

City of St. Helens

Parks & Trails Commission

Approved

10/08/18

Members Present: Stan Chiotti
Howard Blumenthal
Carmin Dunn
Elisa Mann

Members Absent: John Brewington
Jacob Woodruff
Jerry Belcher

Staff Present: Thad Houk
Neal Sheppeard
Sheri Ingram
Doug Morten

Others:

1) **Call Meeting to Order**

Meeting was called to order by Chair Chiotti at 4:12 p.m.

2) **Approval of Minutes**

2.A Minutes of August 13, 2018

Motion: Upon Howard Blumenthal's motion and Carmin Dunn's second, the Commission unanimously approved the minutes of August 13, 2018 [AYES: Stan Chiotti, Howard Blumenthal, Carmin Dunn, Elisa Mann; Nays: None]

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

4) **Councilor's Report**

Ingram could not hear the first part of the report on the recording because he did not have his microphone on. There have been talks amongst the staff about opening the trestle at Frogmore Slough to obtain a path over to the peninsula between the sewage pond and the river for a recreational area. It could be a walking trail or bike path.

If we get to a point where we have to utilize pavement for bike lanes, what kind of striping do they think it should be? The Wayfinding didn't really address those concerns. The ones in Portland are green outlined in white. If they had pedestrians in those areas also, would they have a recommendation on what color those areas should be? Sheppeard said he thinks most of that is regulated by the State so we can't just do anything we want. It has to meet traffic codes. Blumenthal said he thinks it's good that they built a fence to keep people off the trestle but did anyone think about the migration of the deer? It's a boxed area if a hunter comes up a certain way. Sheppeard said there

isn't hunting allowed in the city limits. Morten said if you ever see hunters down there, call the police.

Morten said Veterans Park is a little behind schedule because they have hit a lot of glitches. They will see where everything will piece in by the first of November.

5) **New Business**

5.A **Term Expirations**

Chiotti and Woodruff's terms expire at the end of this year. Chiotti said he will step down and Ingram will e-mail Woodruff to see if he would like to serve another term.

5.B **Meeting Frequency**

Blumenthal thought it would be a good idea to go back to monthly meetings. He thinks things are getting moved out too far. Chiotti said he had no problem with it. Ingram said part of the reason it went to every other month was because we have a lot of City staff who are on overtime after 4:30 so the City has to pay overtime on all of those people to be there. Morten said that was the intent of the Council was to stretch it out so it didn't tax the staff so much. Blumenthal said we have made two commissions into one so that takes away a staff person who doesn't have to go to those meetings. The second Monday of November is Veterans Day so it was decided to start this in 2019.

Motion: Upon Howard Blumenthal's motion and Elisa Mann's second, the Commission unanimously approve changing the meeting frequency from every other month to every month except November starting in January 2019. [AYES: Stan Chiotti, Howard Blumenthal, Carmin Dunn, Elisa Mann; Nays: None]

5.C **Nob Hill Benches**

Thad had pictures of ideas for different benches for Nob Hill. They still have frames for old benches and will probably work on putting that together this week. They were thinking of putting one up above the stairway. Blumenthal said it would be good by the concrete block in the flat area. They were also thinking of putting one by the kiosk.

5.D **Park Report - Dog Parks - postpone to December**

6) **Old Business**

6.A **Defining "Friends" Groups**

Morten wanted their input and would like to see it defined in the Master Plan. Chiotti said Pat Birkle had come in and talked about Dalton Lake and cleanup event. Sheppard said he already had the SOLV event down there this month. Chiotti wanted to make sure they got everything they needed from the City since it's not a park and the Parks Commission doesn't have any jurisdiction over it. Morten said they should keep the "friends" group loose-knit and just have a go-to person like Blumenthal is for Nob Hill. There should be some sort of documentation on who these people are though.

7) **Discussion Items**

The police Department are having their Trunk or Treat event and Chiotti will man a booth there since his wife will be there for MADD and Mann and Dunn will provide some candy. Everyone

should give Chiotti any information they would like presented at the event. Blumenthal asked if we have any of the old parks brochures and Bikes and Peds maps we could hand out.

Chiotti said they usually get hundreds of kids at this event and a lot of grown-ups. Dunn will print out list of parks and map of where they are.

Morten said there has been a legal lapse on the plan for Sand Island because they wanted to get camping going last spring and it sat on attorney's desk for 7 months. The attorney got fired and a new one hired who is working on it. It will save the parks money and cut down on vandalism and drug use over there. They will shuttle campers and day users. He asked if they would like to see the agreement and give a recommendation before it goes to Council and they said yes.

Blumenthal said that last Thursday they had blackberries sprayed at Nob Hill and it rained the next day so will see how it works. They will have a work party on Nov. 3rd. They renewed the annual Intertwine membership. He asked if they could take a field trip out to the trestle area and Sheppard said that can be arranged but they won't walk across the tracks because that would be unsafe. It might be best to have Houk take them out on the barge in spring.

Houk said everyone knows the memorial is being built and it looks nice so far. They are jumping through a few hoops to get restroom open at Grey Cliffs. Tomorrow they will be taking down about 10 dead trees in dog park area and also a few in Heinie Heumann later. Sheppard said there was an article in the Oregonian about this being the worst year for drought causing tree problems and it takes a couple of years to show up. These are dead from 2016 drought so they may have this issue again in a couple of years from drought this year.

Chiotti asked Houk if they make mulch from theleaves and Houk said no.

Dunn said they have met as a subcommittee about the trails and are putting together a presentation on the proposed new trail.

Sheppard said PUD should be hooking up power at Grey Cliffs restroom this week.

Chiotti said the garden club is having a plant sale at library this Saturday. The corner by 18th & OPR got very overgrown and a lot of dead shrubbery. They ended up hiring maintenance group for \$375 to clean it up and the garden club paid for it. The next time they go to the fairgrounds, they should see the artwork on the side of the floral building. The kids did a great job on it and also on the new mural on the side of the John Gumm building. There are a lot of old buildings that could use the artwork that these kids provide. Maybe we could have some painted on the sides of the restrooms in the parks. Dunn said she would take it to the Arts & Cultural Commission. Chiotti said we could suggest a theme we would like.

Blumenthal said we had talked before about putting up signs saying who has maintained different areas around town. Chiotti said they have one at the Triangle for the Garden Club and one at Walnut Tree Park for the Kiwanis. They are hoping to get one for McCormick but haven't done it yet.

8) **Other Business**

9) **Adjournment**

Meeting was adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Sheri Ingram.