



Parks & Open Space Advisory Board

November 3rd, 2021

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: Betsy Ramshur, Rick Dominguez, Lynlee Bischoff, Joann Neddeau, Elizabeth Coleman & Scott McDowell.

Absent: Pat MacDermott and Brandie Simon were both excused.

Public: Allen Buzzard.

Presiding: Scott McDowell.

The meeting was called to order at 7:13 p.m. Nothing was added or removed from the agenda. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

September 15th, 2021 Minutes

Ms. Bischoff moved to approve the September 15th, 2021 Minutes as amended. Mrs. Ramshur seconded the motion, and the minutes were approved unanimously.

Remington Park Update

Mr. McDowell provided a slide show for the Board of Remington Park's inception from March 2020 to present. Slides included idea pictures of the dry riverbed, natural play area examples & park amenities (bench, picnic table, dog waste station & trash can) that were agreed upon by the Board. Mr. McDowell also provided slides of progress at the Park, including the dry riverbed, installation of amenities, minus the dog waste station and Remington Park sign, which will be installed at a later date. The playground area has been carved out and woodchips installed.

The contractor halted progress of the natural playground due to receiving negative comments. Mr. McDowell inquired if any Board members spoke to the contractors during the project. The landscape developer was awarded the contract by the City and it is the hope that he will complete it. Comments were made to the contractor regarding the installation of a swing set. Mr. McDowell reminded the Board of the decision not to install a swing set in Remington Park's playground due to the slope of the land and the inability to meet required ADA & fall protection requirements. Installation of a swing set would also require an expensive cut into the bank.

The alternative was to consider a natural play area with logs, boulders, etc. Mrs. Coleman asked for a natural playground option to be placed in the bid for the project as well as an irrigation system. The contractor (Eric Osborn) & Mr. Frink worked together to save money by rehabbing the existing irrigation system. There was enough money in the budget to complete the project, with both playground & irrigation options. Mr. McDowell asked the Board to consider full installation of the project. Natural playgrounds have been installed in many public parks around the state. The contractor was concerned about liability with the playground installation; Mr. McDowell reiterated that once the playground is complete, it falls under Recreational Immunity, as well as the City's insurance. Discussion ensued.

Ms. Bischoff mentioned there are some landscape areas that were washed out, maybe due to the recent heavy rainfall or the water system and was also concerned about the location of the trash can in proximity to the picnic table. Mrs. Ramshur explained the runoff is likely due to the slope of the hill and will likely continue until the grass fills in. Mrs. Neddeau mentioned the trash can will be emptied each week and may not be a problem. Mrs. Ramshur did not like the look of the trash can next to the bench and would not want to sit that close to a trash can, no matter what is in it.



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Members discussed alternative locations for the trash can and it was decided that if a different area will work, staff will have it moved. Mr. Buzzard, citizen, had some pictures of the Park for the Board to look at, Mr. McDowell obliged. Mrs. Ramshur asked what would complete the landscape contractor's portion of the project; Mr. McDowell answered that placement of logs and boulders in the playground/wood chip area.

Mr. Dominguez asked for clarification of the issue with the contractor, and Mr. McDowell explained the bottom line is that the Park Board made a decision, the contractor was awarded the project, and if citizens have questions about the project, they need to contact Public Works Superintendent, Mrs. Coleman, or himself. Mr. McDowell asked the Board again to allow Mr. Osborn to finish the contract. Mrs. Ramshur said the neighbors in the area have told her they are ecstatic about the project. The Board agreed by consensus to have the project continued as submitted.

Progress Reports

Calapooia Food Alliance (CFA) Mr. McDowell reported on the Calapooia Food Alliance that was located in the empty lot across from Napa for about 10 years. The CFA was in a transition last Fall because the current property owner has plans for the lot. Mr. McDowell took Mrs. Kathleen Swayze around town to find a new location for the Farmer's Market. Kirk's Ferry was the location of choice. The CFA requested the space, it was approved by Council, and a one-year agreement was signed. Mr. McDowell reported there were a few parking issues along Kirk Avenue that materialized but were handled by the placement of candlesticks and No Parking signs.

