

# City of St. Helens

## Parks & Trails Commission

February 11, 2019

**Members Present:** Howard Blumenthal  
Carmin Dunn  
Jerry Belcher  
Elisa Mann  
Jacob Woodruff

**Members Absent:** Ben Tiscareno  
Paul Barlow

**Staff Present:** Sheri Ingram  
Neal Sheppeard  
Thad Houk  
Doug Morten

**Others:** Lisa Brooke

- 1) **Call Meeting to Order – 4:00 p.m.**
- 2) **Approval of Minutes**  
2.A Approve Minutes of January 14, 2019

**Motion:** Upon Jacob Woodruff's motion and Howard Blumenthal's second, the Commission approved the minutes of January 14, 2019. [Ayes: Carmin Dunn, Jerry Belcher, Howard Blumenthal, Elisa Mann, Jacob Woodruff; Nays: None]

### 3) **Topics from the Floor: From attendees not otherwise on the agenda**

Lisa Brooke from Arts & Cultural wanted to thank the Parks for accepting the Free Little Library that was installed in Grey Cliffs Park. They had a small turn-out for the ribbon cutting and they got a story in the paper and she thought it was a great opportunity to have a partnership with Parks.

She was on the east coast when the mural was painted at the skate park and the kid kept sending her pics of it and she thought it was big and he used the opportunity to go hog wild for his own portfolio. She had asked permission from Sheppeard and she knows he wasn't expecting it to be that big either. It was just supposed to be a communication device to lead people to the Instagram account. The kid was painting and some guy who lived near there is a professional videographer and he created a video for Instagram. She apologizes for the size and does understand that there could be some flak for it. Blumenthal thinks it should not have been done yet since they are going to do patching and Woodruff said he thought it was just a

display showing what it can look like. Belcher said he appreciates her coming down and telling them that but he thinks it should go through the Council for approval before it's done. She is willing to take the responsibility for anyone who is unhappy about it.

She said they had a great showing at the Council meeting and it was on the shoulders of the kids. Jordan Barlow has really stepped forward in a leadership roll. They are in the process of developing partnerships with the ACC and Youth Council and they are aware of the fundraising that will need to be done. They are excited about having a party this summer for the 20th anniversary of the skate park and they want the Council to tell them when they can hold it this summer.

#### **4) Councilor's Report**

Morten said Brooke should be congratulated for spearheading this effort and it speaks well for our volunteers.

He asked if Paul Barlow could have more Bikes & Ped people join this group. Asked if Paul would head up a committee to look at the skate park and BMX track for expansion and beautification. Houk said BMX has a major event once a year that brings in a large amount of people from all over. There are usually people out there every day in the summer even when there aren't events going on.

Morten talked briefly about skate park party and the Mayor would like to combine it with the Citizen's Day in the Park. Blumenthal asked if Parks & Trails should have a table there and talk about the parks and have our new brochure available.

Morten just came from St. Helens Marina talking to Brad Hendrickson, who is going to oversee Sand Island under a lease agreement with the City. The agreement has been approved by five people on the council and they are hoping to be running this summer.

We tried camping with the free shuttle before but there was no one to oversee it so it got out of hand. Hendrickson will be overseeing it and charging fees and some of that will come back to the Parks. He will also take \$1 per night and write down numbers on boats staying the night. It should cut down on transient boats. Sheppard said they can only stay 10 days in a 30 day period and if they overstay, they get cited. A big problem now is they get cited and don't pay and we have no way to tow a boat.

Dunn asked if the money will go to City or Parks and is it just for Sand Island or all parks. Morten said Hendrickson will be doing improvements himself to Sand Island and he will want compensation for that. It will be his investment. Houk said it currently costs over \$30,000 a year for Parks employees to go over and do what they do now.

Blumenthal asked if there is going to be some kind of control for people taking alcohol over there when alcohol isn't allowed in the parks. Sheppard said there is not an alcohol ban on Sand Island. Mann asked if dogs will be allowed out on the shuttle and Morten said yes dog are allowed.

Morten said as far as the skate park repairs, he apologizes for micromanaging that but he contacted a guy about patching the skate park. He contacted the guy who did it before and he has to wait for nice weather but we have it in writing so at least that covers us as far as liability. The cost is under \$5000 so we didn't have to put it out for bid. Belcher asked if we should leave it open since people have said it's not safe. Brooke said there are already signs that say skate at your own risk but you could spray paint bright orange on the areas that are crumbling.

