enter and leave without the necessity of backing up. Gerry Ogden, Millard County Bookmobile, asked if the skate park would be open twenty-four hours. She was concerned about the Bookmobile being

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parked in the area and questioned security at the skate park. Council Member Wesley Bloomfield stated that the park would not be lighted so the hours of use would be limited by daylight hours. Gerry Ogden also questioned the noise level of the skate park being located adjacent to the library and the bookmobile office. Council Member Bloomfield told her that he had visited various skate parks and monitored noise level. It was found that metal skate parks are more noisy than the concrete or modular design, but the noise level was not excessive. Council Member Bloomfield also noted that he has family members living across the street from a skate park and they have not complained about excess noise from the park. Mayor Bunker has visited numerous skate parks throughout the state and has not found them to be unduly noisy.

Rhonda Pace stated her concern for a skate park being placed in the City Park. She felt that the City Park is a showcase for Delta, where those visiting the town come to the city offices, the library, and make a rest stop in the park. She is in favor of having a skate park but feels that the City Park is the wrong location; she felt that the skate park would fit better in a location where there are baseball diamonds, soccer fields, etc. She asked if there were overriding advantages of locating a skate park in the City Park or if it could be located in another area of town and leave the park as the quiet showcase that it is. Mayor Bunker told Mrs. Pace that the advantages to locating a skate park in the City Park are the availability of restrooms, water fountains, and the location is easily observed by law enforcement, however, it is not the only location and the Council is open to suggestions for other locations. Council Member Bloomfield told Mrs. Pace that the Regional Park has also been considered, as well as the Neighborhood Park, located in the White Sage Subdivision. The Neighborhood Park has the restrooms and drinking fountain, but is not centrally located and has less law enforcement presence. Millard County has expressed interest in some other plans for the Regional Park area and the skate park committee felt that the area was not large enough for a skate park. The skate park committee has looked at various locations and has chosen the City Park as the preferred location for the reasons previously mentioned.

Kathy Walker, Millard County Chronicle/Progress, questioned why law enforcement was a concern in the location of a skate park. Council Member Bloomfield answered that, in researching skate park designs throughout the state, high priority has been given to locating a skate park near law enforcement presence in most cities and towns. In discussing the matter with law enforcement personnel, they have indicated that there are few problems associated with skate parks, but it is preferable to locate the parks in an area which is easy for law enforcement to drive by and make certain that everyone is behaving as they should. Mayor Bunker also indicated that none of the cities he has talked with has experienced any serious problems with the skate parks but felt that having law enforcement presence near is a deterrent if individuals know that law enforcement personnel may be coming by at any time.

Kathy Walker also asked why the proposed location on the north side of the City Park; i.e, the area known as the "old football field" was no longer being considered. Mayor Bunker stated that locating the skate park in that area would make it adjacent to homes. Council Member Bloomfield also mentioned the work which had been done, such as installation of a sprinkling system, planting of

grass, etc., in that area of the park and expressed a desire to complete the work rather than remove what has been done to date. It is hoped that the road can be paved this year in order to eliminate the dirt and dust along the north side of the library and park.

Tyrel Kelsey commented that the City Park had previously been described as a "showcase" and questioned whether the skate park could not also "showcase" the talents of area youth.

Utah State Representative Mike Styler reported that he had recently discussed skate park funding with Steve Roberts who stated that he would forward an application for state funding in the near future. Mr. Roberts indicated that Delta's grant request would be high on the list of state recreation funding. Mr. Styler also suggested that many towns are attempting to draw residents back into the downtown area and the skate park may be a tool in drawing people to Delta's Main Street, if children could use the skate park while parents shopped the stores on Main Street or, perhaps, parents could use the library while children were using the skate park. Mr. Styler felt that the other areas suggested had positive aspects but felt that the City Park area is the best location for a skate park.

Colton Griffiths stated that while the skateboarding youth will be thankful for anything they get, he requested that the Council take care to not "under" build a skate park. He expressed concern that the park not be "over" built either, but that it be "done right."

Kathy Walker asked how the skate park will be funded, other than grant funds. Mayor Bunker stated that Millard County has budgeted \$45,000, the school district has budgeted \$10,000 and Delta City has budgeted up to \$50,000 for construction of a skate park, for a total of \$105,000. Council Member Bloomfield added that the grant being sought is a 100% matching grant and mentioned that the land value could be factored in as a part of the matching funds.

