



Parks & Open Space Advisory Board

November 7th, 2012

Members of the Parks & Open Space Advisory Board met this day in regular session at City Hall, Brownsville, Oregon at 7:10 p.m.

Present: Patty Linn, Marilyn Grimes, Pat MacDermott, Jim Mayer, Rick Dominguez, Elizabeth Coleman & S. Scott McDowell.

Absent: Brandie Simon & Heather Tinseth.

Public: Kaye Fox.

Presiding: Marilyn Grimes.

The meeting was called to order at 7:10 p.m. Mrs. Grimes asked if there were any additions or deletions to the minutes. No items were added or deleted from the agenda. There was one typographical error corrected in the minutes. The minutes from October 3rd, 2012 meeting were approved with that correction. A motion was made by Ms. Linn, seconded by Mr. Mayer and the minutes were passed unanimously.

Retreatment Strategy

Mrs. Grimes turned the meeting over to Mr. McDowell for his presentation. McDowell provided a brief overview of the stabilization decision made by Council this past summer. McDowell then shared pictures from the retreatment strategy discussed with Park Board in October 2011. McDowell reviewed the basic concepts of moving the road and possibly the existing playground structure at some point in the future. McDowell indicated that he would like the Board to review the plan concepts for possible discussion at a future joint session with Council, perhaps as early as January or February 2013. McDowell explained the flood history as we know it from 1936 to present. McDowell also explained that Council has asked Park Board to develop a retreatment strategy for consideration. McDowell indicated that an immediate change is unnecessary at this time, however, one flood event could change that timetable.

Members discussed some of the ideas and changes. Mr. Mayer asked if it would cause problem for the Pioneer Picnic Association. Mrs. Grimes, a member of the Association, indicated that the Association could make the change work based on the amount of green space that will be gained on the west side of the Flower building. Mr. Mayer reminded everyone that different locations for the playground were discussed when the location was planned in 2005–2006. One of the locations that Mr. Mayer reviewed was closer to the ball diamonds which doesn't necessarily remove the structure from flooding concerns. The Board looks forward to meeting with Council on this issue.

Arbor Day Debrief

Mrs. Coleman reviewed the Arbor Day event. She indicated that it was great to see the support of Park Board members and Councilors at the celebration. Ms. Linn



Parks & Open Space Advisory Board

thanked Mrs. Coleman for indulging her theatrical side as she read poetry during the event. Mrs. Coleman commented that it was nice to meet Lena Tucker from the Oregon Department of Forestry. Everyone seemed pleased with the outcome. The City dedicated the new restroom and planted a big leaf Maple tree across from the new structure.

Memoranda of Understanding Update

McDowell reviewed a number of agreements that were in varying stages of completion. The Chamber of Commerce MOU has been completed. McDowell indicated that a few paragraphs were added that pertain to Christmas decorations and flower baskets. McDowell explained how those arrangements work with the Chamber of Commerce. McDowell indicated that the term of the agreement is annual in an effort to ensure positive results. McDowell is hopeful that this agreement will eliminate the cleaning and storage concerns that have been the source of many discussions over the course of the last several years. McDowell said there was some consternation over 30 days versus 60 days for the Chamber to provide information to City Staff. McDowell explained that the City is not trying to hold the Chamber's "feet to the fire," all we are asking for is basic information about the event to convey to those interested in coming to those events. The City typically starts taking phone calls two months in advance of any given event. McDowell stated that the Chamber and the City have spent considerable time, energy and money to build up the events, the publicity of those events and have developed a favorable Internet presence inviting people to come to Brownsville. McDowell commented, "we owe it to ourselves to effectively communicate with each other so that we can properly welcome guests into our community."

McDowell briefly reviewed several other events that are currently working toward agreements. They include the Eugene Kennel Club, the Festival of Tents, the Willamette Agility Group and the Willamette Valley Cycling Tour. McDowell indicated that Council discussed the Eugene Kennel Club agreement and the impacts on the soccer field. McDowell mentioned that Public Works Superintendent Karl Frink reminded everyone at Council meeting that the soccer field just showed up in that area maybe two years ago and has never been watered due to irrigation concerns. McDowell indicated that he and Frink had discussed another alternative to help with the parking concern. Central Linn Rec Board leadership is also looking at a few alternatives. McDowell expects these issues to be resolved in the next few months or so. Council is very interested in this agreement because it helps defray operating costs. McDowell also commented on how well the group restores the Park after their use.

McDowell discussed the negotiations with the Brownsville Art Association. McDowell praised the job the Art Association is doing with the space in a relatively short time. The group is offering workshops, art classes, art shows and open houses. Brownsville has become the envy of cities like Corvallis and Albany because we have such a space for artists and the public. The outcome has been very positive for the art community and the community at large. The development of the space has led to a few concerns that will need to be addressed in terms of general liability and personal property coverage. Due to the expanded use, the City will no longer be able to cover the space under the City's general liability insurance because it is no longer considered a



Parks & Open Space Advisory Board

general governmental use. McDowell is working with Association leadership to provide proper insurance coverage for the space. McDowell stated that Council will be reviewing this over the next few months.