Mr. McDowell reached out to the CFA, it is possible they will want to sign another one year agreement. Mr. McDowell asked if the Board had any comments or recommendations for him to give Council at the November meeting. Ms. Bischoff suggested permanent No Parking Signs, and said the location was great. Mrs. Ramshur said No Parking signs while the Market is going seems sufficient. Mrs. Neddeau said it seemed the CFA was good at putting up the barricades each week. It was nice for busses traveling Kirk. Mr. McDowell asked if Mr. Ramshur or Mr. Dominguez noticed anything. Mrs. Ramshur is not in town during the Market, and Mr. Dominguez didn't see any issues the few times he was in the area. Mr. McDowell spoke with several neighbors and there were no complaints. He doesn't think Council is interested in making Kirk's Ferry a permanent location. Council's original discussion point was a two/three-year period, depending on how it works. The Board decided by consensus to continue the one-year option with a review in the Fall agreement and recommend to Council. Council will review the agreement at the November meeting.

Central Linn Rec Association (CLRA) Mr. McDowell reported that Sean Johnson, current president of the CLRA, came to the October Council meeting to review the agreement. The agreement hasn't changed from the last 15 years. The agreement is reviewed every three or four years. The Rec Center received funding several years ago due to new requirements needed to run programs. Mr. McDowell suggested the Rec Board ask for additional funding because requirements for insurance, concussion protocols, and other fees have risen. City Council voted and approved unanimously to increase the amount from \$2500 to \$4500 moving forward for the next three years.

Arbor Day Mrs. Coleman briefly reported on Arbor Month. The foyer was decorated with a craft tree, poetry, coloring pages, notes & tree education brochures. Pictures of past Arbor Month celebrations involving the Park Board were also on display.

Downtown Sanitary Sewer Project (DTSS) Mr. McDowell provided an update on the sewer project. About twelve feet into the project, an old oil three by eleven-foot heating tank from the 1930s – 1940s was found. The environmental tank expert contacted the City to report the soil was not contaminated, and the project will move forward. The tank was under a high-pressured gas line, so care was taken to in the removal process. The



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tank was pumped, tested, removed & cleaned. No hydrocarbon was found. The hope is that there will be no more surprises, but with an old town, there are no guarantees.

Miscellaneous Advertising for the Park Caretakers will be done differently this year; the Work Campers.com has an electronic process that could initiate more hits, drawing more applications. Last year, a full ad was done but the City only yielded one applicant. Staff will also run an ad in the Democrat Herald. The 2021 park caretakers, Bruce & Amber Castleberry, indicated they will be moving on and will not be applying for the position. One family, who is associated with the annual Festival of Tents, has expressed interest in the position. Stay tuned.

Upcoming Election of Officers Mrs. Coleman reminded the Board that January is the month to elect/re-elect a Chair & Vice Chair for the Parks & Open Spaces Advisory Board. Current officers are Chair Pat MacDermott & Vice Chair Brandie Simon.

Citizen Input

Mr. Buzzard from School Avenue shared that he spoke with neighbors that are happy with the upcoming changes to Remington Park. He was asked if there was going to be a swing set. He tried to be careful, he knows that is the City's purvey, not his as a citizen and taxpayer. He mentioned cities were taking out playgrounds because of issues with Recreational Immunity and he did not know where the City is on that issue. He thinks when the neighbors see the playground changes, they will be happy. He suggested a different location for the trashcan and volunteered to help install a concrete pad to secure it. Mrs. Neddeau said she appreciated Mr. Buzzard volunteering; she will take another look at the current location of the trash can.

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 8:03pm.

ATTEST:

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Elizabeth F. Coleman".

Elizabeth Coleman
Administrative Assistant

APPROVED:

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Pat MacDermott".

Park Board Representative