

Parks Advisory Board Meeting Minutes February 27, 2019

Chairperson Norma Hernandez called meeting to Order at 6:45 am.

Present- Norma Hernandez, Andrew Fick, Jim Holen, Eric Halverson, and Josh Saranpaa.

Absent- Natalie Osburn, Carla Oya, Michele Tompkins, Jessica Schleif, and Howard Rub

Staff- Tim Williams, Jonah Dart-McLean, Terra Patterson, Dena Allen.

Public comments

1. There were no comments.

Approval of Minutes

- A. January minutes were unanimously approved with the following corrections:
 - What do you hear – “Eric *Halverson* said it was nice to work with Mr. Dart-McLean when things came up.”
 - Old Business – “Josh Saranpaa said, he appreciated what the foundation was doing for Coast Guard families.”

President Hernandez

- A. What do you hear- Jim Holen said he had recently been to several different parks and facilities, which he enjoyed and appreciated. Andrew Fick heard ongoing concerns about the disruption on the Riverwalk and safety issues related to people living on the Riverwalk. Jonah Dart-McLean said people were welcome to call and the City would address the camping issues. Jim Holen added that homeless people were showering at the Aquatic Center. He attended a meeting at the Column on identifying a location where those who wanted housing could come forward to ask for help and take steps to change their situation.

Employee and Volunteer Recognition

- A. Director Williams and Terra Patterson recognized Dena Allen as the February employee of the month.
- B. Director Williams recognized Eric Tse as February Park Partner of the month.

Old Business

- A. Jim Holen gave an update on the Parks Foundation’s most recent meeting. Run on the River needed volunteers and would have a new route this year. He listed the businesses sponsoring the event. The Foundation discussed fundraising so that fourth grade students could use the pool. Parks After Dark needed to be promoted more to tourists. Movies would be chosen at next month’s meeting. The Foundation was considering Amazon Smile as a fundraiser, but would need the Parks Department’s help getting the word out to enough people. Board members shared their opinions of Amazon Smile, collecting donations at the Astoria Co-op, and Beans for Bags fundraisers.
- B. Director Williams updated the Board on Staff’s efforts to implement the Parks and Recreation Master Plan. Staff was coordinating with the Master Gardner’s Program to provide landscaping in exchange for the use of Alderbrook Hall.

- C. Jonah Dart-McLean provided an update on the Scandinavian Heritage Association Monument (ASHA). Fundraising is ongoing and the construction timeline has not yet been determined. About \$250,000 has been raised and the project cost is estimated at about \$1 million. Staff was working with Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) to secure permits for the portion of the project that would impact ODOT's right of way on Marine Drive.
- D. Director Williams provided details about the Maritime Memorial expansion project. Mike Morgan would present the project to City Council on March 4th and request that Astoria Granite be allowed to do the work, which is scheduled to be complete before the Memorial Day event. He noted that the City did not have a policy for memorial donations, but Staff would begin working on one in the next few months. Staff receives many requests for things like memorial benches in locations that are not ADA accessible or in areas that do not need benches. A policy would help the City, the person donating, and parks users.
- E. Director Williams gave an update on the Friends of the Column. They are testing a new digital LED lighting system and developing a policy for lighting the Column for special events. The policy would be reviewed by City Council soon. Staff had not received any feedback on the new lighting policy, but he believed comments would start coming in after the policy was implemented. President Hernandez stated she had mixed emotions about the lighting policy. The lights were an emotional reminder of the work that needed to be done in the community, but she understood the need for a policy.
- F. Jonah Dart-McLean reviewed current maintenance staffing levels and efforts to recruit temporary seasonal employees. Terra Patterson provided an update on the lifeguard training classes and Aquatic Center staffing levels. Director Williams shared details about job shadowing to cross train employees and improve customer service.

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

President Hernandez said she liked the addition of the prior year's reports for comparison to the current year.

Future Meetings

- March 27, 2019 at 6:45 am in City Hall, Council Chambers
- April 24, 2019 at 6:45 am in City Hall, Council Chambers

Non-Agenda/Miscellaneous Business

- A. Director Williams announced a Dream Big meeting had been scheduled for March 21st. He would give the Board an update on that meeting next month.
- B. Director Williams said the department would be submitting its budget for next year soon. Funding would be requested for field trips during day camps.

- C. The Board briefly discussed meeting cancellations due to weather. Director Williams said he and President Hernandez would make a decision and contact board members via email and phone.
- D. Terra Patterson explained the purpose of the Goggle Girl mascot at swim lessons.

Next meeting will be held Wednesday, March 27, 2019 at 6:45am at City Hall in City Council Chambers.