McDowell recently received a call from Central Linn Rec Board President George Frasier regarding the Rec Center agreement. Both sides have agreed to exercise the one year option in the contract which means that negotiations will start in October 2013.

Kirk's Ferry Park Basketball Poles

Mrs. Coleman indicated she is working with Karl Frink to install two basketball poles like the ones in Pioneer Park. Advanced Mechanical made the poles in Pioneer Park and the City is currently waiting on an estimate. Mrs. Grimes asked Mrs. Fox about her concerns with Kirk's Ferry Park. Mrs. Fox explained that there are several kids from the community doing a variety of activities in the Park, most of which are not legal. Mrs. Fox expressed the concerns of several of the neighbors in the neighborhood. Mr. McDowell shared a variety of stories that centered around adults being adults and doing their part for the betterment of the community which means discussing issues with the kids directly. The reality is that the Linn County Sheriff's Office covers a large territory and is unable to be in town all the time. He has encouraged people, since arriving in Brownsville, to engage the youth in a meaningful conversation. Ms. Linn shared a story of the time she embraced this idea and how well it worked. Mr. Mayer also shared an experience he had on Kirk Avenue. Mrs. Grimes brought up neighborhood watch and maybe getting folks walking through the area during the summer months.

McDowell also discussed the role of the Park Board on several goal related issues over the course of the last several years. One example he cited was Kirk's Ferry Park. Park Board had a vision of returning the area back to the grass and in installing a gazebo which could host a variety of community events. At one Park Board meeting, there were 15 or 16 people who basically wanted the "old tennis court" to stay. The sentiment at that time was that neighbors could "keep an eye" on the kids at the park. What is gained if you push the kids from Kirk's Ferry Park to Pioneer Park? Then the kids would be doing things they shouldn't be and would not be in the public view at all.

McDowell reviewed the purpose of the Board which is to make decisions regarding Park Master Plan goals. The Board has been too "wishy-washy" with planned capital improvements. Mr. Mayer and Mr. McDowell have discussed many times that when cities put out surveys or other instruments to gain public opinion, the outcome is often people who have a "pet " project show up to the meeting and advocate their position whether it's for a skate park, a dog run or a shuffleboard court. The purpose of Council appointing officials to be on the Board is to make those decisions for the community and in turn forward those recommendations for Council approval. The outcome of the other approach is catering to special interests. McDowell also mentioned strategies that would provide the proper upkeep and maintenance for existing facilities.

Mr. Mayer suggested completing a review of the Park Master Plan and recommitting to the direction that plan provides.



Parks & Open Space Advisory Board

Willamette Country Music Festival & RV Camping

Mr. McDowell indicated that he has still not heard back from Anne Hankins. The concept is to enter into an agreement with the Festival that would allow them to rent the space and handle customer service. McDowell again reviewed the concerns the office dealt with this summer.

General Updates

McDowell discussed some of the challenges the City is experiencing with Water Rights and the Oregon Water Resources Department (OWRD). On October 17th, 2012, the Claim of Beneficial Use was completed and sent to OWRD. McDowell discussed the data the State was using and what the Claim of Beneficial Use addresses. McDowell said the State would probably not review the document for 10 years based on the current backlog, but at least the document is on file. McDowell again reiterated the redevelopment of a well known as GR 12.

McDowell reported that Public Works has closed the Park as per ordinance.

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

ATTEST:

S. Scott McDowell
Administrator

Marilyn Grimes
Chair



City of Brownsville

Parks and Open Space Advisory Board Meeting

City Hall
Wednesday, November 7th, 2012
7:00 p.m.

Regular Session

AGENDA

- 1) CALL TO ORDER
 - 2) ROLL CALL HT, BS
 - 3) ADDITIONS/DELETIONS TO AGENDA
 - 4) MINUTES: October 3rd, 2012 PL, JM
 - 5) PRESENTATIONS & ACTION ITEMS:
 - A. Retreatment Strategy Jim - Other location... originally
 - 6) DISCUSSION ITEMS:
 - A. Arbor Day Debrief
 - B. MOU Updates
 - C. Kirk's Ferry Park Basketball Poles
 - D. Willamette Country Music Festival – RV Camping
 - E. Rec Center Outcomes
 - F. General Updates
 - 7) CITIZEN INPUT Water Rights
 - 6) B.
 1. Chamber
 2. EKC
 3. WAG
 4. Festival of Tents
 5. WVCT
 6. BAA
 7. CLRB
 - 8) ADJOURN
- 8:30 pm

This agenda is a list of topics anticipated to be considered at the meeting. The Parks and Open Space Advisory Board may add or remove topics as necessary. The location of this meeting is accessible to the physically challenged. If special accommodations are needed, please notify S. Scott McDowell at 541.466.5880 in advance. Thank you.