

Parks Advisory Board Meeting Minutes

April 25, 2018

Chairperson Norma Hernandez called meeting to Order at 6:50am.

Present- Norma Hernandez, Jessica Schleif, Andrew Fick, Jim Holen, Eric Halverson, Howard Rub, and Michele Tompkins.

Staff- Angela Cosby, Terra Patterson, Susan, and Laura.

Public comments

1. There were none.

Approval of Minutes

- A. February minutes were unanimously approved with the following corrections:
 - Page 2, Paragraph 6 - Andrew Fick clarified he wrote one email to City Council about funding for Parks, and then a second email about his concerns about selling parks.
 - Page 2, Paragraph 2 – Jessica Schleif clarified she did not state that that Staff should make sure potential purchasers were aware of how much the City paid for the property but rather that the City Council and Staff should be made aware and are cognizant of the original purchase price of the property.

President Hernandez

- A. What do you hear- Jessica Schleif heard the new garbage and recycling cans had arrived. She also noted that Tapiola Park looked great. Jim Holen heard the film company was filming in Shively Park. Michele Tompkins thanked Jonah Dart-McLean and Tyler Johnson for assisting with the United Way Projects. Andrew Fick said he continued to hear questions and concerns about selling parks and interest from high school students about Run on the River.

Employee and Volunteer Recognition

- A. Terra Patterson recognized Susan, Laura, and Mindy as the April Employees of the Month. She noted how well they responded to an emergency situation and gave details about each of their contributions to the department.
- B. Jonah Dart-McLean recognized Tongue Point Job Corps as April Volunteer of the month. Katrina Gasser briefly shared her experience working with Mr. Dart-McLean and the students.

Old Business

- A. Jim Holen gave an update on the Parks Foundation. Volunteers are still being recruited for Run on the River and they are still collecting gift cards. Wal-Mart's decision on their community grant application should be made within 30 days.

- B. Director Cosby updated the Board on Staff's efforts to implement the Parks and Recreation Master Plan. Ian Sisson has been hired part time to put the finishing details on the parks and facilities plans, which would be presented to the Board in May.

New Business

- A. Director Cosby updated the Board on the Astoria Column lighting request procedures. City Council approved the Friends of the Column request to develop new procedures. The Friends intended to develop procedures that were fair, economical, and meaningful to the community, while keeping in mind that the Column is a piece of art and a historic structure. New requests would be approved by City Council instead of the Board.
- B. Director Cosby gave an update on the potential sale of City owned park land being discussed at the May 7, 2018 City Council meeting. The Alderbrook Neighbors will oppose the sale of Birch Field and offer to adopt the park. The Lower Columbia Preservation Society will propose adopting the Customs House and the surrounding park site. The Board shared stories about community groups and volunteers stepping up to help preserve park sites.
- C. Regina Wilkey, Chamber of Commerce and Jane Ridley, Oregon Film Heritage Office, gave a presentation on their signage project, which is intended to promote tourism while directing film fans to public access areas rather than private properties featured in films. They are working with Staff to identify appropriate sites in Astoria. Staff answered general questions about the use of Promote Astoria Funds and sign maintenance.
After some discussion in support of the project, the Board unanimously recommended that City Council support the Oregon Film Heritage Signage Project.

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

Future Meetings

- May 23, 2018 at 6:45 am in City Hall, Council Chambers
- June 27, 2018 at 6:45 am in City Hall, Council Chambers

Next meeting will be held Wednesday, May 23, 2018 at 6:45 am at City Hall in City Council Chambers.