

City of St. Helens

Parks & Trails Commission

Approved

January 14, 2019

Members Present: Jacob Woodruff
John Brewington
Howard Blumenthal
Jerry Belcher
Paul Barlow

Members Absent: Ben Tiscareno
Carmin Dunn
Elisa Mann

Staff Present: Sheri Ingram
Neal Sheppeard
Thad Houk
Doug Morten
Jenny Dimsho

Others: Lisa Brooke – Arts & Cultural Commission
Kim O'Hanlon – Arts & Cultural Commission

1) **Call Meeting to Order**
1.A Welcome new member Paul Barlow

2) **Approval of Minutes**
2.A Approve Minutes of December 10, 2018

Motion: Upon John Brewington's motion and Howard Blumenthal's second, the Commission voted to approve the minutes of 12/10/18. [Ayes: Jacob Woodruff, John Brewington, Howard Blumenthal, Jerry Belcher, Paul Barlow; Nays: None]

3) **Topics from the Floor: From attendees not otherwise on the agenda**
O'Hanlon from Arts & Cultural handed out a drawing of a model of a free library. CC Rider stop has been moved so she wants to put the third one in a park too. Sheppeard told her to get together with Houk to pick locations.

Dimsho said the grant program is open again that funded the bridge and covered shelter in McCormick. They are tossing around Campbell Park for a project so they may see a letter of recommendation at the next meeting or two. Nothing is formalized yet.

4) **Councilor's Report**
Morten said the riverfront development is moving along. The esplanade is being designed. Open spaces for the public, art installations, benches, meeting areas, etc. All of that is being looked at and conceptualized. There are environmental concerns so they have to have a plan where land meets water so that is why it was urgent to get an architect and start getting a plan together. He talked with Belcher the other day and they walked the area at Grey Cliffs

Waterfront Park and he talked to staff and they suggested that what goes on down there should be similar to the riverfront. They should tie in as far as feel, artwork, places to sit and picnic and that kind of thing. Brewington asked what the basic plan is. Morten said the concept is a hotel and then retail below and apartments above. Belcher said everyone should go look at the Vancouver waterfront. It's incredible and very similar to this area. There is a hotel and two nice restaurants, a splash park, viewing platforms. It continues above the bridge too but he didn't go very far that direction.

5) **New Business**

5.A Lisa Brooke - Arts & Cultural Commission - Plan for McCormick Skate Park

She was there to present an idea she spoke to council about to improve the skate park. This year is the 20th anniversary of the creation of the skate park. She found out the City has \$20,000 that they can use for improvements. She is proposing the ACC partner with Parks in creating a movement that would have five parts. The first part is getting comments from users on what they would like to see. The kids know what need to be improved. They have shown her a spot in the concrete where wheels get stuck. The surface is known as a cheese grater because the concrete is pitted and when they fall, they tear skin. The ACC wants to help with soliciting information from park users and having a session to meet at the park and listen to the kids. The second phase would be to get quotes for improvements but they don't know what to get quotes on exactly. The third phase would be doing the improvements. The fourth stage is the ACC would like to have an art component where there would be painting inside the bowls. She has artists lined up to teach people how to use spray paint and make something go from graffiti to street art and they would like to nurture the culture of street art. This culture of artists is a self-policing group. They do pieces that taggers don't tag as a rule. ACC would run a multi-day event to teach kids how to paint. The last stage would be a grand opening activity like a street fair where they could have a big party day that is open to the public.

She has been told that ten to fifteen years ago, there would be fifty kids out there at a time using it but it's gotten fewer and fewer users because it's a cheese grater. She is going to go to Youth Council and talk to them. She has talked to Youth Justice and kids who do community service can work on it. She started an Instagram account and has 70 followers and kids direct messaging her with what they want. The artist who painted lion on the side of the high school is interested in coming to the next ACC meeting to talk to them. She would like the Parks to work with ACC to pull this off and do fundraising. Jerry asked if money is really in the budget and Dimsho said there is \$20,000 in the Parks budget for repairs. Matt Brown confirmed it.

