

St. Helens Parks Commission

Monday, April 11, 2016, 4:00 p.m.

City Hall Council Chambers

Agenda

1. Call Meeting to Order
2. Approval of Minutes: February 8, 2016 regular meeting
3. Topics from the floor—from attendees not otherwise on the agenda
Speakers are limited to 3-5 minutes. Topics requiring action may be placed on the next meeting's agenda for further discussion.
4. Councilor's Report
5. New Business
 - Disc Golf Course Damage
6. Old Business
 - Annual Report to Council
 - Dog Park Estimates
7. Discussion Items
8. Other Matters
9. Adjournment

The next regular meeting of the St. Helens Parks Commission is scheduled at 4:00 p.m. on Monday, June 13, 2016, in the City Hall Council Chambers.

ST. HELENS PARKS COMMISSION

Minutes for Meeting of February 8, 2016

Council Chambers, City Hall

MEMBERS PRESENT

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

MEMBERS ABSENT

COUNCILORS IN ATTENDANCE

Doug Morten

STAFF PRESENT

Sue Nelson, Engineering Supervisor
John Walsh, City Administrator
Thad Houk, Parks Supervisor
Jenny Dimsho, Assistant Planner
Sheri Ingram, Secretary

GUESTS

Nicole Thill
Paul Eldridge

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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 December 14, 2015 meeting. Motion was seconded by Blumenthal and approved unanimously.

TOPICS FROM THE FLOOR

Eldridge said that there are people walking their dogs in the dog park after they get home from working in Portland and the park attendant said they needed to get out. This was a 5:15. He said dusk is a half hour after sunset and most parks close at dusk which would have been 6:00 and it's not fair to people who work in Portland. Houk said he would talk to the caretaker, Pete Lim. He said it is posted on the big sign board at the main park entrance. Houk said he has also had several requests from people to get rid of the "no ball" rule at the dog park. People do it anyway. Morten said he has had people ask him the same thing. Belcher made a **motion** that they allow dog toys at the McCormick Dog Park. Motion was seconded by Mann and approved unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

Exclusive Use Permit: Girls Softball turned in an Exclusive Use Permit for their regular season at Campbell Park from March 28 to June 30 and there are no conflicts. No one had any objections.

Grant Support Letter: Dimsho had a letter for the same grant program that let them fund the bridge project. Picnic shelter usage is extremely high in McCormick and that shelter gets booked sometimes up to a year in advance. She thinks another shelter will be a good grant-funded project

and a good location would be by the playground. If they approve, she would just like the letter signed by the Chair and Woodruff signed the letter.

Proposed Stage at Columbia View Park: Walsh had a concept rendering of a possible new stage. The concept is simple and it would be able to be seen through but still shelter from rain. Chiotti asked why they can't leave the gazebo and put a new stage behind it closer to the river. Brewington said his thought on that is there will be issues with wind if it's closer to the river. Houk said he would like to see the gazebo moved to the Boise Property so they could have a covered area there. Chiotti said they have a lot of weddings and picnics in the gazebo and Brewington said he thinks the new stage would get used for that too. Walsh said the cost would be covered by Tourism and naming rights. Belcher made a **motion** that the City move forward with planning for a new stage area. Motion was seconded by Brewington and approved unanimously.

Annual Report to Council: Ingram said Kathy Payne sent out an e-mail the previous August stating each Board and Commission had to do an annual report to the Council and the Parks Commission is scheduled for June 1st with materials submitted to Kathy by May 20th. They need to pick a couple of people to deliver the report to the Council. They decided it will be Brewington and Chiotti. Ingram said she would forward Kathy's e-mail to them and also remind them at the April meeting.

Campbell Park Report: Brewington said the tennis courts are a liability. There was an estimate in the Master Plan of \$100,000.00 and somebody else said they could seal it for less. He also thinks it's time to upgrade the restrooms. Houk said we will replace sinks with updated stainless steel ones as they get vandalized instead of doing them all at once. Houk said it was suggested they make the tennis courts into an enclosed dog area. He said Civic Pride would be a great location for a sport court. Dimsho said we need to think about the cost of a new sport court that could accommodate multiple sports compared to the cost of trying to repair the existing tennis courts. Dimsho also wanted to let them know Councilor Carlson and Rotary have gotten funds for ADA swings and they are hoping to install them at Campbell Park.

