

Parks Advisory Board Meeting Minutes

December 11, 2013

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

Absent: Ronnie Williams

Staff- Terra Patterson

Meeting was called to Order at 6:55am by chairperson Norma Hernandez. The minutes from the October meeting were reviewed. Brad Johnston motioned to approve and Grace Laman seconded.

Chair Person Section

1. What do you hear- Brad Johnston discussed the Thanksgiving fun run. Karen discussed 9th Street Park and provided positive feedback on the project. Grace has been swimming at the AAC in the mornings. She has heard a lot of positive feedback about staff.
2. Program Guide review- Angela reviewed the new winter/ spring program guide.

Old Business

1. Angela reviewed the Friends of the Column planning meetings. They will be doing a presentation on site plans in February. The Friends of the Column have also begun planning the Mission of Understanding.
2. Plans for the Potential Wellness Center were reviewed by Ms. Cosby. The hospital has not been able to commit to the project yet.
3. Tammy Loughran reviewed the Parks Foundation update. They have been working on a letter of support.
4. Angela discussed the finished 9th street park. The park is still cordoned off because of the settling sod in the freezing weather.
5. Garden of Surging waves is projected to be primarily completed at the end of the year. There will be a few pieces that will be installed after that but the park should be open by the end of December.
6. CHIP in program- Angela reviewed a work sheet for the program and asked the board to review, complete and return the form. Howard Rub expressed an interest in having Astoria athletics involved in the program.
7. Way finding signage along the River Walk was reviewed. Angela has been working with the Downtown Association to find what type of signage would work well. She showed the board a preliminary design. The idea will be presented to the Downtown association, City Council and then open to review by community meetings. Grace asked about lighting the signs. The board is in favor of the design.
8. The grounds coordinator position hiring process was reviewed. The position was advertised a second time due to the final applicants of the first round falling through. Staff has received plenty of qualified applicants for the second round.

9. The board reviewed the change of date for meetings. It was agreed upon to keep the meeting on Wednesdays.

New Business

1. Employees of the month were recognized for November and December.
2. Department update- Angela discussed workloads for the fulltime staff.
3. Park signage- Angela discussed implementing a uniform signage for all of the city's parks. She showed the board some design ideas. The signage program would be implemented slowly, maybe three parks at a time. Brad suggested having the signs proportionate to the park. Jay asked about having the 9th Street park renamed if a Friend's group is organized for the park.
4. The department of transportation grant that the department applied for was reviewed. The area on the River Walk between 11th and 12th would be made over with this grant. The project would be about two years out if the grant is received.
5. The Astoria Baseball foundation would like to do some improvements to the Aiken Field. They would like to replace the outdated backstop and pour a concrete slab behind the backstop. Howard expressed concern about possible vandalism. But did say it would look more professional. The board is in favor of the idea.
6. City council will be reviewing a lease to rent the Yacht Club to the Senior Center at the upcoming council meeting. Angela reviewed future use of the Yacht Club by the department. The board discussed positives and negatives of relocating recreation activities to the building.
7. Recreation and aquatics reports were reviewed.
8. October's financial reports were reviewed. Revenue is up compared to last year's numbers.

Next meeting January 22, 2013