

Parks Advisory Board Meeting Minutes

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

Absent- Kim Williams, Jay Flint and Norma Hernandez

Guests-Councilor Drew Herzig

Staff- Terra Patterson, Pam Pearce, Jonah Dart-McLean and Phil Elkins

Meeting was called to Order at 6:49am by Vice chairperson Tammy Loughran. The minutes from the February meeting were reviewed. Brad Johnston motioned to approve and Grace Laman seconded.

Chair Person Section

1. What do you hear- Councilor Mellin mentioned concerns about replacing the engravings at the Maritime Memorial wall. Director Cosby updated the board on progress. Councilor Mellin asked about using the space for a memorial service. She also expressed feedback on the location for the mutt mitt station at the Fort Astoria park. The tobacco free coalition is also interested in moving towards smoke free parks. Angela said we will add it to the agenda for the next meeting.
2. Brad Johnston mentioned he has talked to several people who have moved to the aquatic center from other gyms. The police are also working on clearing out homeless people from people's park. He expressed positive feedback about the 9th Street Park and the way it turned out. Councilor Herzig talked about Curves closing and Silver Sneakers program.

Old Business

- A. Friends of the Column had a board meeting recently. They are still working on design plans with the landscape architect. They are also planning to hold some events at the Column this summer. Tammy Loughran asked about planned fundraisers for the group, they currently don't have any planned. The friends group is also planning a clean-up this coming weekend.
- B. Tammy gave an update on the Parks foundation reviewing what the foundation has been working on. She talked about progress with the Lindstrom bathroom project and working with the MOMS club to they are having a fundraiser May 10th. They continue to work with the friends of the dog park group. Both groups plan to be at Tapiola Park for the Chip in event on April 27.
- C. The Chip-In project was reviewed, Clatsop Behavioral Health sponsored the first event at Children's Park. The next event will be held at April 27 at Tapiola Park. This will be a much larger project and staff is hoping for more volunteers for the event. There will be a staff training prior to the event at 10am.

- D. Way finding signage progress was updated. A contract has been awarded with Greenworks. They will be hosting a reception for the public to get feedback. The signage will tie in with signs through the downtown area although Parks Department will only be working towards setting up way finding signs along the River Walk.
- E. Terra Patterson reviewed the Cemetery software progress to date. College volunteers have completed their dedicated hours for the project and contractor Mark Scott continues to work on scanning "blue cards" for data entry. Terra reviewed what data the blue cards contain. At this point, staff is working with the college staff to see if works study students for spring quarter can be obtained.
- F. Ocean View Cemetery water well construction was reviewed by Staff Phil Elkins. The company has surveyed the area, brought out equipment and is ready to begin construction.
- G. Column lights will be tinted teal this evening in recognition of Sexual Assault Awareness month. Councilor Drew Herzig briefly discussed the event.
- H. The dog park group is still working on a location for the park they are considering two locations. The Pacific power location near Youngs Bay is still an option; the Pacific Power company is still working on environmental assessment. The second location is the grassy area above the baseball field at Tapiola Park.

New Business

- A. Employee of the Month- Danielle Allen was introduced by Pam Pearce. She is a lead guard at the aquatic center. Pam recognized Danielle's strong leadership and mentoring the younger staff. Angela also discussed the center's audits and award for being in the top 30% of facilities in audit results. The center was also recently audited and received their highest score ever on the audit.
- B. Angela introduced new grounds coordinator Jonah Dart McLean. Jonah talked a little about himself and the projects he has worked on in the past three weeks.
- C. Angela reviewed department project reports. Phil discussed maintenance projects, struggles with extreme bathroom vandalism, and how staff is dealing with these vandalism issues. The staffing challenge at Lil' Sprouts was discussed. The facility has to turn clients away at times due to lack of staff. Terra discussed the recreation programs, the volleyball program and partnership with the high school was reviewed. Terra also reviewed the continued positive growth of the adult fitness programs. Pam reviewed aquatics report. She discussed life guard classes, staffing challenges, improvements for staff training, water safety classes, challenges with showers and the challenges with the increased use of the pool's use of CO2.
- D. Ms. Cosby reviewed the budget updates.
- E. Director Cosby also reviewed upcoming events.
- F. Other matters initiated- A concerned citizen discussed the River Walk and concerns on the condition of the strip along the River Walk past Safeway. Brad reviewed issues with privately owned property and what the city can do on this matter. Councilor Mellin

talked about the Garden of Surging Waves and expressed concern about potential graffiti. Councilor Herzig suggested that the Wayfinding signage point out the “natural area” of the River Walk.

Next meeting will be held Wednesday, April 30th at 6:45am

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