

City of Bonners Ferry

In the Know

October 2019

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

Volume 1, Issue 1

Mayor's Message



By Mayor David Sims

Welcome to the City of Bonners Ferry's first newsletter! We plan to send the newsletter out on a quarterly basis to keep our residents and utility customers up-to-date on

what's happening at the city. Please let us know what type of information you would like to see included in future issues. We will also be rolling out a way to sign up for an electronic version that can be emailed to you, if you prefer.

It has been a busy year at the city, with the City Pool renovation, installation of the Visitor Center gateway sign, completion of our transportation plan, construction of a patio at the golf course clubhouse, and development of our new drinking water well site. We have a number of exciting projects that we will construct next year, including a splash pad at the swimming pool and the construction of the street that will connect Garden Lane to Fry Street near the Middle School. We will keep you informed on these and other projects in future newsletters.

If you haven't visited our website (www.bonnersferry.id.gov) in awhile, please take a look at it. We completely redesigned it last year, and it is more user friendly with more information available to you. If there is something additional that you would like to see on the website, please let us know.

If you have thoughts or concerns about our city, please don't hesitate to email me at dsims@bonnersferry.id.gov.

Transformation in Progress - High Five Grant Update

The Blue Cross High Five Community Transformation Grant has truly been transformational for our community. The city applied in 2016, and was fortunate to be one of three communities in Idaho to receive the \$250,000 grant. Part of the selection process included the community voting for our application video, and the fantastic support of the community was instrumental in being selected. As we near the end of the three-year grant period, we would like to recap how it has benefitted our community.

The grant's purpose is to reduce childhood obesity by increasing access to physical activity and healthy



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foods. The initial phase of the grant included technical assistance from the Blue Cross Foundation staff to help evaluate the needs and existing resources of the community. The second phase of the grant included selecting projects that would provide the maximum benefit for the community.



The steering committee that guided the project selection process included David Sims, Mayor of Bonners Ferry; Rob Tompkins, Chairman of Boundary County Parks and Recreation; Lauren Kuczka, Boundary Community Hospital Community Marketing Director; Amy Robertson, University of Idaho Extension Educator; Craig Anderson, Boundary County Library Director; Gary Pfleuger and Jan Bayer, Boundary County School District Superintendents; and Gini Woodward, representing a number of community organizations. The steering committee worked tirelessly for the last three years, and the successes of the grant rests on the efforts of this outstanding group.

From the beginning, Bonners Ferry took a different approach than other cities that were awarded grants.



HIGH FIVE GRANT FUNDED PROJECTS

- 9B Trails exercise equipment \$2,500
- BOCO Backpack support \$5,710
- Bonners Ferry Bike/Ped Plan \$10,000
- Bonners Ferry City Pool Renovation \$60,000
- Bonners Ferry High School cardio equipment \$23,239
- Bonners Ferry High School Cross Country Trail \$10,000
- Bonners Ferry Splash Pad \$45,777
- Boundary County Library adventure packs \$1,350
- Boundary County Parks & Rec synthetic skating rink \$41,744
- City of Moyie Springs park equipment \$15,000
- Community bike racks \$2,518
- GROW Little Free Gardens \$2,500
- Mt. Hall School exercise trail \$1,600
- Naples School portable soccer goals and GaGa ball pit \$3,215
- U of I Extension Programs \$4,000

We defined community as larger than the city itself, and we have funded projects from Mt. Hall to Naples to Moyie Springs, in addition to the projects in Bonners Ferry.

One of the goals of the steering committee was to leverage the High Five funds with other funds to magnify the impact of the grant. The projects listed received over \$200,000 of additional outside funding, including funding from the Innovia Foundation, the Burlington Northern Foundation, the Selkirk Association of Realtors, the Bonners Ferry Rotary Club, local donors, and a community development block grant.

One of the other goals the City had for the grant was to continue the efforts to reduce childhood obesity after the High Five funds were spent. The steering



community plans to continue meeting on a quarterly basis to work on collaborating on future projects to benefit the children of our community.

The City owes a huge debt of gratitude to the Blue Cross Foundation for providing the grant funds and technical assistance, and for supporting the aspirations of our community!



Energy Conservation at Work in the City

Bonneville Power Administration (BPA), the wholesale power provider from whom the City of Bonners Ferry purchases the energy needs not provided by our own Moyie Hydro, administers the BPA Energy Efficiency Program through rates charged to its customers. Through these rates, customers like Bonners Ferry get back a portion of the costs paid to BPA, through programs that are aimed at energy conservation.

In the past, the City has used these funds to support businesses and homeowners in energy use reduction programs. The types of programs offered have varied throughout the years, but recently the City has set its sights on replacing older, less efficient lighting in our civic buildings and along our public streets. The goal is to reduce energy consumption by improving efficiency in lighting.

Over the past two years, the City has funded lighting upgrades at the Boundary County Library, the Boundary County Sheriff's Office, Fire Station 1, the City-owned Mirror Lake Golf Course, Bonners Ferry City Hall, the Highway 95 tunnel underpass, and finally all of our street lights. Hundreds of incandescent and older CFL bulbs were replaced with new, energy efficient LED bulbs.

