

Parks Advisory Board Meeting Minutes

March 18, 2013

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

Absent: Howard Rub

Staff- Phil Elkins, Terra Patterson, and City Manager Paul Benoit

Meeting was called to Order at 6:50am by chairperson Norma Hernandez.
The minutes from the February 25th meeting were approved.

Chair Person Section

1. What do you hear- Board discussed feedback in the community regarding the department: Ronnie Williams has heard positive feedback regarding the changes at the baseball field at Tapiola Park.
Norma Hernandez discussed feedback she has heard about the director position.
Jay Flint discussed meeting with Grounds Coordinator Vern Hall regarding 9th Street park.
2. Norma talked about having a representative regularly attend City Council meetings to support the department and the new director.
3. Program Guide review, the board reviewed current programs from the program guide.

Old Business

1. Paul Benoit discussed the application process for the new director. Mr. Benoit discussed the two finalists, their credentials and announced that he has selected Angela Cosby as the new director.

New Business

1. Parks Maintenance update: Phil Elkins reviewed recent projects his department has worked on. Maintenance staff have been working on ball field set up and clean up, repairing vandalism at Tapiola Park, deploying fertilizer and moss killer at all parks, and weed eating. Special projects included electrical upgrades at Parks Facilities, working with the county to provide support for the Yacht Club dock project, paint removal at Aquatic Center in the locker rooms, improvements at the Community Gardens, clean up at the old post office site, electrical upgrades, trail fixes at the Cathedral Tree site on the Column end, hiring summer staff, beginning to plan clearing out the senior center basement, and safety devices built for burials at the cemetery.
JP Moss discussed the use of the juvenile jail crews at cemetery for weed eating and using the adult work crew for other parks maintenance projects.
2. JP Moss discussed the top challenges and successes in the department.
Youth volleyball has been a success with 50% more participants this year. At the same time this success has also presented a challenge with limited gym space and staff/volunteers.
The aquatic center has completed more life guard classes this year and has multiple classes scheduled for the upcoming year.

The recent preschool orientation put on by the MOMS club was very successful for Lil' Sprouts. This was an opportunity for the community to learn more about what our preschool program has to offer.

The Moms Club has also been working with Phil Elkins and JP to research having a restroom put in at Lindstrom Park. The group will be making a presentation to City Council this evening.

3. New Programs- Terra Patterson discussed the evolution of the youth volleyball program. Discussing recent growth, partnerships with the Warrenton Grade school and Astoria School district to get information out about the program and the challenges faced in large growth of the program. Terra also briefly discussed goals for the youth sports programs in preparing youth with appropriate skills to compete in the Middle School sports after completing the Parks and Recreation sports programs.
4. Permitting Parks- JP Moss discussed the Parks Permit Process. This process allows a group to assemble in a particular area of a park. Recently the department has taken questions regarding concerns for permits at the Maritime Memorial Park. The board agreed that the procedure in place seems appropriate for this park.
5. The meeting was adjourned.

Next meeting April 22