

Parks Advisory Board Meeting Minutes April 30, 2014

Present- Norma Hernandez , Brad Johnston, Kim Williams, Councilor Karen Mellin, Grace Laman, Tammy Loughran and Howard Rub

Absent- Jay Flint

Guests-Councilors Drew Herzig and Arline LaMear, Julia Mabry

Staff- Terra Patterson, Pam Pearce, and Phil Elkins

Meeting was called to Order at 6:52am by chairperson Norma Hernandez.
The minutes from the April 2 meeting were reviewed. Minutes were approved.

Chair Person Section

1. What do you hear- Norma Hernandez talked about the successful CHIP-in event on April 27.
2. Angela Cosby met with citizen Jim Krettler. Angela toured several parks with Mr. Krettler and discussed his concerns and she showed him several areas where the parks department have had large successes.

Employee Recognition

1. Julia Mabry was recognized for her impressive work in coordinating the wellness challenge which she planned out, coordinated and found funding for. Norma discussed positive feedback regarding the project.

Old Business

- A. Friends of the Column have drafted an MOU which is currently being reviewed by City staff. Angela gave an update on design planning and having Lori Olen come to Astoria.
- B. Tammy gave an update on the Parks foundation reviewing what the foundation has been working on. She talked about progress with the Lindstrom bathroom project and working with the MOMS club to they are having a fundraiser May 10th. Additionally, they have provided administrative support for the dog park group. They are also selling window stickers to sale for \$5 to show support for the foundation. Long term the group is looking to create a fund for scholarships for the department's activities.
- C. Angela reviewed the event on Sunday the 27th and discussed how much work was accomplished at Tapiola Park. Over 60 citizens attended the event. A written update was also provided to the board highlighting the many successes the department has enjoyed. Norma encouraged the board to attend the next event on May 18.
- D. Additional written reports were given on old business.

New Business

- A. Sheila and Leslie reviewed the progress on the Dog Park project. The group has been looking for a potential sight since February. The group discussed the potential sight at Tapiola Park. The sight is just over an acre and will host a small dog park and a large dog park and also has water available. Sheila reviewed the minimal work that would need to be done with water

faucets and installing fencing. The group did go and talk to several neighbors and provided feedback given by each neighbor. Sheila reviewed potential costs which the group will be raising. The maintenance plan was also reviewed. The city would continue to mow grass and collect garbage as they currently do. The group would like to install fencing so that the maintenance crew can easily access the park. The group would offer a fund raiser once a year to cover costs; organize work parties once a year; organize speakers to educate citizens on pet ownership; do garbage pick-up inside the park; and maintain a database of volunteers. Howard Rub asked about the proposed sight and whether or not it would affect parking. Sheila discussed parking and what she had observed during games. Angela informed the board that the department has had a major problem with patrons parking on the grass which breaks water lines. Brad Johnston discussed a concern about funding. The group did reiterate that they would be doing fund raising annually to help offset any increased costs.

- B. Yarn bombs were discussed by Angela. This is a project that groups knit yarn to go around various objects in parks.
- C. Angela discussed two grants that will be going to city council at the next meeting. One was for way finding signage and the other to create a Parks Master Plan.
- D. Angela discussed the proposal of the relocation of the Astoria Recreation Center. The department is looking at moving to the Yacht Club. Angela talked about costs for renovation. Brad Johnston said that he was supportive of the idea. Grace expressed concerns with the move regarding adult fitness. Kim expressed concerns with parking. Brad discussed how parking was handled when city hall occupied the building. Norma discussed issues with access to the building and that it would be a positive change for the building. Brad motioned that the board recommend the move to city council. Tammy seconded. There was no opposition from the board. The motion passed unanimously.
- E. Angela passed out Garden of Surging Waves invitations for the grand opening. Brad asked about closing streets for the event. Drew Herzig suggested posting in literature that booklets will be available at city hall.
- F. Angela reviewed the Directors Reports and the department's upcoming events.
- G. Norma asked the visitors to share. Councilor Herzig thanked the department for their involvement with lighting the column. A concerned citizen expressed concerns with the condition of the River Walk. Concerns included blackberries and overgrown grass. The area where concerns were voiced primarily are past Safeway. A large section of this area was private property. Angela expressed that she would be happy to meet with these individuals separately to review their concerns and which areas are actually city property.

Next meeting will be held Wednesday, May 28th at 6:45am