

City of St. Helens

CITY COUNCIL

Public Forum Minutes

March 25, 2019

Members Present: Rick Scholl, Mayor
Keith Locke, Councilor
Ginny Carlson, Councilor

Members Absent: Doug Morten, Council President
Stephen R. Topaz, Councilor

Staff Present: Matt Brown, Finance Director
Lisa Scholl, Deputy City Recorder
Shanna Duggan, Recreation Coordinator
Ryan Ward, Youth Program Lead
Sophie Verdoorn, Recreation Assistant

Others:	Howard Blumenthal	Jeanette Johnston	Joey Johnston
	Logan Johnston	Brea Johnston	Heather Oliver
	James Crislip	Judy Thompson	Art Leskowich
	Rachael Barry	Janine Norris	Scot Stockwell
	Kellie Smith	Trin Monahan	Christine Menges
	Anna Del Savio	Sophia Hanson	Jacob McFarland



Public Forum

Recreation Program & Future Funding Discussion

This public forum was held at the Recreation Center, 1810 Old Portland Road.

6:00 p.m. - Mayor Scholl opened the Public Forum. He reviewed the history of the Recreation Program.

Finance Director Matt Brown reviewed the attached PowerPoint presentation detailing the need for a \$2 service fee to fund the Recreation Program.

Public Comments

◆ Judy Thompson. The Recreation Program is wonderful and very needed. She suggested the rate be flexible to allow people to give more.

◆ Trin Monahan. He lives in Columbia City. He asked if there could be a benefit for people within the School District if they contribute.

Mayor Scholl said that has been discussed. It's a benefit for the entire community.

◆ Howard Blumenthal. He talked about the Soda Tax. It was discussed that a fee would include Parks. He asked if the proposed fee includes funding for Parks. He also asked if they have investigated a gas tax. He expressed concerns with additional fees as he gets closer to retirement. He also expressed concerns about the dangerous intersection with no crosswalks.

Mayor Scholl talked about the possibility of installing temporary crosswalks. He is not in favor of a gas tax.

Howard adamantly repeated the need for part of the fee to fund Parks. Mayor Scholl responded that the fee would have to be larger to include Parks.

♦Jeanette Johnston. This is awesome! She is very supportive of the program. Her whole family is participating.

♦Scot Stockwell, St. Helens School District Superintendent. Thanked the Council and Recreation Coordinator Shanna Duggan for doing a great job. The Program is way ahead of what he expected. He wants to maintain the partnership. It's important to utilize all the buildings. They need role models for students and programs for adults. Kids need to see adults learning new things. It's important to have a strong community recreation program. He looks forward to seeing it grow.

Councilor Carlson talked about the partnership with the School District. That's what has helped her make the choice to move forward. This is way past due. Kids need a place to go to be safe, make friends, and be accepted. It's worth one iced tea from Dutch Bros. We have to show we care with our dollars and voice. She hates to increase bills but you don't get anything for free.

Councilor Locke agreed with Carlson and expressed that he is glad to see it happen.

Mayor Scholl informed Howard of the funds the City is designating to make park improvements.

♦James Crislip. Retired high school teacher and track coach. He's also a professional fly fish tyer. He would love to volunteer to teach fly tying classes and start a club. He's pretty sure he could get it paid for through sponsorships and grants.

Mayor Scholl suggested he speak with Shanna.

Mayor Scholl asked for a raise of hands of who would pay a \$2 fee. Everyone was in agreement to pay the fee except for one person. A member from the audience suggested a \$5 fee.

Mayor Scholl encouraged people to spread the word about the Program. Councilor Carlson encouraged community members to share ideas for classes.

Jeanette suggested purchasing and operating St. Helens Golf Course as a source of revenue. Mayor Scholl responded that it has come up. He has investigated it and it needs a lot of work.

Mayor Scholl talked about the Watershed property. They are working with the County to allow access to off-road vehicles. It has potential to include camping, motorcycles, bicycle trails, and horseback riding. We are unique with a river and woods nearby. A camp host is needed for oversight. The County would manage it.

