

ST. HELENS PARKS COMMISSION

Minutes for Meeting of April 10, 2017

Council Chambers, City Hall

MEMBERS PRESENT

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

MEMBERS ABSENT

John Brewington, Commissioner

COUNCILOR IN ATTENDANCE

STAFF PRESENT

Thad Houk, Parks Supervisor
Sheri Ingram, Secretary
Jenny Dimsho, Assistant Planner

GUESTS

Takayuki Shigematsu
Ashley Schnell
Johnathan Morales
Janine Norris
Evan Dahl
Cody Koski
Nathan Willard
Jenn Farrington

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CALL TO ORDER

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Roddy made a **motion** to approve the minutes of the February 13, 2017 meeting. Motion was seconded by Mann and approved unanimously.

TOPICS FROM THE FLOOR

COUNCILOR'S REPORT

Morten was not present.

NEW BUSINESS

Columbia View Expansion: Dimsho said PSU has a Masters in Urban and Regional Planning Program and as part of their degree program in their last semester, they do a final project where they work with communities and the Columbia View Park Expansion was chosen by this group of students for their final project. Paul Gagliardi from PSU said they did a community outreach event last month so he will go over what they got from the event. Their purpose is to work with the public and get as much input as possible. Their final product will contain all the Parks Commission's input and the community's input in a final report they will present to City Council on June 7th.

They had an introductory forum on March 17th attended by about 30 people. Some of the main things that came up is the event space is too small, there is a lack of parking, no water access, lack of ADA access. A lot of people complained that there are not enough bathrooms and the playground is too small. They wanted to enhance what was already working because there are a lot of positives but they also want to see what they can do to improve it. He gave a PowerPoint presentation that went over improvements for the users, accessibility, landscaping that were suggestions from the community. A lot of people would like to save the gazebo or move it and put in a bigger stage area. They would like to put in a bigger play area and a dog area. There were suggestions for more restrooms, bigger splash pad, benches, a lighted walkway, more parking spaces, a loading and unloading area and a vendor area. He asked for their thoughts on it.

Houk said he doesn't know if the PSU group is aware that they only have four people who work in the Parks Department and we have 13 parks. Gagliardi said they were aware it as a small department. Woodruff asked if they knew there was a cliff along the water and Gagliardi said yes but there were suggestions of a boardwalk up top with railings. Houk also said there wasn't a need for a lighted walkway when the park closes at sunset.

Blumenthal asked what they mean by a dog-friendly area and Gagliardi said they were thinking a fenced in off-leash area. Houk said that would be a huge money issue and we have three off-leash areas in other parks already. Dimsho said she thought they should think of it as an event space and not worry about fencing.

Belcher said he wasn't sure they need to remove the existing gazebo because it's cool for small events. Gagliardi said they had the group who thought they should move the gazebo and build a bigger one and another group who thought they should build a bigger one and just get rid of the old one. Blumenthal said maybe the old one could be moved to another park. Dimsho said she knows it was moved before years ago and it was precarious then and it's only gotten older. Houk said they replaced the plywood a few years ago but it is not in the best shape. Also all the power boxes for the whole area are on the gazebo and he has no idea what's underneath it.

Houk asked what their idea was for parking. He envisioned moving the fence in a little bit to make more parking. Blumenthal said once they expand that road through there, there will be more on-street parking available. Belcher asked where they were thinking about having a vendor area. Gagliardi said they are going to have three different plans that people can look at and make input on at the next forum. They can look at the plans and tell them what they like and dislike. It will be on April 26th at the Merriweather Center.

Grant: Dimsho said on Friday they received notice that we got the grant for the expansion of the Veterans Memorial to include veterans of recent conflicts.

Letter of Support: Dimsho said she had a letter of support for a grant for Grey Cliffs Park. She is hoping we can get funds for a restroom and a non-motorized boat launch area for canoes and kayaks. Belcher said they had a discussion before about digging out a lagoon area where kayaks could launch. Dimsho said it's not practical because any time you do anything in-water, there are DSL and Army Corps of Engineers permits involved. She is looking at this as phase one of something bigger. Houk said there are two options for location and asked which they prefer. Dimsho said the water and sewer are to the south so it may cost too much to put it at the north end. The grant application is due at the end of the month so she is asking the Chair to sign the letter of support. There were no objections so Blumenthal signed the letter.

OLD BUSINESS

Park Reports: Ingram said we could hold them over until the next meeting since Brewington wasn't here. Dimsho said she thought it's almost futile to do Columbia View since it's under study by PSU. Everyone agreed so in June, Woodruff will report on McCormick and Belcher will report on Dalton Lake.

Boise Property: Blumenthal asked if anyone had a chance to walk the area that Morten had talked about. Chiotti said he walked from FARA back to the blue gate. Houk said it is past the blue gate. They decided to have a field trip on May 15th at 4:00.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Roddy said the Lions Club is having their 100th anniversary so they are talking to Houk about planting 100 trees. Houk also thanked Roddy and the Lions for rehabbing the exercise equipment. They are doing a great job.

Chiotti thanked Houk for the barkdust and said they had a work party with 12 people for two hours sprucing up Walnut Tree Park. Today the garden club is working on the flower beds on the corner at McCormick. Once a week they take care of the triangle or McCormick or the floral building at the Fairground or Veterans Park in Columbia City.

Blumenthal said the wildflowers are in bloom at Nob Hill right now. They had a work party a couple of weeks ago and had ten people pulling Lunaria and blackberries off the face of the hill. A couple of odd things...someone cut a cherry tree stump in half in the park and someone is taking gravel out of their pile by Waste Water. Also the Scappoose Bay Watershed Council is having their annual plant sale next Saturday. Chiotti said the Garden Club is also having a plant sale at the library on Saturday and the Master Gardeners have a sale at the high school on the 29th.

Belcher said he, Blumenthal and Woodruff met with the Bike & Pedestrian Commission and talked about forming a subcommittee with two or three people from each commission to talk about trails. Belcher and Blumenthal volunteered to be on the subcommittee.

OTHER MATTERS

Houk said Dimsho did a great job getting the grant for the new covered area at McCormick and they have the ground cut out and rock put down and they are just waiting for dry enough weather to pour the slab. Roger from PW and Thad's crew put the new roofs on the dugouts at Campbell.

Youth Soccer contacted him because the fairgrounds decided not to allow them to play soccer up there this year. He is wondering if we can let them use the area on the Boise Property right across from Johnny's Tavern and back towards the baseball fields. It's not park property but it is City property and he would like to make it park property. Dimsho said that is all zoned Heavy Industrial so would have to go through a conditional use or rezoning which would take a while. Houk asked if they could make a motion to let them use it temporarily until something else is done with the property. Woodruff made a **motion** to let Youth soccer have temporary soccer fields on the Boise property. Motion was seconded by Chiotti and approved unanimously.

Houk said we didn't lose a lot of trees during the windstorm and the restrooms at Sand Island are operational again.

Keith Locke stopped by and he said he just wanted to thank those who came to the Bike and Pedestrian Commission meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 5:20 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, June 12, 2017, at 4:00 p.m., in the Council Chambers at City Hall.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sheri Ingram
Secretary

2017 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
2/13	P	P	E	P	P	P	P
4/10	A	P	P	P	P	P	P