

City of St. Helens
Parks & Trails Commission
August 10, 2020

Members Present: Howard Blumenthal
Carmin Dunn
Jerry Belcher
John Brewington
Paul Barlow
Jacob Woodruff
Lynne Pettit

Members Absent: Walter Fowler
Elisa Mann

Staff Present: Sue Nelson
Thad Houk
Doug Morten
Jenny Dimsho
Sheri Ingram

Others Present: Patrick Birkle
Shanna Duggan
Stuart Peterson

- 1) **Call Meeting to Order – 4:05 p.m.**
- 2) **Approval of Minutes**
2.A Approve Minutes of July 13, 2020

Pettit had e-mailed Ingram about a change on the question she had asked Morten about the progress on public access to private property for the trails from Madrona Ct. and Rutherford Parkway. Ingram will listen to the recording and change it to what the recording says exactly.

Motion: Upon Howard Blumenthal’s motion and Lynne Pettit’s second, the Commission approved the Minutes of July 15, 2020 with Pettit’s change. [Ayes: Howard Blumenthal, Carmin Dunn, Jerry Belcher, John Brewington, Paul Barlow, Jacob Woodruff, Lynne Pettit; Nays: None]

- 3) **Topics from the Floor: From attendees not otherwise on the agenda**
- 4) **Councilor’s Report** – Morten stated he has nothing.
- 5) **New Business**
5.A Native Species Donation – Michael Bernet, Wilsonville Concrete
Michael Bernet did not zoom in. Dunn said the City partnered with Wilsonville concrete on leasing space on waterfront at the St. Helens Industrial Park and he wants to offer donation of native species from their nursery. They grow plants for restoration and reclamation so he sent a website and said if we are interested, they would donate them to us. Since he is not here, we will carry this over to next month.

5.B Bench Donation at McCormick Dog Park

Stuart Peterson said his mother-in-law lived in a house adjacent to dog park on Melvin Avenue and she recently passed away and they would like to donate a bench to the dog park in her memory. She didn't have a dog but enjoyed watching the dogs in the park and got to know some of the owners and they thought this would be a good way to preserve how much enjoyment she got from the dog park. There is an e-mail attachment with sample. Brewington thought they had decided on a certain style of benches a while back. Houk said he can't remember if they decided on one. Peterson said he has been in contact with a local concrete contractor about pouring a pad for the bench. He is open to placement options and will arrange to meet Houk at the park to look at possible locations. Ingram said he had to put in an Application for Placement of Donated Items on Public Property so they will need to approve the Concept, Location, Term and Maintenance. If they approve everything today, then it goes to Council for approval and then to Public Works and the location can be decided at that time. Belcher thinks it should be on a concrete pad so it's easier to maintain and nicer for people to sit on and it should be in a place where the most people can enjoy it. Morten wanted to know what the longevity of the bench is and who is going to maintain it. Peterson said the manufacturer has a 50-year warranty against breakage. It's made out of recycled milk jugs. Nelson said the City takes over the maintenance and if it does become vandalized or damaged, it is up to the City to decide if it's worthwhile to repair or replace. It could be there for a year or 50 years but it is at the City's discretion.

Motion: Upon Jerry Belcher's motion and John Brewington's second, the Commission recommended approving the placement of the memorial bench in the dog park at McCormick on the condition that it's at the City's discretion on how long it remains at the location. [Ayes: Howard Blumenthal, Carmin Dunn, Jerry Belcher, John Brewington, Paul Barlow, Jacob Woodruff, Lynne Pettit; Nays: None]

5.C Request from Wellness Committee

Duggan said there is a new story up as of today at the story stroll at McCormick Park. They have also started a scavenger hunt that takes people to different parks to do different activities and there are about 16 families participating. She talked to them at the last meeting about the surplus bikes and she got about 30 bikes delivered from the Police Department today and they had talked about having volunteers repair the bikes because it is just her at the Rec Department right now and she is not a bike expert. Dimsho then talked about the Wellness Committee and their involvement. The Wellness Program was founded in 2015 as a way for the City to engage in wellness for the City staff. Duggan brought the bike repair idea to the Wellness Committee and they thought it would be a good way to start a city-wide volunteer program and this would be a good way to test it out. This particular request is going to go before the City Council at their next meeting. She knows they are talking about some surplus Bicycle & Pedestrian finds later in the meeting and thought it would be a good way for the Wellness Committee to partner with them on the bike repair program. These are surplus bikes from the PD and there are also some bikes at Public Works that are in worse shape. They are trying to make a program where they get rid of surplus bikes by giving them away to the community and engaging the City staff and the Commissioners in the repair of the bikes. They are looking for support in funding and monetarily for the supplies to repair the bikes. Duggan said she thought, back when she was with the Bicycle & Pedestrian Commission, that they handled the surplus bikes. They would like to partner with the Parks & Trails Commission on this to get these bikes back out on the street and have some sort of value to our community. Barlow asked if this was going to be an ongoing program of them accepting bikes or just surplus from PD and Dimsho said this is a trial run so

