

# DRAFT

## Parks Advisory Board Meeting Minutes

October 22, 2012

Attendance: Karen Mellin, Grace Laman, Norma Hernandez, JP Moss, Brad Johnson, and Tammy Loughran.

Staff: Phil Elkins and Terra Patterson

Absent: Ron Williams, Howard Rub and Arline LaMear

1. The Parks Advisory Board met at the Astoria Recreation Center.
2. At 6:50 am Vice Chair Norma Hernandez called the meeting to order.
3. At 6:51 am Vice Chair Norma Hernandez asked that the board approve the minutes. Minutes were approved.
4. Presentation- Miguel Velasco, an Astoria High School student gave a presentation the board regarding alternative ways to chlorinate pools as part of his senior project.
  - a. He discussed his research on negative effects of chlorine as well as the benefits of swimming.
  - b. He discussed his research on alternative filtration systems including copper ionization methods and the ultraviolet light method.
  - c. Miguel also discussed his personal goals for the project.
  - d. JP talked about the practicalities, costs and possibilities for these type of filtration method at the aquatic center.
5. Vice Chair Section
  - a. The board discussed nominating a new Board Chair. It was agreed upon that Norma Hernandez would become the new board chair. Norma made the motion to nominate Tammy Loughran as the vice chair, the motion was seconded by Brad Johnston and the board all voted in favor of this motion.
  - b. The meeting time and location was discussed. The board agreed to continue meeting at the Astoria Recreation Center at 6:45am.
  - c. Norma Hernandez discussed making a change to the meeting format. She proposed the board start the beginning of each meeting by taking 10 minutes to discuss common feedback they are receiving in the community about the Parks Department. Ms. Hernandez also suggested as a goal for the entire board, that the board make an effort to be more proactive and knowledgeable of activities and programs within the department. The board would like further direction from Mayor Van Dusen regarding their roles as board members.
  - d. Norma Hernandez asked if the board all had Parks Board handbooks. Several members do not. Terra will work on creating new handbooks for the board.
  - e. There was discussion about negative feedback about the department at council meetings. Brad Johnston mentioned that there were a number of former employees who are responsible for the majority of this negativity. Councilor Mellin discussed her role as a city councilor and the need to take all feedback into consideration despite who it comes from.
  - f. Grace Laman discussed the misconception of the role for park board in the community, seeing the board as a board of directors rather than an advisory board.
6. Parks Maintenance Update
  - a. JP informed the board that Mark Montgomery has been rehired in a new position as the facility coordinator.
  - b. Phil Elkins updated the board on current maintenance projects the tennis courts at Columbia Field have been repainted and given a small facelift, at several park sites around town the maintenance department has raked and removed leaves, cleaned out gutters & downspouts at the

various community halls and centers, and turned off irrigation systems. Additionally, staff have worked on maintaining bathrooms and garbage at several park sites.

Councilor Mellin commented that the bathrooms at the Column are looking much better.

- c. Karen Mellin talked about safety concerns at some of the parks. Specifically she mentioned Lindstrom park and the Doughboy Monument bathrooms. It was pointed out that the Doughboy bathroom locks are set on a timer.
  - d. Phil Elkins talked about the timers on the lock at the Column. Staff Elkins is working with company that makes the lock to get the computer system on the locks set correctly.
7. Parks Inventory reports were made available for all of the board members.
  8. Staff areas of responsibility
    - a. JP Moss discussed staff changes in areas of responsibility. Pam Pearce is now taking on more responsibility in management at the aquatic center and Terra Patterson will be taking on the adult fitness and management of the after school programs at all three sites in addition to managing the ARC.
    - b. Terra Patterson discussed new and upcoming programs including the youth basketball, the new gymnastics classes, and the Monster Bash special event.
  9. JP Moss said he would like to present goals for the Park Dept at the next meeting.
  10. The Winter/Spring program guide will be coming out towards the end of November.
    - a. Norma Hernandez suggested that the board read through the program guide as it comes out to learn more about the department's day to day operations.
    - b. Grace Laman asked if the community garden could be added to the winter/spring program guide. She did mention she will be meeting with the gardeners from last year and inviting them to come back for the next year. She also discussed soil issues with the soil in garden the last time they had soil put in.
  11. JP Moss said he would like to address issues that arise at City Council meetings with the board chair as issues that are brought up at council as staff isn't always able to address issues at council meetings that might arise.
  12. JP Moss said he would set up a meeting for the board with Paul Benoit as he was unable to make the October board meeting to discuss the process of hiring a new director. The board agreed to meet with Mr. Benoit October 29 at 7:00. JP said he would also see if Mayor Van Dusen would be available to attend this meeting to discuss his vision of the role for the Parks Board members.

#### Matters Initiated by board:

Tammy Loughran asked about the 9<sup>th</sup> street park and what follow up the board needed to take.

- a. JP Moss discussed forming a committee to decide the best use for this park and which community groups and businesses would be involved.
- b. Brad Johnston said he would like to have an APD member involved with this community to ensure safety in the park was addressed in the design process.

Adjourned at 8:05