Pam Piacitelli asked whether other funding sources had been considered, including grants from foundations. Mayor Bunker stated that all sources will be investigated, but as of this time, we have been taking the preparatory steps necessary to satisfy grant requirements such as a mail survey, a telephone survey to validate the mail survey and holding this public hearing.

Kelly Cloward asked what types of ramps, etc., could be included in a 12,000 square foot modular skate park. Mayor Bunker stated that there are several types of modular designs, including metal, fiberglass panels with metal frame, and concrete. North Ogden City is installing a modular concrete park of approximately 12,000 square feet and they expect the cost to be \$175,000 to \$200,000. Council Member Bloomfield stated that the modular fiberglass panels with metal frame costs approximately the same as the modular concrete. Mayor Bunker reported that the skate park in St. George cost about \$300,000 for a 15,000 square foot park, with several bowls included.

Kathy Walker asked who was included on the skate park committee and whether it includes any teens who are interested in the skate park. Council Member Bloomfield told Mrs. Walker that he

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could give her a list of individuals on the skate park committee and stated that the teens will be involved in planning the design of the skate park inasmuch as they will be the users of the park.

Rex Stanworth asked why the area is spending this amount of money for a facility that will be utilized by a limited number of residents, rather than spending the funds on something that can be used by everyone. Mayor Bunker stated that everyone does not play softball, baseball, football, swim, or golf; it is impossible to build anything that will be used by everyone in the community because everyone has different interests. Mr. Stanworth suggested that perhaps this area is "recreation poor." Council Member Bloomfield indicated that Delta City has conducted two surveys; if the results of the surveys had indicated lack of interest in a skate park, or any recreational activity, there would be no attempt to provide this, or any other, recreational facility. However, both surveys indicated a great deal of interest in having a skate board facility and the Council is attempting to provide what the majority feel is needed. The mail surveys which were returned indicated 74% in favor of a skate park, 19% against, and approximately 7% had no opinion. In addition, some Brigham Young University students came to Delta on a Saturday and conducted a random telephone survey of 120 Delta City residents, the results of which indicated 97 of 120 individuals contacted were in favor of a skate park, 16 individuals were against, and 7 individuals indicated they were neutral on the subject.

Assistant Public Works Director Ken Clark told the Council that he has a nephew, a recent graduate of Brigham Young University, who travels the western United States, along with a group of friends, to skate at various skate board parks. His nephew was looking forward to an opportunity to bring his friends to Delta for a skateboard outing.

Council Member Glen Swalberg told those in attendance that the decision to pursue construction of a skateboard park in the Delta area has not been made without lengthy research and study. There has been a number of hours expended on discussing the matter with other cities and researching various types of construction, as well as a great deal of time spent in preparing, distributing and tabulating surveys. Council Member Swalberg stated that, several months ago, there were so many youth attending a City Council requesting a skate board park that the Council Chamber was completely full. Not only did the youth attend, but they brought their parents in support of their request. Council Member Swalberg felt that the skate park is needed and now is the time to provide it.

Colton Griffiths informed the Council that the skateboarders are being confined to fewer and fewer areas, inasmuch as they are being shut out of more and more places. The schools will no longer allow skateboarding on their walkways or parking areas. Mr. Griffiths stated that, if a skate park were provided, the skateboarders would stay in the skate park all day rather than skating anywhere else simply because the skate park would provide more options and much better skating than a sidewalk or driveway.

City Librarian Deb Greathouse asked if the Council had considered the events which take place in the park such as the Cultural Council concerts. The Council stated that they had considered those

events and had decided that the skate park would be closed during that type of event. City Librarian Greathouse asked if roller blades, bicycles, etc. would be allowed to use the skate park and how far from the library the skate park would be located. Council Member Bloomfield and Mayor Bunker told City Librarian Greathouse that the distances have not yet been determined. City Librarian Greathouse asked several questions regarding the grant application procedure and was informed that we are very early in the planning stages of the skate park and everything that has been done to date, including this public hearing, is a part of the requirements for grant applications. Many decisions have yet to be made.

Mayor Gayle Bunker thanked those who had made comments and informed them that the Council is attempting to do the right thing and, as of this time, is not sure how to accomplish that. This public hearing is part of the attempt to learn how to satisfy the needs of the community and there will be more public hearings on the same subject before final decisions are made.

Mayor Bunker encouraged anyone with additional ideas to provide the information to the Council.

Mayor Bunker declared the public hearing closed at 6:58 p.m.


GAYLE BUNKER, Mayor


GREGORY JAY SCHAFFER, CMC, City Recorder

MINUTES APPROVED: RCCM 06-05-03

