

Parks Advisory Board Meeting Minutes April 24, 2019

Chairperson Norma Hernandez called meeting to Order at 6:47am.

Present- Norma Hernandez, Andrew Fick, Josh Saranpaa, Jim Holen, Carla Oya, Howard Rub, and Eric Halverson.

Absent- Jessica Schleif, Natalie Osburn and Michele Tompkins.

Staff- Tim Williams and Fred Pyne.

Public comments

1. There were none.

Approval of Minutes

- A. February minutes were unanimously approved as submitted.

President Hernandez

- A. What do you hear- Carla Oya heard that Park Staff was working with Lewis and Clark School to provide swimming lessons for fourth graders. She also heard that large families were taking swimming lessons in Seaside. She believed cost was a factor. Tim Williams said swim lesson enrollment had increased by 40 percent. The Board and Staff discussed several factors that contribute to families' decisions about where to take swim lessons. They also discussed programs that provide swim lessons for school children. Andrew Fick heard that the Day of Caring at Oceanview went well. He read in the newspaper that the name of the Scandinavian park would be changed and was concerned that the Parks Board had not heard about it first.

Employee and Volunteer Recognition

- A. Director Williams recognized Erin Reding as the April employee of the month.

Astoria Column Report – Fred Pyne, Park Host

Fred Pyne, Column Park Host, reported on his experience working with Park Staff to maintain the park and host events, the new lighting system, and feedback from visitors. The biggest challenges at the park are littering and parking. Construction had also been a challenge. He explained the difficulties involved with installing a new ADA compliant sidewalk to the canoe. An engineer is currently designing a viewing platform in lieu of providing access to the canoe.

Eric Halverson thanked the Friends of the Column for providing free passes for the students attending Prom to have their photos taken at the Column.

Mr. Pyne and Director Williams answered questions about parking and gift shop revenues, parking fees for cruise ship shuttle busses, efforts to prevent smoking, and emergency services at the Column.

Old Business

- A. Jim Holen gave an update on upcoming Parks Foundation fundraisers. The Run on the River will be May 19th and Buoy Beer is this year's major sponsor. Volunteers and donors could still sign up online. The Foundation hoped to raise enough funds to support fourth grade swimming

lessons in addition to their other scholarships and programs. Three Parks After Dark events have been scheduled and the Foundation still needs more volunteers to deliver pizza. President Hernandez encouraged Board members to volunteer for Foundation events. Mr. Holen asked if the Foundation's Bean-for-Bags Fundraiser at the Co-op in June could be advertised on the Parks Department website.

- B. Director Williams updated the Board on Staff's efforts to implement the Parks and Recreation Master Plan. Staff was looking for a consultant to assist with a cemetery master plan, for which capital improvement funds have been budgeted, as well as new exercise equipment and building rehabilitation work.
- C. Carla Oya provided an update on the Scandinavian Heritage Association Monument. She explained that the park committee recommended the name be changed to Astoria Nordic Heritage Park so that more countries could be represented. The name will have to be approved by the City Council. Several Board members wanted the recommendation to be presented to the Parks Board prior to being presented to City Council. Board members need to know what is going on with parks so they can answer questions of community members. Additionally, recommendations to City Council would benefit from having the Park Board's endorsement. President Hernandez explained the Board's role and jurisdiction and said she did not believe the Parks Board had any say about the name of the park. She agreed the newspaper article was premature and asked Director Williams to explain City processes to the park committee.
- D. Director Williams provided details about the Maritime Memorial expansion project. The walls have been erected and Staff is waiting on the black granite to be delivered from India. The project will be complete in time for Memorial Day services.
- E. Director Williams reviewed current staffing levels and efforts to recruit temporary and seasonal employees.

New Business

- A. There was none.

Staff Reports and Upcoming Events

The following reports were presented to the Board as part of the agenda packet:

- A. Maintenance
- B. Aquatic Center
- C. Recreation
- D. Lil Sprouts/Port of Play
- E. Communications/Marketing

Future Meetings

- May 22, 2019 at 6:45 am in City Hall, Council Chambers
- June 26, 2019 at 6:45 am in City Hall, Council Chambers

Non-Agenda/Miscellaneous Business

- 1. Coach Ruby said the high school track students were looking for volunteer opportunities and could help with park projects. The donation the girls' basketball team received from the Jordan Schnitzer Family Foundation for the team to play at an invitational tournament in Alaska was

also discussed. Carla Oya agreed to email him information about the Special Olympics carwash at Napa where they hoped to set a world record.

2. Director Williams said the Day of Caring and the downtown cleanup event each had about 20 participants. He also noted this was the first year the Rotary hosted the Easter egg hunt and they did a great job. He was currently working on a fee schedule and would provide the Board with a budget report at the May meeting.

Next meeting will be held Wednesday, May 22, 2019 at 6:45am at City Hall in City Council Chambers.