Brewington said we would need to have someone come up with a design and Brooke said Oregon has more skate park designers than anywhere else. Sheppard said she is on right track finding out what people want but last time we fixed it, it was bandaged because we didn't have the money to do it right. Dimsho said a grant will be opening up this spring that they could apply for. Morten said he has a friend instrumental in skate parks and he told Morten to talk to him and he can get us in touch with the right people. Barlow suggested they talk to someone who designs parks and maybe they have some kind of survey. Belcher said we need to collect info on what they want and need and see if we can get a grant. Things don't happen quickly but he is in favor of waiting to see if they can get more money and doing it in a year to make sure it's done right. Maybe Morten's friend could look at it and give us ideas.

Motion: Upon Jacob Woodruff's motion and John Brewington's second, the Commission recommended that Lisa Brooke go forward with getting more information on the skate park projects. [Ayes: Jacob Woodruff, John Brewington, Howard Blumenthal, Jerry Belcher, Paul Barlow; Nays: None]

6) **Old Business**

6.A Parks Report - Dog Parks - postpone to next meeting

7) **Discussion Items**

Barlow had some thoughts about merger of Commissions. He is also part of Cycle Columbia County. There is some overlap as CCC is looking at doing what Bikes & Ped did but on a county-wide level. He is wondering how this group is going to deal with issues. Belcher said Bikes & Ped dissolved itself because of lack of membership. If Barlow could get some other people in the bike or skateboard community to be on this commission, that would be great. Barlow said the two projects they have been involved in are trails and safety summit with schools where they hand out helmets. Is this group going to pick that up? Blumenthal said Bikes & Ped had a bank account - where did that go? Morten said they should keep the account with this Commission and they need to talk to Brown about it and have Barlow be in charge of it. Brown said he does not know of a separate bank account for Bikes & Ped and Barlow said he can send him the last statement spreadsheet he got from Shanna. Brown said off the top of his head, he thinks there is bike helmet money under Police in the Community Enhancement fund.

Blumenthal said they will have their work party in April and a nature walk at Dalton Lake with the Native Plant Society.

Blumenthal said since we are having trouble getting members to sit on City Boards, maybe the city should be open to letting members serve on more than one Boards at a time.

Houk said he was told to ask if they thought that the new covered area - when it's finished - should rent for more money since it is larger than the old one. Morten said it is almost twice the size of the other one which rents for \$40 per day. Barlow thinks \$60 would be good. Houk also asked if groups of more than 100 should be required to rent both of them.

Motion: Upon Jacob Woodruff's motion and John Brewington's second, the Commission recommended that they require groups of more than 100 need to rent both gazebos.. [Ayes: Jacob Woodruff, John Brewington, Howard Blumenthal, Jerry Belcher, Paul Barlow; Nays: None]

Motion: Upon Howard Blumenthal's motion and John Brewington's second, the Commission recommends that they make rental fee on new larger gazebo \$60. [Ayes: Jacob Woodruff, John Brewington, Howard Blumenthal, Jerry Belcher, Paul Barlow; Nays: None]

Motion: Upon Howard Blumenthal's motion and John Brewington's second, the Commission recommends the Veterans Memorial gazebo be called Area #2. [Ayes: Jacob Woodruff, John Brewington, Howard Blumenthal, Jerry Belcher, Paul Barlow; Nays: None]

Houk said they are remodeling the restrooms at Campbell.

Belcher said Morten and Mayor Scholl wanted them to come up with improvements to Grey Cliffs Park. He would like everyone to go look at the park before the next meeting and make a list of top five priorities and justify the reasons for top two choices. He broke it down into three areas: upper level and cliff trail, middle level where dog park is and lower level.

8) Other Business

Belcher said he was working in his yard and someone stopped and asked him where the fenced dog park was so he was happy to know people are using it. Also he is impressed with the work that has been done at Nob Hill.

9) Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 5:33 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Sheri Ingram, Parks & Trails Secretary