

## **Parks Advisory Board Meeting Minutes August 22, 2018**

Chairperson Norma Hernandez called meeting to Order at 6:51 am.

Present- Norma Hernandez, Jessica Schleif, Andrew Fick, Eric Halverson, and Michele Tompkins.

Absent- Jim Holen

Staff- Jonah Dart-McLean, Brianna Bowker

### **Public comments**

1. George Hague, 1 3<sup>rd</sup> Street, Astoria, said 9<sup>th</sup> Street Park was finally mowed after a month and he hoped it would be mowed a couple of times a month from now on. People in the area look after the park, but he did not believe those people would ever form a group who made a formal agreement with the City. He asked that the Board request updates on Tidal Rock Park for the rest of the year. Next month, the City would begin public meetings on the Urban Core plan and he hoped the Board would participate. He had spoken to City Council and the Planning Commission about the use of pictures that are 10 years old, which do not accurately reflect the intended view corridors. According to the text in the Riverfront Vision Plan, there would be a tunnel of buildings north and south of the trolley along the Riverwalk. Parking restrictions will also be discussed. Parking is currently a mess along the Riverwalk and the plan will make the problems worse. He believed rooftop equipment should be counted toward building height requirements. The Fairfield Hotel added frontage to their building to cover the rooftop equipment that was six to 10 feet tall.

### **Approval of Minutes**

- A. Eric Halverson noted he was not present, as stated in the minutes. July minutes were unanimously approved as corrected.

### **President Hernandez**

- A. What do you hear- President Hernandez heard the Parks Foundation received a \$3,000 grant from Walmart. Jessica Schleif said she served beer and pizza at the movie in the park on Saturday and the sound worked fine. Eric Halverson attended the Regatta Run, which had a small turnout, but was a lot of fun.

### **Employee and Volunteer Recognition**

- A. Brianna Bowker recognized Winda Luke as the August employee of the month.
- B. Ms. Bowker recognized Vanessa Bish as August Park Partner of the month.

### **Old Business**

- A. Jonah Dart-McLean said the Parks Foundation's movie night had a good turnout. He confirmed that the Birchfield neighborhood was having movies in the parks as well, but those were not official Parks events.
- B. Mr. Dart-McLean updated the Board on Staff's efforts to implement the Parks and Recreation Master Plan. Updated drafts of the Capital and Maintenance Plans would be ready in September.
- C. Mr. Dart-McLean said City Council had approved a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) for the care and maintenance of Customs House Park by the Lower Columbia Preservation Society (LCPS). The LCPS had requested a few changes to the opt-out language in the agreement

after the Park Board had approved it. Staff worked with the City Attorney to change the agreement. The changes made were not a substantial; the LCPS just wanted the option to opt out of the agreement annually.

- D. Mr. Dart-McLean provided an update on the exterior signage at the Aquatic Center. Roger McKay was selected after Staff reached out to local artists. The words have been painted on the side of the building and Mr. McKay was working on the layout for the blue waves. The mural would be complete by September 15<sup>th</sup>.

### **New Business**

- A. Mr. Dart-McLean updated the Board on vacant Staff positions and recent staffing changes, noting there would be no major changes to the Department's services.

The Board and Staff discussed Angela Cosby's contributions as Parks Director and her resignation's impact on Staff and the Board. They also discussed the Board's involvement in the hiring process for the Parks Director position.

- B. Mr. Dart-McLean presented a list of annual facility closures and briefly explained the work that would be done at each facility.
- C. Mr. Dart-McLean provided details about the 2018 Regatta, which had a great turnout. The Parks Department had a float in the parade, which won an award. Brianna and President Hernandez briefly shared about their experiences at the Regatta.

### **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**

- September 26, 2018 at 6:45 am in City Hall, Council Chambers
- October 24, 2018 at 6:45 am in City Hall, Council Chambers

### **Non-Agenda/Miscellaneous Business**

1. Staff and Board members discussed the recent break in and theft at the Recreation Center and vandalism at the Tapiola restrooms, Tidal Rock Park, and the downtown restrooms.
2. Jessica Schleif announced that the wooden beds at the Grey School community garden needed to be replaced. She suggested the wood be replaced with a sustainable material. Mr. Dart-McLean described the work necessary to replace the wood.
3. Jessica Schleif updated the Board on Tidal Rock Park. The park would have an event as part of the Second Saturday Art Walk on September 8<sup>th</sup>. She provided details about the installations and performances and said restoration and maintenance was ongoing.

**Next meeting will be held Wednesday, September 26, 2018 at 6:45am at City Hall in City Council Chambers.**