

ST. HELENS PARKS COMMISSION

Minutes for Meeting of October 19, 2015

Council Chambers, City Hall

MEMBERS PRESENT

Jacob Woodruff, Chair
Howard Blumenthal, Vice Chair
Elisa Mann, Commissioner
Stan Chiotti, Commissioner
John Brewington, Commissioner
Jerry Belcher, Commissioner

MEMBERS ABSENT

Phillip Roddy, Commissioner

COUNCILORS IN ATTENDANCE

Doug Morten

STAFF PRESENT

Jenny Dimsho, Assistant Planner
Sheri Ingram, Secretary

GUESTS

Nicole Thill
Doug Desilva
David Hamblin

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CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Chair Woodruff at 4:00 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chiotti made a **motion** to approve the minutes of the August 17, 2015 meeting. Motion was seconded by Blumenthal and approved unanimously.

TOPICS FROM THE FLOOR

Doug Desilva from Troop 142 was attending the meeting as part of his Eagle Scout project. Nicole Thill from the Spotlight was just there to observe.

NEW BUSINESS

Adopted Master Plan: Dimsho said Morten suggested they go over the Master Plan. They talked about it while it was being developed and the Parks Commission was instrumental in a lot of the projects that got recommended. She outlined each chapter with them. She said Morten had suggested they divide the parks up into groups that they could oversee and report on.

Chiotti said he would take Walnut Tree Park and Heinie Heumann. The garden club is involved with the triangle and they have adopted the entrance to McCormick and sign area on the corner.

Woodruff and Blumenthal will take Sand Island. Woodruff also bounces around the ball fields at McCormick and 6th Street so will take those. He thinks the ore people that work on McCormick, the better because it's so big.

Blumenthal will take Nob Hill and Dalton Lake.

Mann will take McCormick for the trails and Grey Cliffs for the dog parks at both.

Belcher will take the Botanical Gardens and Grey Cliffs and maybe Godfrey.

Brewington will take Columbia View and Campbell

Belcher thought it would be a good idea to take Dalton Lake even though it is not part of our parks system right now because it would be nice to know where we stand in the process. He also likes the idea of empowering people to have park they look at and he thinks they should build it into their schedule that a couple of people to talk about their parks at every meeting.

It was decided to report on 6th Street, Godfrey and Grey Cliffs at the December meeting.

David Hamblin said he is on a committee for the Boy Scouts Pack 142 and it's his job to see that they get their Eagle Scout awards which is the highest one they can achieve. There are 2.2 million Boy Scouts and less than 3% get their Eagle Scout award. An example is they just did the irrigation, landscaping and electrical for the Veterans Park in Columbia City. The City purchased the materials and if it is a task the Eagle Scouts can plan, schedule and do safely, they do the labor for nothing.

Camping: Morten said the Council would like to see camping at Sand Island and discussed how to charge people. There was a handout with pros and cons for different options and he recommended they take a strong look at option #3. He wants them to look at it and make a recommendation back to the Council.

Brewington said we don't have the ability to get the police out to the island right away. A camp host may cut down on the bad activity but they could also run into drunk or threatening people. Woodruff said we have a caretaker at McCormick but we still have problems over there. Belcher thought if we put a structure over there like a yurt, it would probably get vandalized. Dimsho said the Capital Improvement section of the Master Plan recommends doing some kind of study before doing any of those options. It would look at the costs of a caretaker and how many campsites the island can feasibly hold and where they would be and how much we could collect in fees. It would basically be a site master plan for Sand Island.

After some discussion Belcher made a **motion** that they recommend that the Council go forward with a study. Motion was seconded by Brewington and approved unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Blumenthal said Carolyn Skinner asked him to mention that they would like to get a bench and kiosk at Nob Hill someday. That may be able to fall in the category of a Boy Scout project. They are also having a work party on Saturday, November 7th at 1:00. Also there are a lot of people using one area with a walkable grade as an access point from the park into the Boise property. There are a lot of tree roots in it and the neighbor said they need to build a staircase in it. Dimsho said that would be a City decision on whether we want that to be used or not. Blumenthal said water runs down that in the winter. Dimsho said the kiosk is listed as a high priority and if Sheppard was there, she would ask him if he could just build a kiosk on the Wastewater Plant side. She also said we did not get the HEAL grant for a kiosk at Columbia View and no smoking signs.

Belcher said he would like to see a fenced dog area. He would like the others to talk to their friends and neighbors who have dogs and see what they think about a fenced dog area. If it was approved and the City paid for it, he would be willing to head up the installation. The Grey Cliffs one is well defined. Elisa said most people at McCormick don't want a fence because they like having access to the creek. Dimsho suggested maybe putting one in Civic Pride or Heine Heumann.

Chiotti said they are going to have their Veterans Day ceremony at McCormick as usual.

Brewington thanked Dimsho for all of her work on the Master Plan.

Woodruff said he appreciates all that the Scouts do and it would be great to get them more involved with the parks.

COUNCILOR'S REPORT

Morten said he is an advocate of youth on the Commission and he applauds the Scouts for being there. He would like one or two members of the youth council or Scouts to work with the Parks Commission.

The Council is all about listening to the Commission and a fenced dog area may be a good idea because not everyone trusts unleashed dogs.

The Council waived fees for community events for non-profits and City-sponsored events and they will waive the fees for the Veterans ceremony.

OTHER MATTERS

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 5:05 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, December 14, 2015, at 4:00 p.m., in the Council Chambers at City Hall.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sheri Ingram
Secretary

2015 ATTENDANCE RECORD							
P = PRESENT / E = EXCUSED ABSENCE/U = UNEXCUSED ABSENCE							
Meeting Date	John Brewington	VACANT	Jacob Woodruff	VACANT	Stan Chiotti	Howard Blumenthal	Phillip Roddy
2/09	P		P		P	P	P
4/20	P	Elisa Mann	P	Jerry Belcher	P	P	P
6/15	E	P	P	E	E	P	P
8/17	P	P	P	P	P	P	P
10/19	P	P	P	P	P	P	E
12/14							