

Parks Advisory Board Meeting Minutes July 23, 2014

Present- Norma Hernandez, Brad Johnston, Councilor Karen Mellin, Tammy Loughran and Grace Laman

Absent- Kim Williams, Howard Rub and Jay Flint

Guest- Drew Herzig, George Hague, Dave Macelroy and Steven Bligsley

Staff- Terra Patterson, Pam Pearce, Jonah Dart McLean, Annik Fremstad and Phil Elkins

Meeting was called to Order at 6:50am by chairperson Norma Hernandez. Tammy Loughran motioned to approved the minutes from the June meeting, Brad Johnston seconded.

Chair Person Section

1. What do you hear:
 - a. Norma Hernandez discussed negative feedback regarding the lack of preparation for the softball fields prior to the fast pitch softball tournament held the beginning of July.
 - b. Grace Laman discussed positive feedback regarding Tapiola Park from citizens.
2. Community Feedback:
 - a. George Hague discussed concerns regarding 9th Street Park. The fish packing company is backing in to the park and is leaving tire marks from their trucks. He also feels that the city should honor the original funding raised for the park. Mr. Hague also discussed the lack of signage on the River Walk. He also talked about the idea of “adopting sections of the River Walk”.
 - b. Dave MacElroy with Friends of the McLure Park discussed some proposed changes to the park they would like to make.

Employee Recognition

1. Terra recognized employee of the month Annik Fremstad. Terra discussed the work Annik does for the department.

Presentation

1. Steven Bligsley gave a presentation on cessation of tobacco product usage in parks. He discussed adopting a tobacco free policy in parks and how he could assist with his position with the county. He discussed the dangers of smoking and second hand smoke. The board discussed adopting it as policy verses

making it a park rule and the logistics of this type of a park rule. Norma discussed adding this to the September board agenda. Steven offered to help Angela with wording on the policy.

Old Business

- A. Tammy gave an update on the Parks Foundation. They continue to work with the Friends of the Dog Park, the restroom project at Lindstrom Park and the Ford Family cohort project for the new Teen Room. The foundation does still have a goal to come up with funding for the Parks and Rec scholarship program but it is not the top priority with all of the other projects currently happening.
- B. Angela discussed history of the Way Finding Signage; she additionally discussed the steps taken thus far in the project. There is a grant that the city has applied for funding. There will be a public meeting held tentatively on August 19.
- C. The Ford Family Foundation project for a new teen center was reviewed. She discussed fund raising projects.
- D. The ARC remodel and relocation was reviewed by Angela. The maintenance department has done most of the remodel in house. The administrative offices will be closed July 29 and will reopen on the 30th. The grand opening will be held August 14 from 4-7. Angela also discussed the sharing of the yacht club building between the Senior Center and the ARC.
- E. The Dog Park goal has been officially adopted by city council. The Friends group has requested that staff set a public input meeting, this is tentatively scheduled for September.
- F. The city council passed a resolution to become a HEAL city. The county has offered to help and provide their Americorps Vista position. She reviewed the information provided to City Council.
- G. Phil Elkins discussed the work the Northwest Youth Corp group did on the Cathedral Tree trail and the work at the Evergreen ball fields.
- H. The Silver Sneakers contract was discussed. There have been a few hold ups with legal paperwork. Drew discussed Curves closing and asked about offering a similar program for women only.

New Business

- 1. Angela discussed a grant that the city is eligible for now that Astoria is a HEAL city. This would support the farmers market and there programs.
- 2. The Mission of Understanding with the Friends of the Column was reviewed. Norma asked for any feedback from the board. Brad asked about the employees mentioned in the MOU. Tammy asked about a timeline for the duration of the MOU and Angela said it would last three years. City council has reviewed the MOU but has not yet approved it.
- 3. Pam Pearce discussed plans for the upcoming aquatic center closure. Pam will be having the pool plaster fixed up, work on the showers, do a deep cleaning of the facility, redoing the lighting on the pool deck and the lobby, and annual

maintenance. Angela discussed condition of the pool lighting and showers. These two projects will cost approximately \$150,000 and is tentatively scheduled for September of 2016.

4. The procedure of spraying herbicide was reviewed. Angela discussed where spraying is currently done at Smith Point. Jonah discussed the research he has done with regards to spraying herbicides and the recommended application where staff is currently spraying half the recommended amount. Jonah discussed the testing done of impact from the herbicide to fish and wildlife. Norma asked if the board could be sent a link to the research reviewed at the meeting. Angela will bring more information to the September meeting with regards to alternatives to spraying.
5. Regatta activities organized by the parks department were reviewed. There will be a movie at the pool, the softball tournament and a fun run.
6. Angela reviewed the conflict of usage of city property by Bouy Beer. There will be a lease for the space going to City Council.
7. The department's fiscal year end budget was reviewed.
8. Department reports were reviewed for Parks Maintenance, CHIP-In, Recreation and Aquatics.
9. Angela discussed upcoming events in August.

Next meeting will be held Wednesday, September 24 at 6:45am