

Parks Advisory Board Meeting Minutes

September 24, 2012

Attendance: Karen Melin, Grace Laman, Ed Overbay, Norma Hernandez, Arline LaMear, JP Moss, Brad Johnson, Howard Rub, and Tammy Loughram.

Staff: Phil Elkins, Pam Pearce, Erin Reilly, and Terra Patterson

Absent: Ron Williams

1. The Parks Advisory Board met at the Astoria Recreation Center.
2. At 6:48 am Board Chair Ed Overbay called the meeting to order.
3. At 6:45 am Board Chair Ed Overbay asked that the board approve the minutes. Norma Hernandez and Grace Laman motioned to approve the minutes. All were in favor.
4. New board member Karen Mellin was introduced to the board.
5. Ed Overbay announced that he is resigning his position on the board and will Advise the Mayor.
6. The first item on the agenda was the Park Maintenance concerns from both the public and the board. JP Moss explained the reorganization process and a discussion occurred with the board.
7. JP Moss updated the board about the annual pool closure process.
8. Terra Patterson presented the Parks Master List. This project will be the first step in creating a Parks Master Plan. The board was given a few copies to pass around and then gave feedback. Terra will make additional copies so that each member can now have one.
9. Pam Pearce presented the adult fitness plan for the Fall. This will not include Zumba and Yoga at this time but we do plan to bring in a Tai Chi class.
10. Pam Pearce also explained the new late policy pick-up. The policy will remain the same with fees for being late but also it will state that after one hour if no one on the contact list is available to pick up a child then the police department will be notified.
11. JP Moss said the Let the Music Play event went very well and was successful. He estimated about 2,600 people attended throughout the two day event.
12. Erin Reilly reported on Port of Play and Lil' Sprouts. Some of the day camp themes this summer were very popular such as Nature. Also the Lil' Sports series were well attended. This summer we put on two puppet shows for the community.
13. Terra Patterson reported on the softball tournaments for the summer. The Regatta tournament had a record number of teams at 27 with 18 of those being from out of town this year. Also there was a co-ed softball tournament in August that was popular.

14. Pam Pearce reported that the summer camps went very well. Some of the themes this summer were Geocaching, Astoria's Amazing Race, Club, and Lego Xtreme. The annual skateboard tournament held on Regatta weekend was a success again this year. This fall we are running three after school clubs, Astoria, Warrenton, and Knappa. We are also seeing more middle school kids coming to the Recreation Center after school.
15. Phil Elkins reported on the maintenance successes over the summer. The Column saw some improvements as well as the 11th street walkup. Basketball and tennis courts were painted at Tapiola and Fred Lindstrom Parks. Several volunteer groups assisted with maintenance items this summer such as doing work on the Smith Point property and the Riverwalk. The Doughboy and old Tapiola bathrooms were also recently upgraded and painted.
16. JP Moss reported for Kayleen Russell about the Aquatic Center. He stated that training was a top priority this summer along with improving the staff skills.
17. Christine with Astoria's Recreational Trails committee presented on the committee's progress to date. She discussed the background for the group's research. She reviewed the groups interviewed and recommendations derived from this research. She also presented the new trails map with recommendations for desired additional trails. Councilor LaMear discussed concerns for funding the maintenance and upkeep of the proposed new trails. Christine discussed ideas for use of volunteers in maintaining trails and the possibility of Adopt a Park program. Brad Johnston discussed a need for better location signage as it relates to public safety concerns. Finally, Christine discussed the final steps left to be completed in the process, including two more public forums and making final recommendations to the City based on the public's input.
18. At this point, George Hague came forward to express concerns regarding the lack of direction for future use of the 9th Street Park. Mr. Hague also brought to the board's attention that there are other businesses in this neighborhood interested in seeing this potential link to the Astoria Riverwalk developed. Specifically, Sunset Empire Transit Department has expressed an interest in this project and will present the idea to their board to see what if any capacity they can assist the project. Mr. Hague also talked about concern over the upkeep of the park in its current state and his desire to see the City take an interest in redeveloping the park.
19. There being no further new business, the board moved to adjourn.

Next meeting is Monday, October 22, 2012