Much of the energy cost associated with lighting public buildings and streets is for paid using tax dollars; meaning tax dollars support the monthly expense of "keeping the lights on." Where we as the City can save

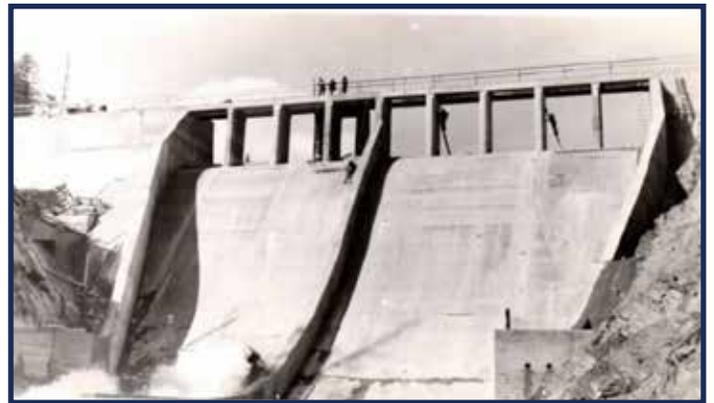
on energy, we can save on expenses and spend those tax dollars more efficiently and productively.

An example to highlight is the City's street light program. Last year, a typical street lamp in the City consisted of a sodium vapor lamp which used around 100-150 watts of electricity. Newer LED lamps with an equivalent light cast use about 40-55 watts; a reduction of over fifty percent!

LED lamps save energy while producing equal or better results. So exchanging out older sodium vapor lamps for more efficient LED lights was a logical choice when considering utilization of conservation dollars.

Over the past two years, City Electric crews have replaced over 350 lamps and, overall, more than 500 lamps have been upgraded to the new LEDs. You may have even seen this work happening! When rebates and energy savings align to save tax payer money we believe this is a win/win for the public.

More information on the BPA Energy Efficiency program can be found by going to BPA's website at www.bpa.gov.



Upgrades Planned for Moyie Dam

By Mike Klaus, City Engineer

The Moyie Dam has provided reliable power to Bonners Ferry Electric customers for nearly 70 years. The greatest advantage of having the dam is that the City can produce approximately 30% of its annual need, which helps the City provide some of the lowest cost power in the nation. The remainder of the City's power need is purchased from the Bonneville Power Administration (BPA).

The City's hydroelectric system consists of two primary components; the dam and the powerhouse. The dam is the concrete structure that holds back water for steady delivery to the powerhouse. The powerhouse is located downstream of the dam, and is where the

water is routed through turbines, generating electricity. Over the years, the City has rebuilt the turbines and generators at the powerhouse on a regular basis, since rotating machinery of that nature usually requires rebuilding after 10-20 years of operation. The dam



however, consists mainly of concrete with very few moving parts that wear out. Other than small concrete patching projects, the dam has operated for several decades without requiring a major maintenance project. However, in the last five years the concrete on the surface of the dam has deteriorated significantly and requires rehabilitation.

The Moyie dam operates under the authority of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC). The FERC licenses the Moyie dam on a 30-year cycle, and inspects the dam annually. During recent annual inspections the FERC has noted the deterioration of the dam surface and has asked the City for a plan and schedule for repairing the structure. In 2017, the City began working with a structural engineer who has developed a set of plans and specifications for repairing the dam. The plans include removing the deteriorated concrete at the surface of the dam and pouring a new layer of concrete that is 7-inches thick, with a grid of rebar reinforcement. The City has submitted those plans to the FERC for review, with anticipation that the

plans will be approved by the end of this year.

The City would like to solicit bids for the project construction as soon as the plans are approved and funding is available.



SPOT Bus - New Saturday Service

The SPOT bus started serving Boundary County in 2015, and its ridership continues to grow. The Selkirks Pend Oreille Transit Authority was formed with a joint powers agreement between the cities of Bonners Ferry, Sandpoint, Kootenai, Ponderay, Dover, and Boundary County. Our local SPOT service is primarily funded with a grant from the Idaho Transportation Department, with local match provided by the City of Bonners Ferry, Boundary County and the Area Agency on Aging.

SPOT currently provides local service between 9 am and 3 pm on Wednesdays and Fridays, offering service in Bonners Ferry, parts of Paradise Valley, Three Mile, and Moyie Springs. On Tuesdays and Thursdays it provides service to Sandpoint. The service is provided without cost, and it is open to all riders. Whether you want to go to the doctor, go shopping or visit a friend, the SPOT bus can take you there! Just call 208-267-4740 the day before to reserve your ride.

We will be starting a winter Saturday service this year starting in December. The bus will take passengers to the Schweitzer Red Barn, allowing transfer to the SPOT Mountain Route that takes passengers to the Schweitzer Village. What a great and trouble-free way to go skiing! And best of all is that it will be free! For more information, please call the SPOT office at 208-267-4740.

Interested in serving? P&Z Commission may be just what you're looking for!

The Planning and Zoning Commission is a seven-member body that advises the City Council on matters such as land use, the city's comprehensive plan, zoning districts and special use permits. We expect to have vacancies on the commission at the end of the year, and we are seeking volunteers for the position. Serving on the commission is a great way to get involved in city government and provide input on how the city grows.

If you would like to learn more about serving on the commission, please reach out to the City Administrator Lisa Ailport by calling City Hall at 208-267-3105.