

Parks Advisory Board Meeting Minutes

February 25, 2013

Present- Norma Hernandez, Grace Laman, Brad Johnston, Ron William, Howard Rub, JP Moss, Councilor Karen Mellin, and Jay Flint

Guests- Rosemary Johnson, Kurt Englund and Councilor Arline LaMear

Absent: Tammy Loughran,

Staff- Phil Elkins, Terra Patterson, and Vern Hall

Meeting was called to Order at 6:48am by chairperson Norma Hernandez. JP Moss informed the board that he was asked to add a brief presentation to the agenda over the weekend by the Astoria Baseball Foundation.

Chair Person Section

1. Norma discussed the previous goal of each board member "checking on a park". She asked if the board would be more interested in taking on a section of the River Walk to check in on. The board was in favor of this goal verses individual parks. Jay Flint is still interested in taking on 9th Street Park, but the board thought this was fitting with the River Walk goal as it runs parallel to the River Walk.
2. Ms. Hernandez reviewed information out of the current program guide as discussed at the last meeting.
3. Norma discussed a new idea for board meetings that she is interested in adding. "What do you hear" will be a chance for the board to discuss community feedback at each meeting. This will be a chance for the board to discuss both positive and negative feedback they receive in the community about the department.

Presentations

1. Vern Hall showed a video filmed at Smith Point showing the irrigation system in working order and discussed repairs done recently on the system.
2. Kurt Englund with the Astoria Baseball Foundation came to discuss some issues with the field at Tapiola Park. Items discussed included:
 - a. The drain line along the first base line, issues previously experienced with this part of the field and the inlet connecting into the bay from the field.
 - b. Mr. Englund discussed the drainage project, the group would like to start improvements on drainage to the outfield in August. JP Moss told the board that the department would work with the group on arranging dates, but the project would need to work around dates that the field is used in August for softball tournaments.
 - c. Dismantling the old cage at the field was discussed.
 - d. Mr. Englund discussed how pick up of garbage after games last year was problematic. He would like to request a dumpster be placed at the field. Mr. Moss told the board there wasn't a problem with placing a dumpster at the field, but that it could be cost prohibitive for the department. The idea of the baseball group seeking a donation from Western Oregon Waste was discussed.

Old Business

1. JP updated the board on progress of recruiting a new director. Interviews will be held later in the week for the top six candidates.
2. Phil Elkins discussed adding new benches on the River Walk. He will be looking to see if there are any areas where benches can be added.
-Jay Flint discussed adding benches at the 9th Street Park. He proposed adding benches, a gazebo, landscaping, and covered benches. He also discussed recruiting youth to volunteer with the park.

New Business

1. Grace Laman discussed the Community gardens. Longer hoses, as well as new gates and fencing have been added to the park.
There will be a meeting to begin the new season on March 16.
2. Phil reviewed a Parks Maintenance Project report for the previous month. Items discussed included Tapiola Park bathroom vandalism repairs, getting bids for a new chapel roof at Ocean View Cemetery as well as a new well. Phil also discussed working with the MOMS club to possibly place a bathroom at Lindstrom park. The MOMS club intends to take this proposal to City Council to see if this is an idea the city would be interested in.
3. Community Development employee, Rosemary Johnson discussed the trails project and the draft Master Plan that has been put together.
Ms. Johnson reviewed process and planning that went in to compiling the report. Including the work done by National Park intern to get information from the community; existing condition of trails; and a proposed work plan.
Ms. Johnson asked the Parks board to recommend approval to council.
Concerns brought forth by the board included:
 - The verbiage regarding Pipeline Road, Brad Johnston felt it should be named as a road, not a trail as this gives pedestrians a false sense of security. He discussed concern about vehicle traffic currently using the road. Rosemary said this could be changed to identify this as a Public Works road.
 - Cathedral Tree Trail is currently coded as pedestrian only trail in the new plan. This is currently a trail commonly used by mountain bikes. Rosemary told the board that they could set the policy for use. It was agreed upon by the board that this trail be changed in the plan to allow non-motorized vehicles and pedestrians
Rosemary will follow up on verbiage to ensure that non-motorized vehicles does not exclude ADA wheelchairs, scooters, etc.Rosemary asked the board if there was still an interest in adding trails as an amenity to Tapiola and Lindstrom Parks based on community feedback. The board discussed the benefits of such an amenity to these parks and agreed that they would like to include these trails in the Master Plan as a goal to add to the parks.
The vision was reviewed for the master plan and approved by the board.
Jay Flint moved to proceed with the plan and send to City Council with the recommendation of approving the plan. Brad Johnston seconded the motion. The motion was voted on and all board members present approved.

Due to time constraints the meeting was adjourned.

The next meeting will be held March 11