

Parks Advisory Board Meeting Minutes

January 22, 2014

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

Absent: Ronnie Williams and Jay Flint

Staff- Terra Patterson, Erin Reilly and Phil Elkins

Meeting was called to Order at 6:50am by chairperson Norma Hernandez. The minutes from the December meeting were reviewed. Brad Johnston motioned to approve and Howard Rub seconded.

Chair Person Section

1. What do you hear- Karen expressed a citizen concern about grass poking up at Smith Point. Phil pointed out that the area in concern were natural grasses. Howard mentioned concerns about grass in the outfield at Niemi Field. He was appreciative that staff began working on the problem proactively. Staff is working with volunteers from the high school softball program.
2. Program Guide review- Angela reviewed the new winter/ spring program guide and commended staff Erin Reilly for her coordination and design in putting the guide together.

Old Business

- A. Friends of the Column are working on the MOU with the city attorney. They also continue to work on the Master plan and will be coming back to the Astoria area to present their findings to City Council and the community at a future date.
- B. Parks foundation, Tammy reviewed what the foundation has been working on. She talked about progress with the Lindstrom bathroom project and working with the MOMS club to organize the project. Norma asked about doing a call for new foundation members in Parks and Recreation publications.
- C. Ms. Cosby discussed the Garden of Surging Waves construction and the work that is taking place to finalize the project. Some of the pavers are cracking and need to be repaired before the park opens.
- D. The Chip-In project was reviewed, Phil and Angela will be on the radio promoting the program. Angela reviewed future dates for Chip-in. She asked if each parks board member could pick a date to attend. Angela discussed business sponsorship opportunities in the program.
- E. The Grounds Coordinator position has been filled. Jonah Dart-McLean accepted the position, Phil discussed his background. He will begin working on March 17.

New Business

- A. Employee of the Month- Erin recognized Brandy Bermudez from the Lil' Sprouts program.
- B. The aquatics incident that took place on Monday, January 20 was reviewed. A North Coast Swim Club Swimmer blacked out in the middle of the pool during a swim team exercise in which swimmers were practicing holding their breath while swimming. The swimmer began breathing before she reached the side of the deck. This incident showed staff where we need more training. Angela reviewed policies that may potentially be implemented in the future regarding this type of exercise. The aquatic center will be hosting a meeting this evening with the swim club members and parents to review the incident.
- C. Ocean View Cemetery software system and water well installation were approved at City Council on January 21.
- D. Staff Pam Pearce went to safety management school in January, Pam will give the board an update on this at a future meeting.
- E. The department received a \$5,000 grant for the wellness challenge. Angela reviewed how the program is going.
- F. The board took a tour of the Yacht Club building.
- G. Phil reviewed the Parks Maintenance report. Items reviewed included the completion of the 9th street park project, the hiring process for the grounds coordinator position, staff have been helping to complete a new program at Lil' Sprouts and have been planning for upcoming maintenance projects. Terra reviewed recreation programs that have started in January. Terra highlighted the weekly drop in indoor soccer program and the girls' 1st and 2nd grade basketball program. Erin reviewed programming and attendance at the Lil' Sprouts academy. Angela reviewed attendance which has increased by 98% at Lil' Sprouts.
- H. Angela reviewed budget numbers. Expenses continue to decrease and income has increased by 22%.
- I. Upcoming events were reviewed.

Next meeting will be held Wednesday, February 26th at 6:45am