

Parks Advisory Board Meeting Minutes

February 27, 2012

Attendance: Board Chair Ed Overbay, Brad Johnston, Grace Laman, JP Moss, Pam Pearce, Tammy Loughran, Arline LaMear, Phil Elkins, Norma Hernandez, and Howard Rub

Absent: Ron Williams and Tim Roth

1. The Parks Advisory Board met at Stephanie's Cabin.
2. At 6:48am Board Chair Ed Overbay called the meeting to order.
3. At 6:49am Board Chair Ed Overbay asked that the board approve the minutes. Norma Hernandez motioned to approve the minutes and Arline LaMear seconded. All were in favor.
4. JP Moss gave an Aquatic Center update. The board was shown the picture of the impeller to show the old part that was taken out versus what the new part looks like. Arline LaMear suggested that we send that the picture to the Daily Astorian for publication in the Ear.
5. The Parks and Recreation Foundation donated \$1,000 to Port of Play and Erin Reilly is working on purchasing some new equipment with it.
6. Grace Laman updated the board on the community gardens. The plan has been approved by both the City and the School District. She is working with Mitch Mitchum to get some materials donated so that 20 boxes can be built. A brochure has been made and will be available for people interested in using the gardens this spring. Plans are underway to start building and planting in the next four to six weeks. Because the tennis courts will no longer be available at Gray School for use it was suggested that we clean up the other two courts in town before planting begins to help offset the tennis community.
7. Phil Elkins reported that recently the Doughboy restrooms had been vandalized. Parks maintenance closed them temporarily to paint, improve lighting, and clean up them up. Now the bathrooms are reopened.
8. JP reported on the Parks and Recreation's goal to improve communication and connectivity. There have been major changes on the website, publishing a monthly newsletter, adding a survey to each center, and responding to customer complaints in a timely fashion.
9. Pam Pearce gave a report on the success of Valentine's Day this year. We had about 286 people attend both the dance's and the mother/son luncheon.
10. The Summer/Fall guide will be printed soon. This year we have decided to print both season's together and make them color and then for the Winter/Spring it will be one guide printed in black and white.
11. The board was given an advance copy of the February/March newsletter. There is still some minor editing to do and then it will go out to the public. Brad Johnston had an excellent idea on page 3 for the lifeguard training article. He said that if we use a call out in the far column it would help readers determine what was in the article and if it was something they wanted to read.

12. QR Codes and Survey's was presented by Pam Pearce. We are going to start putting QR codes on our materials and we will be passing out survey's to patrons who have used our facilities or taken a class. JP also suggested that the board members secret shop our facilities and help us get feedback.
13. Phil Elkins informed the board that the river walk is getting power washed and cleaned up. All of the wooden areas of the walk get very slippery during the winter and the power washing assists in getting them cleaned.
14. The Disc golf course has been looked at by the Parks and Recreation Department as a potential site to manage. Norma Hernandez is working with JP Moss to explore the idea.
15. JP asked the board about field usage and the Cal Ripken/Babe Ruth teams. The board discussed ways to help offset the costs involved with maintenance and payment of fees for usage of these fields.
16. Holiday Inn Express and the Parks and Recreation Department have entered into an agreement for the upkeep of the Maritime Memorial Park.
17. Ed Overbay updated the board on Heritage Square.
18. The meeting was adjourned at 8:10am.
19. Next meeting is scheduled for March 26, 6:30am, Stephanie's Cabin.