they will see how it goes and see if we want to continue it. Barlow wondered how people can qualify to get a bike and Dimsho said they have talked about talked about different ways to distribute them. Most are adult bikes so they are reaching out to non-profits. They had planned on having a sign-up sheet that is first come-first serve. Duggan thinks they will pick a time where they can be open for people to come by and pick a bike. Barlow said it is a definite need. They have had people wanting to donate bikes and he has referred them to a couple of co-op bike shops in Portland. Duggan said her hope is to have a facility where they could store the donations long-term. She would like to do the Sunday Parkways like Portland does where they close down streets for different bike riding and skateboarding events or even just at the McCormick parking lot. Barlow said he would commit to helping out as much as he can when he has time available. Dimsho said they also have surplus helmets they plan on giving away with the bikes. She said they will present this to Council on the 19th.

6) Old Business

6.A Bicycle & Pedestrian Budget

Nelson asked Brown about the Bicycle and Pedestrian money and he re-allocated the money back to B&P fund. Dunn asked if they had thoughts on if they want to donate some or all of that money to this project. Dimsho said they need bike pumps, tubes, degreaser, chain grease. Barlow said most of that stuff is not available because of the virus. They have been out of tubes for over a month and have been making repairs off their existing stock. Dimsho said they would like a small portion of that fund to start with. Duggan said he can come down and take a look at the bikes next week. Dimsho said she would also like to be there and they should wait until after the Wednesday Council meeting so they make sure the program is approved. Belcher said they could approve money to donate now and come up with a letter Barlow could give to his suppliers.

Motion: Upon Jacob Woodruff's motion and Paul Barlow's second, the Commission recommended donating \$500 of the Bicycle & Pedestrian money to the Rec Program for bicycle repairs. [Ayes: Howard Blumenthal, Carmin Dunn, Jerry Belcher, John Brewington, Paul Barlow, Jacob Woodruff, Lynne Pettit; Nays: None]

Motion: Upon Jerry Belcher's motion and Jacob Woodruff's second, the Commission recommended that Dimsho and Duggan draft a letter with Barlow that he can take to suppliers to ask for donations or reduced prices on parts for the bike program. [Ayes: Howard Blumenthal, Carmin Dunn, Jerry Belcher, John Brewington, Paul Barlow, Jacob Woodruff, Lynne Pettit; Nays: None]

7) Discussion Items

Duggan said they got 1000 workshop kits from Home Depot that they are going to hand out for kids. They are going to do birdhouses at the end of August so they will be coming back to the Parks Commission to see where they want to put them. Please e-mail or call her if they have any ideas or things they would like to put on the scavenger hunt.

Blumenthal said there were articles in the Chronicle and Spotlight talking about the Scappoose Bay Watershed Council having \$75,000 available for watersheds. They are willing to partner with private individuals so they are talking to them about the possibility of trying to get a small grant for Nob Hill and 5th Street to try to control blackberries and possibly put plantings. One of the deadlines is in a week or so and they don't know if they can get it together that quick but there are other opportunities coming up in October and April.

The Watershed Council is also wanting to branch out into other services and are going to do some consulting for the City of Scappoose on nature parks and ways to make them better. That is something they can talk about in the future.

He is also going to talk to Houk about benches so they can try to work on that this fall.

Pettit said they had a work party at Dalton Lake Nature Preserve at the end of July and three people showed up. She posted pics on Facebook. They not only cleared the main trail but also the three trails that go to the Columbia River. Dunn said they went there last weekend and it looked really nice.

Dunn wanted to know what the status is of Godfrey Park and if there is an ETA on when it will be completed. Houk said they haven't had time to do anything and they need things to slow down. Dunn asked if there was a timeline on the grant for Godfrey and Nelson said it wasn't a grant. Morten said the Council allocated that money. That project has gone on the back burner with being short-staffed and the pandemic hitting.

Houk said the restrooms are now open at Columbia View, Gray Cliffs, McCormick and Campbell now and are being cleaned twice a day.

Belcher said they had a design in place and ready to go a couple of years ago for Godfrey. Houk said as soon as he gets the personnel to do it, we can do it. We have the drawings. Nelson said we have three full-time Parks people and we got one summer helper but now we have opened the restrooms and having to clean them twice a day because of COVID sucks a bunch of time out of each day. Houk said they have a slide picked out and the fall protection is a big thing too and they need to make sure to do it right the first time. Houk also said the tennis and basketball courts at Campbell are gone. Nelson said we are just putting the contract out for bid for someone to come in and do the new courts. Houk said we are still waiting on the Blazers to finish their season so we know how much money we are getting for McCormick. Dunn said she was talking to Duggan about that and they think there should be some sort of community involvement on what kind of equipment gets picked especially since the community was so involved with getting those votes. Houk said there are quite a few options for all-access equipment and he thinks it is a good idea to put it out to the community.

8) [Other Business](#)

9) [Adjournment – 5:14 p.m.](#)

Respectfully submitted by Sheri Ingram