

Parks Advisory Board Meeting Minutes September 26, 2018

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

Present- Norma Hernandez, Jessica Schleif, Jim Holen, and Michele Tompkins.

Absent- Andrew Fick, Howard Rub, and Eric Halverson.

Staff- Jonah Dart-McLean, Terra Patterson, Isaac Brockman, and Cindy Moore.

Public comments

1. George Hague, 1 3rd Street, Astoria, said he hoped a representative of City Council would begin to attend the Parks Board meetings again like they used to. He noted that the Parks Master Plan requires the Scandinavian park and the 9th Street park to have restrooms. These restrooms have been included in the budget and he hoped the Board would require they be built. He recommended the Portland Loo because it would only take up one parking spot and would be easy to maintain. The 9th Street park has been looking good. He hoped the City would continue to keep up the park because the City's requirements for maintenance agreements are more than the area residents and businesses could handle. He hoped Parks Board members would be involved in the Urban Core Plan. He was concerned that the plan would allow 28- to 45-foot buildings on both sides of the Riverwalk. President Hernandez thanked Mr. Hague for being so involved in the Parks Board meetings and said he would be missed while he was away for the winter. She noted that the Parks Board would love to have a Council representative at their meetings.

2. Dulcye Taylor, 856 11th Street, Astoria, Executive Director, Astoria Downtown Historic District Association (ADHDA), said she attended a north coast area tourism studio hosted by Travel Oregon, where future trends, demographics of tourists, and economics were discussed with a focus on parks and trails. She shared what she learned about parks in the region, including efforts to improve trails, challenges of the unincorporated areas, and collaborations within the region. These studios are held monthly and she encouraged the Board members to participate.

Approval of Minutes

- A. August minutes were unanimously approved.

President Hernandez

- A. What do you hear- Jessica Schleif shared details of the celebration at Tidal Rock Park, which was set up by volunteers. The event was very well attended. President Hernandez noted that everyone on the Art Walk kept talking about the celebration. Michele Tompkins added the park was beautiful. She and Ms. Schleif talked about how use of the park has changed since it has been cleaned and renovated. Ms. Schleif said to continue her efforts at the park, she would need volunteers who will vision with her, urban renewal funds, and better access. She would like the terraces turned into part native plantings and part seating. The terraces act like a natural amphitheater, and a performance space in the urban core would be valuable for the community. And, as the urban core planning is done, restrooms and public green spaces are important to consider. She would be thinking about whether she would be able to extend her project at Tidal Rock for another year.

Employee and Volunteer Recognition

- A. Terra Patterson recognized Isaac Brockman as the September Employee of the Month.
- B. Brianna Bowker recognized Dulcye Taylor as September Park Partner of the Month. Ms. Taylor noted the OK would be held on October 7th.

Old Business

- A. Jim Holen gave an update on the Parks Foundation's next fundraiser, an auction at Fort George's benefit night on October 30th.
Terra Patterson noted that the make-up movie fundraiser did not have great attendance, but those who came loved the event.
- B. Jonah Dart-McLean updated the Board on Staff's efforts to implement the Parks and Recreation Master Plan. Draft plans were included in the agenda packet. President Hernandez said it looked as if Staff was headed in the right direction. He answered questions about how the plans were arranged and the information included in the plans, and noted that staffing changes have resulted in an extended timeline to complete the plans.
- C. Jonah Dart-McLean reviewed recent staffing changes and provided updates on efforts to fill vacant positions.

New Business

- A. City Engineer Cindy Moore gave a PowerPoint presentation on the Waterfront Bridges Project. She provided updates on the scope of the project, funding sources, timelines, and impacts to the Riverwalk, as well as details about closures and pedestrian detours. She answered questions about impacts to events on the Riverwalk, regulations that impact the timeline, the aesthetics of the new bridge structures, and new wayfinding signs.
President Hernandez requested that Board members be added to the stakeholder list to receive email updates on the Waterfront Bridges Project.
- B. Jonah Dart-McLean updated the Board on the lease renewal with Clatsop County Fisheries for access to the Yacht Club dock. A copy of the lease was included in the agenda packet. The lease is renewed every five years and the only change to the lease is the addition of the County's first right of refusal if the City ever wanted to sell the property.
Steve, Clatsop County Fisheries, provided details about the first right of refusal. He explained their agreement with the Division of State Lands (DSL) required them to invest a lot in that property and it would be too costly for them to relocate.
The Parks Board unanimously voted in favor of recommending that City Council approve the lease renewal with Clatsop County Fisheries.
- C. Jonah Dart-McLean provided an update on the Astoria Scandinavian Heritage Association Monument Project. The final design plan would be presented to the Board in October for review and approval. The City has required that space be allocated for restrooms at the park.
- D. Jonah Dart-McLean updated the Board on the restoration of the Doughboy monument, funded by grants from Oregon State Parks and the Johnson Foundation. He provided details of the work that would be done, the contractor, and the project timeline.
- E. Jonah Dart-McLean shared the details of City Council's most recent discussion on lighting the Column. Council declined a request to light the Column because they were still waiting on the Friends of the Column to develop a policy for handling the requests. He noted the Friends were also installing a new lighting system.
President Hernandez said she believed it was important for the Board to push for the policy because the Board is caught in the middle of this situation with no jurisdiction over the decisions that are made. She hoped the Friends' policy would clearly state their intentions so that she could give an educated opinion about the lightings.

The Board and Staff briefly discussed the relationship between the Parks Board and the Friends of the Column. Mr. Dart-McLean offered to advocate for the Parks Board at Friends meetings.

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

- October 24, 2018 at 6:45 am in City Hall, Council Chambers
- December 5, 2018 at 6:45 am in City Hall, Council Chambers

Non-Agenda/Miscellaneous Business

1. The Board discussed their meeting schedule during the holiday season. They decided to cancel their November 28th meeting and reschedule their December meeting to Wednesday, December 5th, 2018.
2. President Hernandez announced that the Harbor would host a Dancing with the Stars Clatsop County Fundraiser on October 18th, where she and Howard Rub would be dancing.
3. Jonah Dart-McLean said registration was open for the OK, which would be on October 7th beginning at 2:45 pm.

Next meeting will be held Wednesday, October 24, 2018 at 6:45 am at City Hall in City Council Chambers.