

Parks Advisory Board Meeting Minutes

September 24, 2014

Present- Norma Hernandez, Grace Laman, Kim Williams, Councilor Karen Mellin, Tammy Loughran and Howard Rub

Absent- Brad Johnston and Jay Flint

Guest- Sheila Beverige, Drew Herzig, Jessica Schlieff, Mick Hague, David McElroy, Judi McElroy, Ron Law,

Staff- Terra Patterson, Erin Reilly, Janice O'Malley Galizio, Dorris Freeman, Katie Madison and Phil Elkins

Meeting was called to Order at 6:53am by chairperson Norma Hernandez.

Chair Person Section

1. Grace Laman motioned to approve the minutes, Kim Williams seconded the motion. The board approved the minutes for the July meeting. Drew Herzig mentioned the spelling of Steve Blakesley's name in the July minutes.
2. What do you hear- Karen discussed how good the Roundabout is looking, Norma discussed the area on the River Walk next to Bouy Beer that is dangerous for pedestrian.

Employee Recognition

1. Angela recognized Dorris Freeman as the August employee of the month, who works at the aquatic center as a cashier. She thanked her for her responsibility and reliability.
2. Erin recognized Katie Madison as the September employee of the month, who works in the "Sunflower Room" for three year olds

Presentations

1. Dave McElroy with the friends of the McLure Park discussed the work that the neighborhood group has done. He discussed their goal of revitalizing the park and supporting the city in improving the park. Additionally, the group has the goal of making some capital improvements.

Old Business

- A. Tammy gave an update on the Parks foundation reviewing what the foundation has been working on. Over the last two months, the group has assisted in fundraisers for the dog park and the fundraiser for the teen center. She also mentioned that the friends of the Armory are looking to partner with the foundation. No details are available at this time about their project.
- B. The Wayfinding signage project was reviewed. Staff held a community meeting on Aug. 19. The presentation, minutes from the meeting and citizen feedback is included in the board packets. City is now looking for funds to support the project.
- C. The Ford Family Foundation Teen Center Project was reviewed. The fundraiser project was discussed. The group is on track to open the room in early December.
- D. The Recreation Center renovation was discussed. Fitness class participation was not affected by the move and staff has settled in to the new building.
- E. An update on the dog park project was given. City Council has adopted the goal of supporting the project as an official goal. A public meeting will be held at city council on October 8. Sheila handed out a "Benefits of the Dog Park" hand out. Publicity for the town hall meeting was discussed.

- F. The HEAL (Healthy Eating Active Living) Campaign was reviewed. This is a campaign going on in cities across Oregon. The city officially became a member of the project. The department applied for a grant for a snack program but did not receive the grant. Staff will be partnering with the health department and the city of Seaside for another grant. Norma discussed the positive work happening in the program.
- G. The Silver Sneakers contract was approved by city council. This is a health insurance benefit seniors can receive to provide a gym membership to pay for fitness classes. Staff hopes to have the program up and running in October at the aquatic center. Staff will be taking on the implementation and coordinating the paperwork. Drew asked if it could be presented to the Senior Center once it is in effect.
- H. The Friends of the Column Memorandum of Understanding was reviewed. City attorney, Blair Henningsgaard had some concerns with changes to the contract which Angela discussed.
- I. The annual Aquatic Center Maintenance Closure was reviewed. The facility was closed for two weeks after the Labor Day doggy splash. Angela discussed the projects done over the closure. The carpet removal, the in depth cleaning and other projects were discussed. Angela also discussed redoing the plaster in the pools, this is a costly improvement which will need to be done for next year's closure as well as various energy efficiency projects.
- J. The Water Well project at the Ocean View Cemetery was discussed. In past years there have been two water wells put into the cemetery which were utilized until water ran out. Since then the city has been paying the City of Warrenton commercial water rates to water the grass. The well put in recently has not been able to pull up water even though it was represented to the city that water could be obtained from this location. Angela discussed the issues of keeping the grounds maintained to the standards that are expected by family members.

New Business

1. Security at the Astoria Recreation Center was discussed. The center had a break in this summer and earlier this winter there was a break in to the maintenance shop. Staff is working on a security system. Staff have been adapting to security and neighborhood education.
2. Angela handed out the fall/ winter program guide. She discussed making a transition away from printed program guides.
3. Angela reviewed previous discussions of the lack of use of herbicides in parks. Department policy and what policies the department should have were reviewed. Angela would like to create a focus group in maintaining parks, she would like one member from Parks Board to join the focus group. Norma recognized Jessica Schleiff who is an expert on landscaping. Jessica has been working with other community members researching use of herbicides and discussed the benefits of forming a task force. The board discussed the needs of the parks. Howard discussed concerns regarding the condition of Tapiola Park. Tammy mentioned the need to come up with a plan soon, rather than waiting for a task force to formulate a plan. Grace discussed community concerns with the school district and their use of chemicals. The school board is looking in to it.
4. Angela reviewed department reports.
5. Janice discussed the Chip-In "high five " project.
6. Visitor input- Mick Hague discussed the ware on the no smoking signs. He also discussed concern of moss growing on informational signs and he also talked about the need for signage identifying street signs. Councilor Melin said it was coming.

Next meeting will be held Wednesday, October 22nd at 6:45am