



Parks & Open Space Advisory Board

October 2nd, 2013

Members of the Parks & Open Space Advisory Board met this day in regular session at City Hall, Brownsville, Oregon at 7:00 p.m.

Present: Marilyn Grimes, Pat MacDermott, Rick Dominguez, Patty Linn, Brandi Simon, JoAnn Neddeau, Elizabeth Coleman & S. Scott McDowell.

Absent: Jim Mayer.

Public: None.

Presiding: Marilyn Grimes.

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. An addition to the agenda was discussed. Mrs. Coleman inquired of the board a "Park Walk" to review the needs of Pioneer Park as well as its progress. The board agreed to make time in the Spring to accomplish this task together. The June 5th, 2013 minutes were approved with no corrections. A motion was made by Ms. Linn, seconded by Mrs. Simon, and the minutes were passed unanimously.

Disc Golf

Due to scheduling conflicts over the Summer, Mrs. Grimes and Mr. Mayer were unable to continue research of a disc golf set for Pioneer Park. As the implications of liability, cost, and space currently outweigh the need for a course in Pioneer Park, this topic has been removed from the agenda.

Remington Park

Mr. McDowell mentioned Council has discussed selling small pieces of City owned land and are currently researching the process to surplus these properties. As the City has a large amount of parks per capita and limited manpower to maintain, Mr. McDowell raised the question of selling the property at Remington Park. Mrs. Simon inquired of the funds if the property at Remington Park were to sell; Mr. McDowell suggested a trust be acquired to help maintain our remaining parks. The board discussed several options; revisiting the idea of removing the equipment and turning the park back to open space, therefore saving for additional equipment in Pioneer Park. Mr. McDowell and Mrs. Coleman will research the land possibilities and come back to the board at a later date.

Disclaimer, Signage, Swimming

Mr. McDowell reviewed the disclaimer signage and waivers for renting and camping at Pioneer Park. As lawsuits pertaining to park use continue, it's a matter of time before cities will no longer be protected by sovereign immunity. The City has added waiver acknowledgment signage in all buildings at the Park; renters will also sign a waiver to be put on file at City Hall. In addition, disclaimers will be posted at the front and middle of the camping areas of Pioneer Park. Warning signs for swimming will also be posted near the south side of the Rocket ship, the Watershed sign, and the green snow fence. Mr. McDowell updated the board on the Affordable Care Act and its inevitable impact on future park use. Currently, the City employs Park Caretakers to oversee camping and facility rentals in the Pioneer Park; as the Affordable Care Act



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moves forward, the City may be required to provide health care to seasonal employees working over 30 hours per week; the City cannot afford this expense. In recent conversations with the city attorney, an option for the City would be to keep with the trend for 2014 of hiring Park Caretakers; to limit exposure and liability, camping by permit only would roll out in 2015. Staff is discussing a hold harmless waiver, which will be attached to the receipt when campers receive their permit. Mr. Dominquez mentioned the need to identify the locations in the park that pertain to the waivers. Discussion ensued. Mrs. Linn made a motion to approve the waiver receipts and pass on a recommendation to Council, Mr. Dominquez seconded; motion passed unanimously.

Dinosaur

The wooden dinosaur that was donated to the City for Pioneer Park by Shawn Garrett could have some weather damage that may deem it unsuitable for outdoor use; Staff will assess the damage and have a report for the next meeting.

Resolution 718

Per Mr. McDowell, Resolution 718 adopts the rules of conduct for elected and appointed officials and sets up procedures for Council meetings. This resolution is not meant to be punitive, but to hold a record of accountability for board members who represent the Brownsville Community and our Municipal Code. Board members will receive a copy of this resolution in the near future.

Progress Reports

Mr. McDowell reported the gate project is moving forward. The existing yellow poles near Eric and Carla Gerber's home and near the stage will be refurbished dark green or chocolate brown to blend with the park aesthetic, with a band reflective tape around the pole. The yellow pole with the Park Rules will be removed in the near future as well. The rocks near the new restrooms will be replaced by a new gate; the quote received is out of the budget allotted for this project. Karl Frink is working on a quote that is within the Park budget.

Public Works Superintendent Karl Frink and Mrs. Coleman are working with Norms Electric on a quote for an electricity upgrade in the Park. Bollards in the "Prairie" for vendors is a much needed upgrade, in addition to adding switches to the kitchen and stage, rather than renters using the breaker boxes to turn on lights. Outside outlets between buildings are being evaluated as well.

The Chamber would like to generate a parking map of downtown on the website. Mrs. Coleman will work with the County GIS on a map with the highlighted areas. A recommendation has been made to use the Rec Center lot and Kirks Ferry Park for RV parking. It is the position of the City not to encourage people to park in these areas, as it can lead to less desirable situations. Mr. McDowell is scheduled to meet with the Chamber in the next week, and will discuss this matter at that time.



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The Arbor Day tree planting is scheduled for Saturday, October 19th at 10:00am. Mike Nehls from Native Grounds Nursery will bring a male Ginkgo tree to the location; 523 North Main Street, which is in front of Bruce and Gwen Landon's home. This tree will replace one that Public Works removed due to rot. Mrs. Grimes has volunteered to handle the Saturday gathering. Cynthia Orlando of the Forestry Division will attend the tree planting and present a Tree City USA Award to the Park Board. Ms. Linn has agreed to present a poem, as she did last year.

Mr. McDowell reviewed the budget; primary projects for 2013-2014 are Park Gates; \$7500.00, Park Electricity; \$12,000.00, Playground Equipment; \$15,000.00; Information Signs; \$2,200.00 to \$2,500.00. The Rec Center floor is due to be refinished this year as well.

Public Works is working on several projects in Pioneer Park. The playground structure curbing and new playground chips are going in, the decayed tree has been removed; another tree that is leaning toward the playground was evaluated, Vern Esplin, an Arborist from Buena Vista, will bring his equipment to handle that. There are a couple of trees the Park Board agreed to remove due to decay; the hope is to replant trees in the next couple of months.

General Updates

Mr. McDowell will meet with Aimee Addison, Chamber President, regarding the City MOU. The deposits are to be paid at the beginning of the year; the Antique Faire deposit came in shortly before the August event. As the Caretakers had to spend time (over one hour) cleaning the kitchen after the Faire, the Chamber received their deposit less \$25.00. Overall, the relationship between the Chamber and the City seems to have improved.

The Rec Center MOU one-year option will begin sometime in December. George Frasier and Mark Running will be in contact with Mr. McDowell.

The Eugene Kennel Club and the Festival of Tents went well again. The Festival of Tents campers will need to be reminded of the designated camping areas, camping near the river is not allowed.

Mr. McDowell mentioned finishing up the City Hall makeover, removing concrete and adding grass to soften the front area, among other things. The specs are ready to go; Kevin Rogers has reviewed the plan and is agreeable. The work will begin when the City finds a contractor to do the work.

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 8:02p.m.

ATTEST:


Elizabeth E. Coleman
Administrative Assistant


Marilyn Grimes
Chair