

Parks Advisory Board Meeting Minutes

June 24, 2013

Present- Grace Laman, Councilor Karen Mellin, Jay Flint, Norma Hernandez and Ron Williams and Parks Director Angela Cosby

Absent: Tammy Loughran, Howard Rub, and Brad Johnston

Staff- Phil Elkins and Terra Patterson

Guests- George Hague

Meeting was called to Order at 6:52am by chairperson Norma Hernandez.

Minutes- The minutes were discussed, Karen Mellin wasn't able to talk to the Tobacco Free Coalition as noted in the May minutes, as they didn't meet in May. The minutes were approved.

Chair Person Section

What do you hear?

- Norma Hernandez discussed feedback she has heard regarding the age of the swim instructors at the aquatic center. She also discussed positive feedback on local parks and regarding new director, Angela Cosby.
- Ronnie Williams discussed the Baseball field at Tapiola noting that it was looking good. He also discussed positive feedback about Ocean View Cemetery.
- Grace Laman mentioned that the adult fitness instructors should meet soon.
- Councilor Mellin said that LaPlante Park is looking very nice.

Norma reviewed program quiz

Old Business

1. Friends of Column continue to take over maintenance duties. Staff is still working with friends group to complete an official contract. Parks board members inquired about a process for making changes up at the park. It was agreed that they would like to have input for changes being made to the park.

New Business

1. Ms. Cosby discussed the recent Business After Hours event sponsored by the chamber and held at the Astoria Recreation Center.
2. Angela Cosby reviewed challenges and successes for the department. These included:
 - Hiring new staff for the summer in most departments
 - Limitations in maintenance projects, with the parks mowing schedule staff has limited time available for extra projects.
 - Continuing to do more with less in the department.
3. Maintenance report-
 - Phil Elkins discussed recent maintenance projects; recent projects completed include landscaping updates at the 15th street triangle and 17th street dock, as well as an overhaul at the Alderbrook Lagoon project completed in partnership with CREST.

- Phil discussed utilizing the Juvenile Work Crew to help with clean up along River walk; weed eating at Evergreen Park; cleaning off the city owned parking lot behind US Bank; and cleaning up at Custom's Park and Shively Park
4. Employee Recognition-
 - Director Cosby discussed starting a new program that would recognize a different part-time employee at Parks Board each month.
 5. 9th street park site-
 - Angela Cosby reviewed design ideas for the park. Tongue Point has offered their landscaping crew, but their crew will not be available until October.
 - Jay Flint met with staff and Mr. Hague regarding the design and park progress.
 - Mr. Flint did discuss security concerns he had with the park and possibly cutting back some of the bushes.
 - Mr. Flint discussed a Friends of the Park program, which he hoped to get local businesses to participate in.
 - Ms. Cosby discussed the process to get the project done, cost issues, and possible sponsors.
 - Angela Cosby will bring back designs to the board for review at the July meeting.
 6. George Hague discussed concerns for graffiti on River walk. Phil Elkins talked about procedure for dealing with graffiti and talking to property owners along the River Walk. It was agreed that this was a problem to be dealt with at the City Council level and Council Mellin will bring it up at City Council.
 7. The recent audit at the Astoria Aquatics Center was reviewed. The center received scores of Meet and Exceeds at all levels.
 8. Angela Cosby discussed purchasing a new mower at the cemetery. The purchase will go to City Council at the next meeting for approval. The question was raised of what is done with old mowers. Phil Elkins discussed the process for dealing with surplus equipment.
 9. Terra Patterson reviewed the Recreation Report for June. She discussed special events which took place in June, the youth and adult softball programs, special classes at Port of Play and cross promoting Lil' Sprouts with those classes.
 10. The board discussed who will be at city council meetings for July.