

ST. HELENS PARKS COMMISSION

Minutes for Meeting of December 14, 2015

Council Chambers, City Hall

MEMBERS PRESENT

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

MEMBERS ABSENT

Phillip Roddy, Commissioner
Jerry Belcher, Commissioner

COUNCILORS IN ATTENDANCE

Ginny Carlson

STAFF PRESENT

Neal Sheppeard, PW Supervisor
Jenny Dimsho, Assistant Planner
Sheri Ingram, Secretary

GUESTS

Nicole Thill
Mike Howard

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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 October 19, 2015 meeting. Motion was seconded by Blumenthal and approved unanimously.

TOPICS FROM THE FLOOR

NEW BUSINESS

Nob Hill Trail: Blumenthal said there is area people use for a trail and water does flow down and it eroded almost a foot last week with the heavy rain and there are exposed tree roots. He was wondering if we could put a walk through gate down by the treatment plant to the Boise property. Sheppeard said it is a natural drainage and mostly kids use it so how do we stop them? Dimsho said that isn't in the Master Plan but there is a proposed trail on the other end by the gate near the entrance of the park. There is also a staircase pedestrian access point further down outside the park. At this point we are just waiting to see what gets planned. Sheppeard also thought it wasn't a good idea because we are trying to discourage kids from being down at that end because there are dangers. Blumenthal said we are also getting graffiti down there. He was also concerned about the old log lift area on the Boise property. There is a waist-deep hole in there that should be filled in. Sheppeard said he would take a look at it. Blumenthal said people have also been digging at the base of the cliff for artifacts.

Park Reports: 6th Street Park - Woodruff said he talked to people at 6th Street to see what they would like and most said a play structure. Dimsho said the highest recommendation in the Master Plan was for a restroom. Brewington said there used to be one there but it got vandalized so much, we took it out. Carlson said her son plays soccer there and she has seen small structures that can be in a small area. Maybe they could put something along the side where the Alano Club is and the Alano Club might be willing to partner on something as a shared use.

Grey Cliffs Dog Park - Mann said she would recommend putting some sort of short visual barrier on the edge of the cliffs. The drop-off is covered in brambles so it can't be seen. She was thinking we should put up something short for a visual barrier that doesn't block the view. Sheppard said we are planning on taking out some wild cherries and a cottonwood tree which will open up the view up there too. There are a couple of homeowners above there and the trees are starting to interfere with their view so they are going to pay for the tree removal.

Dimsho asked Sheppard about building a kiosk for Nob Hill on the Wastewater side. Just something simple like a two post message board and it doesn't need to have a concrete base. Woodruff said he thought the Eagle Scout had talked about doing that for a project.

McCormick Dog Park - Mann said everyone she talked to said they didn't want fencing at McCormick because they felt it would detract from the park and they like the creek access for the dogs. She got an e-mail from someone suggesting fencing Heinie Heumann park and leaving McCormick the way it is. She looked at and thought it would be a good place for a fenced dog park too and there is plenty of parking. Howard didn't want to see it fenced as he thought it would detract from some of the attributes like creek access and the open spaces there. The dogs socialize together so they don't have problems with dogs running away.

Chiotti thought Heinie Heumann would be the best place for a fenced one too because the back side is already fenced because that is where the community garden is and the access on 16th Street is a dead end with a lot of parking and very few people use it. Dimsho said that park is a water retention area that is a storm drainage ditch so it could not be fenced in and she would be worried about the grass getting torn up and it becoming a muddy mess because it's so sloshy. It may cause some long-term issues with the grass and erosion. Sheppard said Civic Pride was talked about before and part of that is already fenced. Blumenthal is concerned about the dogs in the creek causing loss of riparian areas and thought it would be better to find someplace with a sandy access. Mann said there are two points of access to the creek from the dog park at McCormick and it is all rock. Howard said Fish & Wildlife walks the creek once a week to monitor flow and habitat and they have never expressed any concerns. Because of the basalt rock, it didn't even get muddy this summer when it was just a trickle.

At the next meeting, they would like reports on Campbell, Walnut Tree and Godfrey parks.

COUNCILOR'S REPORT

OTHER MATTERS

Blumenthal said a couple of years ago they sprayed for blackberries at Nob Hill and the City contributed some money and he is hoping they can do that again this summer. He is hoping the City would throw in \$100 to \$150 to put towards it. Sheppard asked why we just don't have Paul do it and Blumenthal said it's up to him but last time they had several people come in with sprayers and they did it fast but he would like Paul to spray for poison oak this year.

Chiotti said they had about 150 people at the Veterans Day ceremony and they had beautiful weather. He wanted to thank the Council for waiving the fees.

Woodruff asked about the pedestrian bridge at McCormick and Dimsho said they are working on buying abutments. Sheppeard said we may have to rethink it after seeing the floodwaters last week.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 4:55 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, February 8, 2016, 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	P	P	P	A	P	P	E