



MINUTES

Coburg Parks | Tree Committee

Coburg City Hall, 91136 N. Willamette Street

May 18, 2023 - 6:00 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mary Mosier, Chair; Tom Beatty, Lonna Metson, Colleen Marshall, Joe Morneau

MEMBERS ABSENT: Karen Coury

GUESTS/STAFF PRESENT: Nancy Bell, Mayor; Claire Smith, Coburg City Council; Anne Heath, City Administrator; Brian Harmon, Public Works Director

CALL TO ORDER

Ms. Mosier called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL

A quorum was established.

AGENDA REVIEW

Ms. Mosier said the agenda item City Updates/Reports would be taken up prior to regular committee business and minute's approval.

CITY UPDATES/CITY ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

Ms. Heath provided an overview of the recent circuit court rulings on cases related to the right to sit or rest and presence on public property. She said that a person could not be asked to leave public property, such as Pavilion Park, unless the City had an alternative location for them to be and a person could not be asked to leave the city limits or transported outside of the city limits, although the City could provide transportation to another location if the person requested it. An attorney with expertise in those matters had been hired to review city ordinances and recommend any changes that were required to be in compliance.

Ms. Heath said that simple modifications to two ordinances were identified and would be addressed by the City Council, along with giving the city administrator the authority to identify a location where camping was permitted. She said that did not mean that a permanent camp

would be established as there were limited options. Any location would need to include a restroom and trash receptacle. She said people had a right to shelter, including in their car. Cars could be parked in residential areas for up to 72 hours unless the City provided an alternative parking location. The amendments to ordinances did not specify locations; city staff would make those determinations as needed. She stressed that the City needed to adopt its own rules or would be required to follow state mandates. One location under consideration was a portion of Wetland Park, but other options were also being explored.

Committee members and staff discussed issues the City would need to address, including amenities required for a camping location, conditions under which dogs would be allowed, potential use of private property within the city limits with the owner's agreement, panhandling and lack of some services in the community such as medical clinics and public transit.

Mr. Harmon pointed out that a private citizen or business agreeing to let their property be used for camping could opt out of that agreement, leaving the City without a backup location. Ms. Heath noted that a person could not be required to leave public property and move to private property; they could only be directed to another public location.

Committee members expressed appreciation for the City's proactive approach and the need to address homelessness with empathy and respect.

APPROVE MINUTES FROM APRIL 18, 2023, WORK SESSION AND REGULAR MEETING

MOTION: Ms. Marshall, seconded by Ms. Metson, moved to approve the minutes of the April 18, 2023, work session and regular meeting. The motion passed 4:1, Mr. Morneau abstaining.

COMMITTEE BUSINESS

Memorial Bench

Mr. Harmon reported that a local family wished to donate a memorial bench to Pavilion Park in honor of their son. He said the bench would be constructed of redwood and made by Steve Bowers. He would do further research on the proposed bench and plaque design and report back to the committee at its June meeting.

Arbor Day Follow-up

Ms. Mosier said Arbor Day had been a success and many trees were planted. Mr. Harmon said the Coburg Pizza Company has sponsored the event, providing food and t-shirts for participants; the City had purchased trees. Other business would be asked to be a sponsor in future years.

Volunteer for Newsletter

Ms. Metson reported that a volunteer for the newsletter had been found.

Pickleball Grand Opening

Mr. Harmon said the afternoon of June 15 was being considered for the date of the grand opening. He said the Emerald Valley Pickleball Club was interested in being involved in the event and possibly providing a clinic for players.

Work Party Johnny Diamond Park/Pavilion Weeding

Ms. Marshall said that a crew comprised of Ms. Mosier, Ms. Metson, Mr. Beatty and she had weeded the area; the next work party would focus on the flag pole and playground on June 19.

Johnny Diamond Grass Update

Mr. Harmon said that the grass was not growing. He would try another method to enjoy growth and if that did not work he would consider using a cultivator. If those efforts were not successful, the infill would be removed.

Candidate for Committee

Mr. Harmon announced that the open position on the committee had been posed and the application period would close June 19, the day before the committee's next meeting. No applications had been received to date and encouraged committee members to recruit candidates. The committee would interview applicants and make a recommendation to the City Council on an appointment.

Veterans Memorial Update

Mr. Harmon said he would provide an update at the committee's June meeting. He hoped to get work done in June in order to spend funds, some of which would expire on June 30, 2023.

Ms. Mosier asked if any parks budget funds would carry over into the next fiscal year. Mr. Harmon said that the capital funds would not carry over. He said the Veterans Memorial was on the City Council's work plan.

Mr. Harmon said based on current financial forecasts, the parks budget could be tight in the coming year.

Ms. Smith said that parks funding comprised a large percentage of the City's General Fund without generating revenue; there could be a future discussion of how parks could provide some revenue to the City through fees or other options.

Mr. Harmon said one option the City Council could explore might be establishing a parks district. Some hard decisions could be required in the future.

Other Items

Mr. Beatty said there might be an opportunity to obtain a seedling from the ginkgo tree that survived ground zero at Hiroshima. He said several communities in Oregon had planted the seedlings. He asked if the committee agreed with obtaining a seedling that could be planted at the Veterans Memorial.

There was consensus among committee members to pursue a gingko seeding for Coburg.

In response to a question from Ms. Mosier, Mr. Harmon said there was a sign at Trail's End requiring dogs to be on a leash.

Ms. Mosier said there did not appear to be a need for another work session.

Mr. Harmon announced that Public Works had moved to a 4-10 schedule for the summer time. Staff would work Monday through Thursday, with a person on call for four hours on Friday mornings.

ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Mosier adjourned the meeting at 7:00 p.m.

(Minutes recorded by Lynn Taylor, LCOG)

APPROVED by the Coburg Parks | Tree Committee on this ____ day of _____, 2023.

Nancy Bell, Mayor of Coburg

ATTEST:

Sammy L. Egbert, City Recorder