

Parks Advisory Board Meeting Minutes

May 29, 2012

Attendance: Ed Overbay, Brad Johnston, JP Moss, Tammy Loughran, Norma Hernandez, Tim Roth

Staff: Pam Pearce, Phil Elkins

Absent: Grace Laman, Howard Rub, Ron Williams, and Councilor Arline LaMear.

1. The Parks Advisory Board met at Stephanie's Cabin.
2. At 6:45am Board Chair Ed Overbay called the meeting to order.
3. At 6:45am Board Chair Ed Overbay asked that the board approve the minutes. Brad Johnston motioned to approve the minutes and Norma Hernandez seconded. All were in favor.
4. Lauren Brady presented first to the Board. She spoke about the recent changes at the Astoria Recreation Center, specifically the adult fitness programming. Zumba and Yoga classes will be discontinued through the summer season, June 10-September 3. Lauren wrote a letter to ask the Board to have Parks and Recreation reconsider cancelling these classes. A discussion regarding this issue was held. JP will respond formally to her letter by the following week.
5. JP Moss updated the board on the situation that occurred regarding a dog that was brought to the pool during operating hours. A gentlemen brought his service dog into the recreation pool stating that the dog helped him while in the pool. The police were called in to assist in the matter. Since this incident the city attorney has been researching the rules regarding using a service dog in the pool.
6. Tim Roth announced to the board that he is leaving and this might be his last meeting but he would advise the Mayor officially.
7. JP Moss informed the board that we are increasing staff training as we approach summer. Recently Phil Elkins attended a Playground Safety Course. All facilities are doing a more comprehensive training as we start the summer season because we bring on new staff to meet the summer demands for recreation.
8. The Summer/Fall program guide is now available. Each board member received copies. Norma Hernandez would like to see more marketing efforts dedicated to some of the adult classes such as Ballroom Dancing. JP Moss also indicated this year we are targeting some geographical areas through the Daily Astorian distribution channel. The distribution is being increased two fold over last year.
9. JP Moss updated the board on the budget process. The City budget is nearly complete and going to City Council for final approval next week. As part of the budget for the following year, Parks and Recreation will now only have one fund rather than several funds. This combination of merging funds into one will allow for an easier process and better transparency.

10. Phil Elkins updated the board on the Community Garden. Last month Phil and the Public Works Department got the irrigation system set up for the Garden. Plots are still available for rent this year.
11. JP Moss updated the recent progress regarding the Column.
12. Phil Elkins will be working with 5-6 youth from the State of Oregon to upgrade a boat ramp this summer.
13. Phil Elkins updated the board on the Memorial Day Events that the Parks Department were involved with. Ocean View Cemetery had a Memorial Day Service at noon and it was very well attended. The Maritime Memorial Park had a service at 3pm where the new benches around Shively Fountain were dedicated.
14. New Business: Ed Overbay is working on getting art in public spaces.
15. Meeting adjourned at 8:07am. Next meeting is on June 25, 2012, 6:30am for breakfast and the meeting starts at 6:45am.