

Parks Advisory Board Meeting Minutes

January 23, 2012

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

Absent: Ron Williams, Norma Hernandez, Howard Rub, and Tim Roth

1. The Parks Advisory Board met at Stephanie's Cabin.
2. At 6:47am Board Chair Ed Overbay called the meeting to order.
3. At 6:49am Board Chair Ed Overbay asked that the board approve the minutes. Grace Lamen motioned to approve the minutes and Ed Overbay seconded. All were in favor.
4. New board member Brad Johnston was introduced to the board. He is the Deputy Chief of Police for the City of Astoria. The Mayor has appointed him to the board.
5. Grace Lamen, Ron Williams, and Ed Overbay were also reappointed to the board by the Mayor.
6. Aquatic Center update was lead by JP Moss. All of the issues that were brought before the board in November have been either resolved or answers were given back to the group that wrote up letters. The hot tub was repaired and is in good working order as of Tuesday, January 17. Ed Overbay commended the Parks staff for their proactive response to recent mechanical challenges.
7. Tammy Loughran, Laura Roth, and JP Moss met to discuss the Community Hall Rules. This group updated the current set of rules and recommended changes.
8. Parks Rules was removed from the agenda by JP Moss.
9. Grace Laman updated the board on the IGA (Inter-Government Agency) between the City of Astoria and the Astoria School District. This document outlines the arrangements made by these two parties in regards to a community garden at Gray Elementary School. It will be presented at the next City Council meeting and then at the next Astoria School District meeting. Grace is now working on obtaining rain barrels, planter boxes, and other necessary supplies.
10. Youngs River Falls update was given by JP Moss. City Council approved a letter for donated property from the Campbell Group. Work is still being done to eventually have a trail system around the park.
11. Included in the board member packets was a bid for a Parks Master Plan from an outside agency. This is a starting point for a master plan. A master plan will assist the Parks Department to apply for and obtain Grants to fund improvements at Parks. In June an inventory of all Parks must be submitted to City Council.
12. Parks and Recreation staff have been working on continued communication with the citizens of Astoria though website updates, social media, newsletters, and email.
13. The Family Fun Night at Port of Play on Friday, January 20 was a success with sixty plus people.
14. JP Moss informed the board that Lori Higgins did resign her position as Aquatics Program Manager.

15. Shively Hall is receiving a clean up this month from Parks staff. Pruning will take place, power washing of sidewalks and structures, improvement of play area, electrical updates, and painting are on schedule.
16. In the month of January the adult fitness programs are experiencing a higher attendance.
17. The winter-spring schedule for Parks and Recreation is out now and the Summer-Fall guide will be coming out in March.
18. Inclement weather has delayed openings to Port of Play and Lil' Sprouts. JP Moss said we follow the lead of the Astoria School District for some of our late openings and then rely on management assessments for the other facilities. We strive to make sure our facilities are open even on inclement weather days.
19. Recently there has been a few staffing issues at the Aquatic Center that have delayed opening completely. JP Moss indicated that we are working through those challenges.
20. Phil Elkins updated the board on the cemetery projects. He stated that the irrigation project was now complete and staff continues to make improvements in the chapel with windows, dry wall, and paint.
21. The February news letter will be out soon and there will also be a separate news letter for staff only. This helps staff stay connected to various facilities within the Parks Department.
22. This winter the Parks Department is beginning to analyze trees that are in danger of producing damage to City property and scheduling them for removal.
23. The City of Astoria is starting the budget process this winter/spring.
24. An update on the Foundation was given by Ed Overbay. The group has a meeting today and will be discussing funding for the Garden of Surging Waves.
25. New Business: Outreach process starting to help connect the Hiking and Trails groups to help produce a map for citizen use, surveys are coming soon to assist the Parks and Recreation Department with feedback, and a letter from Community Develop was spoken about. Community Development is notifying the Parks and Recreation Department about a proposed Half Way House across the street from McClure park. A brief discussion was held during the meeting.
26. Meeting was adjourned at 7:55am.
27. Next Meeting is Monday, February 27, 2012, 6:30am, Stephanie's Cabin.