

# **Parks Advisory Board Meeting Minutes**

**April 22, 2013**

Present- Norma Hernandez, Grace Laman, Brad Johnston, Tammy Loughran, Councilor Karen Mellin, Howard Rub, Jay Flint, JP Moss and new Parks Director Angela Cosby  
Absent: Ron Williams

Staff- Phil Elkins and Terra Patterson

Guests- Marge Beck, Sylvia Davis, City Councilors Drew Herzig and Arline LaMear,

Meeting was called to Order at 6:48am by chairperson Norma Hernandez.  
The motion was made by Brad Johnston to approve the minutes from the March 18<sup>th</sup> meeting, Tammy Loughran seconded and the board voted in favor of approving the minutes.

## **Chair Person Section**

1. Board Members all introduced themselves to the new Parks Director, Angela Cosby and gave a brief background on why they were serving on the Parks Board.
2. The board discussed board meeting day and time. The board agreed the current day and time is good for meetings.
3. What do you hear?
  - Norma Hernandez discussed feedback she has heard in the community regarding volunteer opportunities. As well as excitement about the new Parks Director.
  - Howard Rub discussed public perception regarding property owned or shared by the school and city.
  - Brad Johnston discussed public feedback regarding the River Walk maintenance.
4. The board signed up to check in on different sections of the River Walk. Board members will report back to Phil Elkins when they notice any maintenance needs.
5. The board discussed attending or planning a board training. There is a non-profit board training coming to Astoria in May. The board decided to look in to this.
6. Norma asked the board if all members would sign up to attend a City Council meeting over the next several months. She will send out a sign up through email.

## **New Business**

1. JP Moss discussed the upcoming program guide and distribution of the guide once it is printed. Mr. Moss handed out copies of the guide.
2. The upcoming department newsletter was reviewed. It was suggested a section on the River Walk be added.
3. JP Moss reviewed department successes and challenges.
4. Parks Maintenance- Phil Elkins discussed Parks Maintenance projects and tasks.
  - Elkins reviewed the proposed baseball improvements at Tapiola Field.
  - Phil also highlighted mowing, vandalism repairs, landscaping on the River Walk, People's Park repairs, a flowerbeds project at the Police Station, pool pump repairs, cleaning up fence lines at ball fields, ball field clean up done at multiple parks for softball and baseball, and organizing volunteers for summer

projects. Elkins also discussed department assistance on the Garden of Surging Waves project- staff built signage stands.

- Councilor LaMear asked about security/ camera systems at parks/restrooms where vandalism is higher.
  - The repairs and clean up near the Column on the Cathedral tree trail were discussed. Maintenance staff is working on the upper end of the trail.
  - Upcoming Projects were discussed including the post office park, new picnic tables, hiring staff, well bids at Ocean View Cemetery, and cleaning out the basement at the Astoria Senior Center utilizing volunteers from Tongue Point.
5. Jay Flint discussed the 9<sup>th</sup> Street Park, he has worked with staff Vern Hall to come up with some landscape and park furnishing ideas.
    - Phil discussed possibly coordinating volunteers from Tongue Point for this project and incorporating design ideas.
  6. Staff discussed the remodel of the downtown bathrooms in May and refreshing the Doughboy Bathrooms as well.
  7. Councilor Melin discussed the Trails Master Plan which was reviewed at City Council and the issue of multi use on Cathedral Tree Trail, Councilors Melin and LaMear discussed reasons why council did not support multi-use for this trail, specifically bikes. Multiple board members discussed their reasons for supporting bike use on the Cathedral Tree Trail.
  8. JP Moss reviewed the Budget Process, including timeline and budget hearings this week.
  9. Norma Hernandez asked for a presentation or more information on the Friends of Column and their involvement with the Column at the next meeting.

The Board discussed the meeting in May. As it falls on a holiday, they decided to meet on May 20<sup>th</sup> for the next meeting.

**Matters Initiated by Guests-**

1. Silvia Davis discussed her concerns on maintenance and landscaping on the River walk. She discussed concern regarding cutting back blackberry bushes by red building and dance studios and cutting back other types of foliage.
2. Councilor Drew Herzig discussed organizing a volunteer program for the parks department. He would like to see support from the department to arrange this. Angela Cosby will follow up with Councilors Herzig and LaMear regarding this matter.

## River walk Sections for Maintenance

Pier 3 to Red Building: Howard Rub

Maritime Memorial park to 6<sup>th</sup> street dock: Ronnie Williams

6<sup>th</sup> street dock to pier 11: Jay Flint

Pier 11 to Maritime museum: Tammy Loughran

Old trolley station to Public works shop: Karen Melin

Public works shop to East mooring basin: Arline La Mear

East mooring basin to 43<sup>rd</sup> street: Norma Hernandez

43<sup>rd</sup> to La Plante park: Grace Laman

La Plante park to Lagoon rd. entrance: Brad Johnston