Chiotti said he'd rather see a dog park in Campbell since it's already fenced instead of Heinie Heumann. It would be good to have one on that side of town. Heinie Heumann does have a good area for one though and good access for parking. It has shade and water already.

Godfrey Park Report: Belcher said Godfrey has amenities such as a drinking fountain, covered picnic area and play equipment. It would be nice to have restrooms and the play equipment needs to be updated. A recommendation in the plan was to have an ADA swing added to the existing swings. Dimsho said the old swings can't be brought up to code so an ADA swing can't be added. Portland is experimenting with natural play areas using wood and other materials instead of plastic. Generally they are cheaper but there are a lot of safety requirements and logs decompose so have to be treated. She went to a workshop and Portland Parks went through a lot of hurdles to get theirs installed. Belcher said there are two big rocks that he thinks could be put in a more artistic place like at the entrance. There is also a gravel road through there and off to the right side it doesn't look like a park. His recommendation would be to level that out and put fill in for aesthetic enhancement. That could also be a good place for a natural play area.

OLD BUSINESS

Renaming 6th Street Field: Woodruff said the Little League president would like to invite the family to opening day ceremonies and make a speech about renaming Field #1 at 6th Street the John Warren Memorial Field. They would like to have a Councilor there to say a few words and the newspapers will be there.

COUNCILOR'S REPORT

Morten liked having the meetings on the second week of the month during the holidays and suggested they think about changing them permanently. It falls in better with the flow being on the week between Council meetings. After some discussion the commissioners agreed unanimously that changing the meetings from the third Monday to the second Monday would work out better.

Morten asked if the "Councilor's Report" could be moved up on the agenda above "New Business".

Morten said he recommends they figure out a wish list for each park for budgeting and planning ahead. They should make a list and have Sheppard, Nelson and Houk look them over and we can go forward with budget requests. We need to have things down so we can get money in the budget and we also need to have it in black and white if grant opportunities come up. Woodruff thought we prioritized things in the Master Plan but Dimsho said that is probably the weakest part of the plan because it was a broad approach.

OTHER MATTERS

Belcher said when he was on vacation he was with a guy who is the Parks Director in Calgary, Canada and his parks budget is \$40 million dollars and they have 300 dog parks. He has dogs so has a vested interest in dog parks. He doesn't care if they go to Campbell Park because it sounds like the tennis courts are unusable anyway. He is picturing one at Heinie Heumann being up by the community garden and triangle shaped so it's not in the ditch. It is relatively flat and a drier part of the park. He's not sure where to go from here. Do they want to make a recommendation to tear up the tennis courts and make it a dog park or have City staff work up a cost on building one at Heinie Heumann?

Chiotti pointed out that there is shade at Heinie Heumann but not at Campbell which will be hot for dogs in the summer. Woodruff thought they should look at the cost on both putting in a triangle-shaped dog park at Heinie Heumann and tearing up the tennis courts to make a dog park at Campbell. Blumenthal said they would probably need to wait until they had replacements before tearing up the tennis courts. Morten said the tennis courts are next to quite a few back yards so there is a consideration for what the impact will be. Heinie Heumann is a street away from any residences. He does agree it would be nice if there was a dog park on that side of town but there is an off-leash area at Asbury Acres. Dimsho thought someone should ask the Senior Center what they think of a dog park since they are so close to it and Chiotti said he would go talk to them.

Blumenthal said their next work party at Nob Hill will be Saturday, April 2nd. They are going to work on the invasives down along the cliff faces. Dimsho said she would talk to Sheppard about getting that opened for them and she will also talk to him about possibly having the crew build a kiosk in the off season. Blumenthal said they also have the native plant walk on April 3rd.

Houk said Paul Barlow is having their big BMX race on July 9th this year. Other than that they are still doing storm clean-up at the parks.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 5:33 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, April 11, 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							
6/13							
8/8							
10/10							
12/12							