

Parks Advisory Board Meeting Minutes October 24, 2018

Eric Halverson called meeting to Order at 6:45 am.

Present- Jessica Schleif, Andrew Fick, Jim Holen, and Eric Halverson.

Absent- Norma Hernandez, Michele Tompkins, and Howard Rub.

Staff- Jonah Dart-McLean, Terra Patterson [13:05], Erin Reding, Vanessa Marshall.

Public comments

1. There were no public comments.

Approval of Minutes

- A. Jessica Schleif said she was not sure if she had asked for bathrooms at Tidal Rock during the September meeting. Andrew Fick suggested approval of the minutes be postponed until more Board members were present. Approval of the September minutes were postponed.

President Hernandez

- A. What do you hear- Andrew Fick appreciated that the Parks Department was represented at the high school's activity fair. He seen heard concerns posted on Facebook about access to the Riverwalk since the bridge project had begun. Jim Holen had also heard concerns about safety on the Riverwalk, particularly in the center of town. The Riverwalk is Astoria's most visible park and one of the main attractions. More lights along the Riverwalk and the opening of the homeless shelter would make the park safer.

Employee and Volunteer Recognition

- A. Terra Patterson and Erin Reding recognized Vanessa Marshall as the October employee of the month.
- B. Terra Patterson recognized Fergus and Tammy Loughran of Hees Enterprises as October Volunteer of the month.

Old Business

- A. Jim Holen announced the Parks Foundation would be participating in Fort George's benefit night on October 30th starting at 5:30 pm. He listed several items that had been donated for the auction, noting who donated each item. The Walmart Foundation recently donated \$3,000.
- B. Interim Director Dart-McLean updated the Board on Staff's efforts to implement the Parks and Recreation Master Plan.
- C. Interim Director Dart-McLean gave an update on staffing changes. Interviews for the Parks Director position would be on Friday and the Grounds Coordinator position was reopened after failing to find a good candidate during last month's interviews.
- D. Interim Director Dart McClean provided a brief update on the Scandinavian Immigrant Monument and handed out materials submitted by the Astoria Scandinavian Heritage Association (ASHA). Julie Lampi, Chair of the ASHA Park Committee, introduced members of the team working on the monument.

Janet Boler, Vice Chair, ASHA Park Committee, gave a PowerPoint presentation on ASHA's monument project, which included an overview of the work done to date, their goals and mission, a detailed description of their design, and next steps.

The project team answered clarifying questions about the lighting, landscaping, seating, architecture, and other specific design details. They also confirmed that all of the funds for the first phase of the project has been raised, and ASHA had already begun their capital fundraising campaign. The timeline is tight, but construction would not begin until all funds had been raised. The project would cost about \$1 million. Staff and the project team answered questions about ASHA's agreement with the City, especially with respect to the long-term care of the park. Per the agreement, the park design included space for a future restroom facility, which would be installed by the City.

The project team gave details about maintaining the park, facilities, and structures and noted the park had been designed for low maintenance and easy replacement of features. The Rotary would be assisting with maintenance, which was a concern among Board members since the Rotary's last structure in the park was left in disrepair. The Board wanted assurance that the Rotary had the capacity to fulfill its commitment to assist with the maintenance of the park.

Ms. Lampi shared plans to form a friends group for ongoing future support and plans to seek funding from international entities.

Andrew Fick wanted assurance that the public approved of the plans. Project Manager Rosemary Johnson provided details about the public hearings and public meetings required before work could begin. She noted that Staff could accept comments from the public at any time. Ms. Lampi shared ASHA's ongoing efforts to solicit feedback from the community.

Interim Director Dart-McLean confirmed that the ASHA would provide more updates at the December 5th Parks Board meeting.

- E. Interim Director Dart-McLean reviewed efforts to restore the Doughboy Monument. The work should be complete prior to the Veteran's Day celebration on November 11th.

New Business

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

- December 5, 2018 at 6:45 am in City Hall, Council Chambers

- January 23, 2019 at 6:45 am in City Hall, Council Chambers

Non-Agenda/Miscellaneous Business

1. Interim Director Dart-McLean said the OK was very well attended.

Next meeting will be held Wednesday, December 5, 2018 at 6:45am at City Hall in City Council Chambers.