

Parks Advisory Board Meeting Minutes

February 28, 2018

Chairperson Norma Hernandez called meeting to order at 6:45 am.

Present- Norma Hernandez, Jessica Schleif, Andrew Fick, Jim Holen, Eric Halverson, Aaron Crockett, and Michele Tompkins.

Absent- Howard Rub

Staff- Angela Cosby and Jonah Dart-McLean.

Public comments

1. There were none.

President Hernandez

- A. What do you hear- President Hernandez heard that Staff was working on the treadmill at the Aquatic Center. She also heard positive feedback about the dance. Jessica Schleif received a suggestion to place a sign at the bottom of the Cathedral Tree Trail indicated that hikers needed to be able-bodied to continue on the trail to the Column. Andrew Fick heard a lot of concerns, questions, and opposition to the City selling parks. Jessica Schleif heard similar concerns about selling parks. Jim Holen noticed a lot of work had been done in Shively Park. Aaron Crockett heard concerns about the tree removal project. Director Cosby said one of the trees to be removed would remain because Staff recently discovered it contained a burl.

Approval of Minutes

- A. The minutes of the January 2018 meeting were approved as submitted.

Employee and Volunteer Recognition

- A. Director Cosby recognized Greta Cairns as the February Employee of the Month.
- B. Jonah Dart-McLean recognized Lucian and Jay as the February volunteers of the month. Lucian and Jay updated the Board on projects they had completed and were working on. They shared before and after photographs of their ongoing work on Alderbrook Hall.

Old Business

- A. Jim Holen gave an update on the Parks Foundation, which is currently preparing for the Run on the River fundraiser and working on an application for a Wal Mart community grant. Director Cosby noted the Run on the River course would be certified that weekend, which would allow it to be used for qualifying rounds for larger runs. She hoped the certification would result in an

increase in registrations for the event. The Board shared ideas for getting more youth involved in the run.

- B. Director Cosby updated the Board on Staff's efforts to implement the Parks and Recreation Master Plan. A Special Project Manager, which is a temporary part-time on-call position, would be hired to help complete the Maintenance Plans and the Capital Improvement Plan. Staff was still on track to present five of the plans to the Board in May.

New Business

- A. Director Cosby updated the Board on the City Council Work Session to discuss the potential sale of City-owned parks, which was held on February 14, 2018. She handed out copies of the memorandum from the meeting and the analysis for each park site prepared by Planning Consultant Rosemary Johnson. She reviewed the analysis for each park and summarized Council's comments. Parks to be sold are Birch Field and Tide Rock Park. Council directed Staff to do more research on the Custom's House and decided to remove Post Office Park from the list of potential sites to be sold. She noted that the Yacht Club would be researched separately as part of a feasibility study on expanding the Aquatic Center. A public hearing would be conducted to approve the sale of any park.

Jessica Schleif was concerned that misinformation was given at the meeting about how the City acquired Tide Rock Park. She recommended Staff make sure City Council was aware of how much the City paid for the property.

Andrew Fick was concerned that moving forward with Council's direction would create more work for Staff than just keeping and maintaining the properties. Director Cosby confirmed Staff was currently unable to maintain the sites properly and the cost of pursuing park sales was low. She would email Board members with specific details about park maintenance costs and the costs related to pursuing park sales.

Director Cosby confirmed that Council discussed in detail developing Birch Field for residential use and the site's water displacement issues that impacted the surrounding neighborhood. She also reviewed the City Council work session in spring 2017 that led to the list of park sites to be considered for sale. The sites were selected because they were the least utilized at that time.

Andrew Fick was concerned that the City was selling parks for which the maintenance costs were so low. He questioned the financial benefit of pursuing these sales and said he believed there were better options for taking care of parks. He was also concerned because some of the park sites are historic. The Board and Staff discussed Council's considerations when deciding which parks should potentially be sold and shared how they believed selling some properties would benefit the City and community.

Andrew Fick said he had an email to City Council sharing his concerns about selling parks. However, no one responded to his second email.

The Board and Staff briefly discussed environmental impact studies that could be required on some park sites. They also discussed the variety of positions people have taken on the consideration to sell parks. They agreed the differences of opinions have led to a lot of due diligence during the process.

- B. Director Cosby presented a request from the Harbor to light the Column teal for the month of April in recognition of Sexual Assault Awareness Month. The Board unanimously voted to recommend that City Council approve the request.
- C. Director Cosby announced that Rotary would be hosting the Easter Egg Hunt. They are fundraising and looking for volunteers. A press release would be published in the next week. She confirmed that many of the free programs that were eliminated had still not been reinstated or taken over by other entities.

Staff Reports and Upcoming Events

The following reports were presented to the Board as part of the agenda packet:

- A. Maintenance
- B. Aquatic Center
- C. Recreation
- D. Lil Sprouts/Port of Play

Future Meetings

- March 28, 2017 at 6:45 am in City Hall, Council Chambers
- April 25, 2017 at 6:45 am in City Hall, Council Chambers

Next meeting will be held Wednesday, March 28, 2017 at 6:45am at City Hall in City Council Chambers.