Mayor Scholl stated for the record that Thomas O'Hanlon submitted a letter of opposition.

♦Janine Norris. She loves what's being done here. She asked what other recreation programs have done that we could mimic.

Mayor Scholl believes others have created their own district. He said the pool charges about \$3/month on taxes. Finance Director Brown added that they have been investigating other

programs. He pays a fee where he lives, plus he pays for some of the activities he and his family attend. He talked about how other programs are funded.

Recreation Coordinator Shanna Duggan reported on recent activities held. Some of those have been: Zumba, Spring Break Camp, cooking class, Pee-Wee Basketball, painting class, sketching class, teen and tween nights, knighting class, beading class, family Yoga, walking group, Community Café, Parent Café, and more. She is looking at other programs to enhance what we have.

Adjourned – 6:51 p.m.

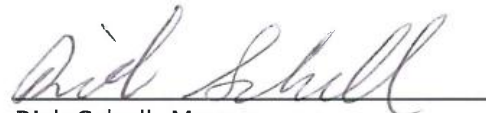


Respectfully submitted by Lisa Scholl, Deputy City Recorder.

ATTEST:



Lisa Scholl, Deputy City Recorder



Rick Scholl, Mayor



3/25/19 – RECREATION PROGRAM PUBLIC FORUM



Starting Somewhere

- Feb 2018 Program discussions & partnership with St. Helens School District
- Apr 2018 \$25,000 Grant Award
Children, Youth, and Families Grant from Ford Family Foundation
- Jun 2018 Budget Committee & City Council approval for Program
- Summer 2018 Program Activities Kickoff
- Sept 2018 \$20,000 Grant Award
Col. Pacific Coordinated Care Community Wellness Impact Fund
- Oct 2018 Afterschool Care Program
- Nov 2018 Renovating new Recreation Center
- Feb 2019 Grand Opening of Recreation Center



Why a Recreation Program?

- Household size & families are bigger than the County and state averages
- Underserved populations of families and children
- High rates of obesity and other health problems in children and adults
- High rates of mental illness, including anxiety, depression, and isolation



Why a Recreation Program?

- Increased livability
- Providing a safe place to play & reducing juvenile crime
- Offers a place for social interaction
- True economic benefits



Current Partners



Columbia Pacific CCO



Funding & Grants



- Current Grant Applications
 - Columbia Pacific CCO Large Investment Fund
 - Ford Family Foundation (submission in 2020)
- Capital Project Grants (Rec Center Upgrades)
- Not a stable source for ongoing expenses
 - Startup and expanding only
- Administrative costs / Staff capacity
- Creation of a self-sustainable program



Survey



Q1: Would you or anyone in your household utilize a Recreation program in the City of St. Helens?

Answered: 688 Skipped: 3

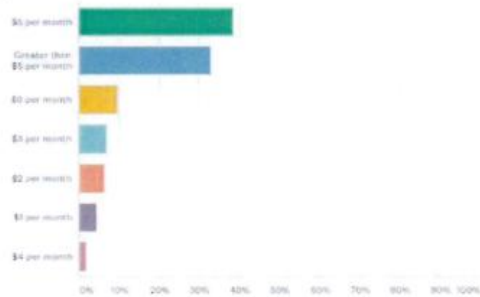


Survey



Q6: How much would you be willing to pay to support a Recreation Program in the City of St. Helens?

Answered: 684 Skipped: 7



Community Recreation Service



- \$2 Monthly per EDU on utility bill account
- Project \$160,000 dedicated annual funding for the Rec Program



St. Helens Benefits



\$2 Community Recreation Service Fee – What does \$2 per month get me?

1. 1 Full Time Recreation Coordinator
2. 1 Part Time Recreation Lead
3. Retains afterschool care program and current activities
4. Expansion of limited activities
5. Formation of Recreation “District” that will offer discounted or free activities to those who pay the service fee
6. Maintains operations of the Recreation Center during the days/evenings
7. Makes Recreation Center available for rentals (meetings/parties/events)