

ST. HELENS PARKS COMMISSION

Minutes for Meeting of April 11, 2016

Council Chambers, City Hall

MEMBERS PRESENT

Jacob Woodruff, Chair
Howard Blumenthal, Vice Chair
Elisa Mann, Commissioner
Stan Chiotti, Commissioner
Phillip Roddy, Commissioner
Jerry Belcher, Commissioner

STAFF PRESENT

Neal Sheppeard, PW Supervisor
John Walsh, City Administrator
Jenny Dimsho, Assistant Planner
Sheri Ingram, Secretary

GUESTS

MEMBERS ABSENT

John Brewington, Commissioner

COUNCILORS IN ATTENDANCE

Doug Morten

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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 February 8, 2015 meeting. Motion was seconded by Blumenthal and approved unanimously.

TOPICS FROM THE FLOOR

NEW BUSINESS

Disc Golf Course Damage: Blumenthal was concerned with the damage done by people going in there with heavy equipment and digging ditches. Sheppeard said the disc golf people went in there to clean up and made ruts without authorization. The City also went in and cleaned out some fallen trees after the windstorm so some of the damage was caused by us. Blumenthal asked if the ditch was going to be filled back in because it was in an area that held water for the vegetation. Sheppeard said they are looking at it and talking to the City Planner about it. Also nothing grows because of the water standing in there too long. Blumenthal said a lot of vegetation is gone now and is wondering if we can seed it with native grasses. Sheppeard said this is the wettest winter we have had and we may have to close it in the winter in the future. Blumenthal also asked what the policy was for graffiti and Houk said they will paint over it when it's dry enough.

Dalton Lake: Blumenthal asked if that could be considered a nature park yet and Morten said it is looked at as public owned land we lease through the state. There is administrative red tape on whether we can declare it a park. Dimsho said it is owned by ODOT as a mitigation area and we have a use agreement with them. If we wanted to pursue getting it, we would have to contact

ODOT. It's not impossible but is that something we want to take that on with our maintenance situation with parks. Morten said people ask us to clean up and stop the shooting and garbage and camping down there. If we endorsed it as a park, the police would have authority to patrol that area. Dimsho said the property would have to be annexed into the City and then zoned as open space before we could add it to the parks inventory.

Belcher said he and his wife regularly go different places to go walking with their dogs and a great walk would be to park at the Humane Society and walk around Dalton Lake and down to the dog park in Columbia City, catch Veterans Park and Pixie Park. They could connect a bunch of parks together and put it on the website for people to use.

Blumenthal made a **motion** to go through the process to make Dalton Lake a City Park. Motion was seconded by Belcher and approved unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

Annual Report to Council: Ingram reminded them that Chiotti and Brewington are scheduled to give the annual report to the Council on June 1st at 1:00 pm.

Dog Park: Sheppard said they estimated \$8000 for a fenced dog park and they put it in the budget but we will have to see if it stays there. Chiotti said he checked with the Senior Center and they had no problem with a dog park being out there.

COUNCILOR'S REPORT

Morten stated he just got out of Bonamici's meeting at the library and it was very insightful about monetary funds coming to Columbia County.

Council and staff met quite a bit about dog parks and came up with a priority of Heinie Heumann park as it is a good fit. Staff recommends keeping out of the low area because of water in the winter. Civic Pride is fenced on three sides but there are homes adjacent to it. The resurfacing of the tennis courts at Campbell didn't make it into the budget this year but possibly next year. It would be good if the Parks Commission could start looking for alternate sites for new ones in the future.

They have had public hearings on a new stage at Columbia View and what to do with the gazebo. It made sense to hire a professional consultant to see how it fits in with the new waterfront design.

As far as parks funding, so far they have been able to squeeze out 2/10 of a full time employee out of the budget meetings. Every other department needs something so in his way of thinking, instead of going out for some kind of measure or bond or levy, we're thinking of maybe possibly having a parks maintenance fee such as other cities have added on to the water bill. It would give them a substantial amount of money devoted strictly to parks. Woodruff said he would be okay with it if he knew it was going to parks. Morten said they could put a parks fee on the ballot or hold hearings to see about adding it onto the bills. It would most likely be used for maintenance for basic needs. Belcher suggested we put it on the agenda for the June meeting. Dimsho recommended they read Chapter 7 of the Master Plan because it talks about the struggle over the years in FTEs and makes other recommendations for funding other than just the utility fee charge so they can at least see the other options on how other cities fund their parks maintenance.

Morten said along with that, what if they put in an RV park on the Boise property behind the FARA building along the creek. They could use the building for showers and a workout area. There is not an RV park in the area for people who come here for ball tournaments and whatnot and the funds from the rental could go to parks. It's just an idea that came up for funding the parks. Houk asked what the Council's opinion was on adding that property from the ballfields to Old Portland Rd. to the parks inventory and Dimsho said there would have to be a zone change on that property and it is surrounded by heavy industrial property so that may be hard to change.

Morten said the hospital property has a wetland area adjacent to the park property on Ross Rd. and the Maple St. area. They should look at maybe making that a nature park and look at connectivity for pedestrians and parking. Dimsho said there are a lot of tax lots around it and no roads so that can be difficult. Mann said they should go out and look at it. After some discussion it was decided to take a field trip out there on May 9th at 4:00.

OTHER MATTERS

Blumenthal said they had 10 people for the Nob Hill work party. They had six bags of linaria and blackberry vines and the bags disappeared. He doesn't know who picked them up. They had nine people for the native plant walk the following day. He also wanted to remind everyone of the Waterfront Development meeting on April 27th.

Belcher said there will be a cleanup day on April 23rd at Dalton Lake.

Morten said on Sand Island there are survey stakes and we own inside the stakes and the Corps of Engineers owns outside the stakes. The island grows and shrinks depending on dredging and erosions and he is wondering if we can own everything to the water line to make it easier to enforce the rules on the whole island. Belcher made a **motion** to recommend that the City negotiate that all exposed ground be controlled by the City. Motion was seconded by Chiotti and approved unanimously.

Woodruff said Little League had opening day ceremonies at the Moose Lodge on April 2nd and he showed the sign to the family dedicating Field #1 at 6th St. to John Warren. The family loved the sign and his daughter called him that night and thanked him. Opening game day at the park is April 23rd and she is going to be there that day to see the sign on the field.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 5:15 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, June 13, 2016, at 4:00 p.m., in the Council Chambers at City Hall.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sheri Ingram
Secretary

2016 ATTENDANCE RECORD							
P = PRESENT / E = EXCUSED ABSENCE/U = UNEXCUSED ABSENCE							
Meeting Date	John Brewington	Elisa Mann	Jacob Woodruff	Jerry Belcher	Stan Chiotti	Howard Blumenthal	Phillip Roddy
2/08	P	P	P	P	P	P	P
4/11	A	P	P	P	P	P	P
6/13	NO QUORUM						
8/8							
10/10							
12/12							