## 5) **New Business**

### 5.A **Grey Cliffs Waterfront Park Priorities**

Belcher wanted everyone to go over their top priorities for Grey Cliffs Park. One of his priorities is a floating walkway at the far end. The second thing he'd like to see is a viewing area up on top. He thinks it's one of the nicest viewing areas around. He would like to see the trail improved. He would also like to see sand by the walkway so people could have a beach and the dog park fenced.

Mann said if they can't afford a fence, there should be at least a visual barrier so the dogs see that they can't go past that. There should be a sign in parking lot directing people to the dog park. She would like to see the path widened up there and a community bulletin board in or near the dog park and running water.

Blumenthal said the madrones are getting overgrown with blackberries and ivy and would like to see it cleaned up. He would like to get dumping area at top cleaned up where neighbors are dumping debris. There could a few things involved with the trail to the top. Could they build a staircase or ramp?? Maybe we could get a grant for that. He would be happy to see human powered boat ramp and he wants to see no smoking signs down there.

Morten would like to see a kiosk at each park with a sign of the rules so it's consistent.

Dunn said her number one would be to make the trail safer and easier access. Number two would be signage. Three isn't a lot letting people know there is even a park back there. She had paving the parking area but that is already getting done. She would like a dog park fence and more of a picnic area.

Woodruff also put down fencing the dog park. He would like to see a kiosk pointing to local businesses and restaurants, more picnic tables by water, and the floating walkway was a great idea.

Houk said they put sand down there before for a beach area but it lasts one or two tides and it's gone.

## 6) **Old Business**

### 6.A **Parks Report - Dogs Parks**

Mann said that this year we had a bunch of trees taken out at McCormick and they weren't removed right away and it was stick heaven for the dogs. Everyone enjoyed it a lot.

McCormick already has everything like a hydrant, bridge and adjustable agility jump. A suggestion would be a large sign that says Off Leash Area really big and a kiosk and a sign for traffic to watch for dogs. Eventually one day when they can afford it, she'd like to see a covered

chuck-it launch station like they have at Asbury Acres. It is just four posts with a lean to roof to keep dry when it's raining.

The 15th Street dog park has a fence, waste bag dispenser and water but maybe a kiosk or bulletin board would be good.

Grey Cliffs is nice and the only urgent thing is the boundary at the cliff. For suggested additions they could widen the gravel trail and put signs in parking lot.

It's great to have three dog parks. They are used every day and for a lot of people, it's the only place their dogs can be off-leash.

## 7) Discussion Items

Belcher is concerned about safety at the skate park. It's not clear about liability until it's repaired. Brooke said a kid broke his arm at the grand opening 20 years ago. Dunn asked if we should we put orange paint on the bad spots as suggested and Belcher said that is one way to mitigate the damage.

**Motion:** Upon Carmin Dunn's motion and Elisa Mann's second, the Commission recommend they spray orange paint on the problem areas in the skate park. [Ayes: Carmin Dunn, Jerry Belcher, Elisa Mann, Jacob Woodruff; Nays: None]

Blumenthal said thanks for the restrooms at Grey Cliffs. We need to keep track of the Bicycle & Pedestrian bank account. Sheppard said Matt Brown sent out an e-mail about it. He asked Ingram if she passed it around to everyone and Ingram said she did not get that e-mail.

Blumenthal said he hopes it okay that he trims ivy off trees in the parks. He also noticed we got some new bike racks and he is wondering what kind of bolts they have because someone could just unbolt the rack and take the bikes. Sheppard said he's not sure how those were installed. He would have to check into it.

Woodruff said he spent time at the skate park talking to the kids and they are great kids and very friendly & helpful.

## 8) Other Business

Belcher said when he was on the Arts & Cultural Commission, he spent months getting bike rack in Grey Cliffs Park. He is wondering where it's at. Sheppard said we took it out to do restroom project and we will put it back in.

Belcher said the subcommittee is planning on giving a Powerpoint presentation at the next meeting on the Urban Trail. Dunn asked if they could plan a field trip to Grey Cliffs Park and belcher said they should wait until the weather clears up. She said we should also do a field trip on the Urban Trail after the presentation. Belcher said he talked to John Walsh about doing a walk with Jenny Dimsho, Walsh and the Mayor. Walsh thought it was a good idea but only talk at this time.

Dunn asked if there was an update on the brochure and online scheduling.

9) **Adjournment**

Meeting adjourned at 5:11 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Sheri Ingram, Parks & Trail Secretary