



Parks & Open Space Advisory Board

November 4th, 2020

Members of the Parks & Open Space Advisory Board met this day in regular session via teleconference at 7:00 p.m.

Present: Pat MacDermott, Betsy Ramshur, Joann Neddeau, Brandie Simon, Lynlee Bischoff, Elizabeth Coleman & Scott McDowell.

Absent: Rick Dominguez.

Public: Allen Buzzard.

Presiding: Pat MacDermott & Scott McDowell (*Due to teleconference format*).

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m. Nothing was added or removed from the agenda.

Mrs. MacDermott recited the Pledge of Allegiance. Mr. McDowell reviewed the ground rules for participation and voting on motions.

June 3rd, 2020 Minutes

Mrs. Ramshur asked for the minutes to reflect that Mrs. MacDermott had adjourned the meeting.

Mrs. Simon moved to approve the June 3rd, 2020 minutes as corrected. Mrs. Ramshur seconded the motion, and the minutes were approved unanimously.

Park Camping & Reservations

Mrs. MacDermott turned the floor over to Mr. McDowell to review park camping. McDowell explained to the Park Board that City Staff was preparing the lottery letters for Park Reservations for 2021. Staff will place a notice in the letter regarding possible cancellation due to Coronavirus Pandemic orders. Staff determined it was easier to go through with the lottery in the hopes that there will be some normalcy for the Summer of 2021. Staff can simply return the deposits if the City is ordered to keep the facilities closed. Park Board agreed by consensus.

Mr. McDowell also relayed an e-mail conversation with Ariel Nelson from the League of Oregon Cities. According to the e-mail, the State Legislators were forming committees for the upcoming session of the State Legislature and the League was trying to gather data about the possible implications of the State imposing laws based on the *Martin v. Boise* case. McDowell said that he would be watching this issue closely. Should the State decide to codify this case, it could have massive implications on all parks who offer camping and campgrounds. The State park system, county park systems and municipal systems would be altered by this type of sweeping law. Stay tuned for more information.

Arbor Day

Mrs. Coleman reported that Mayor Ware declared Arbor Month for the month of October. Due to the restrictions in place due to the Pandemic, an event was not possible this year. Mrs. Coleman thanked Mrs. Ramshur for her support organizing the art effort through Central Linn Schools. McDowell said that he hoped for a big celebration in October if the City can gather publicly with



residents.

Remington Park

The Board then reviewed plans for Remington Park. McDowell shared drawings that depicted the location of the picnic table, trash can, bench, dry riverbed, and natural play area. McDowell said a pet waste station would be included as discussed in March. McDowell explained the basic elements of the amenities and the natural play area. Mrs. Coleman discussed the details of the dry riverbed. Many elements were discussed by members. The Board wanted to maintain edges around the dry riverbed for maintenance purposes along with using native plants for low maintenance. The Board liked the bottom center concept found on the second slide pertaining to the riverbed.

Mrs. Simon and Coleman mentioned the reoccurring cost of mulch and other maintenance issues. Coleman and Bishoff talked about procuring mature plants to fill in the dry riverbed. McDowell added that even mature plants will take time to fill out the area and taking the slope into consideration, erosion will have to be addressed in some way.

Mr. Buzzard shared comments from the floor on the proposal. He discussed a few basic amenities that would be nice to have specifically the pet waste station, a bench, and a trashcan. Mr. Buzzard said that many residents in the area were unaware that this space was a City park. Many thought it was a bare lot.

McDowell shared that the cost of the park improvements as reviewed would be between \$30,000 & \$50,000. Mrs. Neddeau said the cost is significant especially with needs in Pioneer Park. Neddeau said she thinks the money would be better used elsewhere. Neddeau is in favor of leaving the space as an open space. The Board should consider slight improvements. Ms. Bishoff shared Mrs. Neddeau's cost concerns.

Mrs. Ramshur said it was already voted on and it needs to be done. Mrs. Simon said the Board can scale it. The project does not have to be to the tune of \$50,000.

Mrs. Coleman suggested submitting an itemized report to the Board based on each element. The Board can then choose which elements they want to construct. Mr. McDowell & Coleman will reach out to contractors and partners to provide the Board with costs. Willamalane and other large parks in the mid-valley could be a good source for associated costs and landscape architecture ideas.

The Board agreed by consensus.

Mr. McDowell then shared information provided by Mr. Allen Buzzard. Materials are attached to these minutes. Mr. Buzzard's requests have been captured above.

Progress Reports & General Updates

Sweet Home Sanitation will be doing Cleanup Day in April instead of October. They are planning on holding a depot style cleanup in the parking lot of the Rec Center.

The City is receiving CARES Act funding for expenses related to the Pandemic. Congress will determine whether more money will be granted to cities. Current funding runs through December 31st,



Parks & Open Space Advisory Board

2020. City has sent out mass mailings, purchased computers for teleconferencing and organized efforts dealing with pandemic related issues.

Oregon Health Authority & OSHA will be issuing more stringent rules on all employers, including the City. The City has been open since mid-June and hopes to keep it that way but are at the mercy of Governor Brown's orders and requirements.

New policies and procedures for elected and appointed officials were adopted by Council in late October 2019. Council also adopted a new Employee Handbook at their last meeting. Both handbooks will apply to officials in certain ways. Staff will be sending out the Officials Handbook soon.

River's Edge subdivision is coming along nicely. Administrative Assistant Elizabeth Coleman and Public Works Superintendent Karl Frink continue work on that project. Staff is also working full speed ahead on the Downtown Sewer project which comes with a \$500,000 price tag.

Citizen Input

Mr. Allen Buzzard said he was not a dog owner but knows many dog owners in the subdivision. He said that a pet waste station would be greatly appreciated. Buzzard addressed concerns over the expense associated with some of the previously discussed improvements. He agrees that is a lot of money and may be better spent in Pioneer Park as suggested. Perhaps the Board could include the dog waste station, a park bench, and a trash can as a start. There is no identification sign or play structures. Just the concrete stamp sidewalk. The other parks have signs. Though he lives near Remington Park, he would not like to see \$50,000 spent on the park. Mr. Buzzard wanted to be clear he was sharing suggestions from his neighbors. He asked about the Cimarron Ash tree, enjoyed the Arbor Day planting celebration, and hopes to do that again.

Mrs. MacDermott adjourned the meeting at 8:00 p.m.

ATTEST:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be "SM", written over a horizontal line.

S. Scott McDowell
City Administrator

APPROVED:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be "Pat MacDermott", written over a horizontal line.

Pat MacDermott
Chair