

# Parks Advisory Board Meeting Minutes

May 20, 2013

Present- Tammy Loughran, Howard Rub, Grace Laman, Brad Johnston, Councilor Karen Mellin, Jay Flint and Parks Director Angela Cosby  
Absent: Norma Hernandez and Ron Williams

Staff- Phil Elkins and Terra Patterson  
Guests- Marge Beck and Sylvia Davis

Meeting was called to Order at 6:48am by vice chairperson Tammy Loughran.  
Brad Johnston moved to approve the minutes from the April meeting, Grace Laman seconded the motion and the minutes were approved

## Chair Person Section

What do you hear?

- Brad Johnston communicated with Phil regarding his section of the River Walk.
- Councilor Mellin received feedback about Fort Astoria from tourists visiting the area.
- Ms. Cosby discussed cigarette butts in various parks seem to be an issue. The board discussed various options and possibly working with tobacco coalition. The board decided it would be helpful to get more Smoke Free signs to put up in various areas. Councilor Mellin will look into getting more signs.
- Positive feedback about the aquatic center was discussed including warmer water temperatures.

Program Guide Quiz- the board discussed a few upcoming programs in the new summer/ fall guide.

## Old Business

- Angela gave an update on the friends of Column. The friends group is working on a Mission of Understanding. Parks Department will be turning over ~~all~~ most if not all maintenance ~~except mowing the Column meadow over to the Friends~~ of the Column and surrounding park property around June 1<sup>st</sup>. Activities can still be planned by department if coordinated with the Friends group.
  - Brad Johnston discussed the friends groups' interest in the park including a master plan and repainting parts of the column.
  - Brad also discussed the communications tower at the Column. The city has been working with Verizon to come to an agreement for a new tower. The Friends of the Column are interested in moving the communications tower to another location, Astoria Police Department has been looking at other possible sites for the tower.
- Benches along the River Walk
  - The Maritime Museum has given permission to install a new bench on their land along the River walk. Other park sites for new benches were discussed. Brad Johnston discussed using memorial equipment as an extra source of funding.

- Tammy gave a foundation update. Possible funding sources were discussed for the Parks, Recreation and Community Foundation.

### **New Business**

1. Phil Elkins gave a report on Parks maintenance. He also talked about the Downtown Bathroom renovation. Other items discussed included:
  - The trail head at Cathedral Tree trail was renovated and updated.
  - Softball fields changed over and prepared for softball
  - Graffiti removal on the River walk between 3<sup>rd</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> staff was notified quickly by the police department
  - The Maritime Memorial Park and the Ocean View Cemetery were spruced up for the Memorial Day holiday.
  - The hot tub at the Aquatics Center was shut down Friday due to a broken drain cover. Staff was able to get it fixed and reopened in 24hours
  - The Doughboy bathrooms will be the next place to renovate for maintenance.
2. Angela reviewed Challenges and Successes the department will be recruiting for upcoming summer programs and hiring a new grounds coordinator. The department also needs more lifeguards, child care providers, and umpires.
3. There has recently been an increase in youth recreation programs at Lil' sprouts and in the after school program.
4. Ms. Cosby has been working with Drew and Arline on the volunteer program. She is currently working on finding out who is currently volunteering unofficially.
5. Tammy Loughran discussed the last council meeting, asked if any board members were available to attend tonight.
6. Councilor Mellin discussed walking the River Walk with Silvia. There are a few concerns particularly behind Safeway. She is concerned about the apple trees and the surrounding area which might be overgrown.
7. Brad Johnston discussed the black berry bushes and over growth on private property at River walk.
8. Grace Laman briefly discussed the Community Garden and announced that it is now sold out.