



# **PARKS AND TRAILS COMMISSION**

Monday, May 08, 2023 at 4:00 PM

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## **APPROVED MINUTES**

### **MEMBERS PRESENT**

Chair Dana Lathrope  
Vice Chair Lynne Pettit  
Commissioner Jerry Belcher  
Commissioner Howard Blumenthal  
Commissioner Jacob Woodruff  
Commissioner Scott Jacobson

### **STAFF PRESENT**

Melisa Gaelrun-Maggi, Parks Administrative Assistant  
Brandon Sundeen, City Council  
Buck Tupper, Facilities Maintenance Supervisor

### **VISITORS**

Debra Brimacombe  
Les Watters  
Caroline Skinner

### **CALL TO ORDER 4:00pm**

#### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

1. Approve minutes from April 10th, 2023, meeting.  
Motion made by Commissioner Blumenthal, Seconded by Commissioner Jacobson.  
**Voting Yea: Chair Lathrope, Vice Chair Pettit, Commissioner Blumenthal, Commissioner Jacobson, Commissioner Woodruff.**

**VISITOR COMMENTS:** Limited to three (3) minutes per speaker

#### **2. Emerald Ash Borer - Debra Brimacombe**

On the board of the soil and water conservation. The ash borer beetle is not here yet, but it is in forest grove. Would like to get ahead of it. Brought pictures of what it does to ash trees. Brought examples of signs that educate the public about ash trees and will help track ash trees. There is a bill at the state level to help with this problem as well. She has already identified ash trees in some St. Helens parks. is asking for permission to put out the signs.  
Buck said that he recommends they install them so that they can identify.

**Woodruff made motion to allow signs to be added to parks, Seconded by Blumenthal, Voting Yea: Chair Lathrope, Vice Chair Pettit, Commissioner Blumenthal, Commissioner Jacobson, Commissioner Woodruff.**

**3. Dalton Lake kiosks - Les Watters**

Les brought a slide show on behalf of the museum that had examples of other kiosks for content ideas and material ideas.

Lathrope asked if there is current funding available for the kiosks. Pettit says that there is not.

Pettit feels that it would be nice to have a standard color for park signs. Buck mentioned that there already is color code that comes from the state when it comes to park informational signs, but he believes there might be some artistic room on these types of kiosks.

Woodruff asked about the average cost. Les does not know the current cost and mentioned other options for the signs besides metal.

Pettit asked what it would take to organize a fundraiser for the kiosks. Lathrope thought a grant through the new sub-committee would be the best option.

Jacobson asked if there has been much vandalism on the similar signs on Crown Zellerbach trail. Les said that signs have not been stolen due to the construction, and spray paint was able to be removed, but there has been some scratching.

Need to decide on site, size, materials, font, colors, and content, as well as coming up with funding, before recommending to council.

**4. Plaque approval - Tupper**

Buck Tupper is seeking approval to place another memorial plaque next to other plaques of family member by bench at Grey Cliffs Park.

Jacobson does not want area to become a memorial area. (Clarification: Jacobson did not mean this phrase to sound this way.)

Woodruff said we have done it for others in the city and does not see a problem.

Lathrope does not feel it will be a problem at this time and they can judge each case as they come.

**Woodruff made motion to allow plaque installation, Seconded by Pettit,  
Voting Yea: Chair Lathrope, Vice Chair Pettit, Commissioner Blumenthal, Commissioner Jacobson, Commissioner Woodruff.**

**NEW BUSINESS****5. Columbia Blvd overlook - Jacobson**

Corner of first and Columbia has been mentioned in the master plan as a possible future overlook, Jacobson wants to create a sub-committee to make sure it stays in the commission's sites.

**6. Proposed campsite - Jacobson**

Jacobson brought up the proposed plan by Steve Toschi at Planning Commission that was brought to City Council and has not been moved forward.

Counciler Sundeen advised caution as this is not something that City Council is proposing it is just a recommendation brought to City Council.

Pettit volunteered to go to the next planning commission meeting and make a statement.

**OLD BUSINESS****7. Urban Trail update - Belcher**

Belcher brought a power point presentation about the Urban trail benefits and implementation.

Lathrope asked for deadlines and action plans.

Tupper mentioned that the kiosk sites have not been approved.

**8. Heinie Huemann park update - Jacobson**

Native plants were flagged in Heinie Huemann park. Half of the park was not mowed to see what comes up and to let them go through their cycle.

Jacobson would like to see the dog park moved.

**9. Knob Hill update - Caroline Skinner**

Caroline told of many successful work parties as well as their personal commitment to the gravel trails, waterways, and plants.

They have taken out non-native trees and plants while planting native species and hosting native plant walks.

With the help of the Lions Club, they have acquired three new benches.

In the future she would like more help from City staff during specific times.

**10. City Council presentation - Lathrope**

Lathrope requested information for park info from last calendar year from each commissioner.

**11. Campbell Park field trip follow up - Lathrope**

Tree trimming and maintenance will be coming up soon. No ETA on the removal of the old elephant slide. There is talk of improving the drainage area in the back of the park to cut down on mosquitos.

Lathrope thinks that Campbell would be a great park for a dog park.

Bring your ideas for dog parks to next month's meetings.

**STAFF REPORT**

Buck says that right now is mowing season.

All of the curb stops are now installed at McCormick Park. He would like to do that at Campbell Park.

Working on removing dead trees at Campbell Park now that PUD has removed the lines temporarily.

Make sure that volunteer hours are reported to Melisa and that work party is turned in so the garbage can be picked up.

**COUNCILOR'S REPORT**

Thanks to all those that can helped out at the Japanese garden work party.

There was a citizen that voiced concern over the 6ft leash law when training dogs in parks.

City Council is working on a new code of conduct.

**DISCUSSION ITEMS**

Commissioner Belcher brought up the fact that it gets muddy under the zipline at McCormick. Buck is aware of the situation.

Jacobson wants more involvement in any issues about parks.

**ACTION ITEMS**

Bring dog park ideas to the next meeting.

Send Park updates to Lathrope for the City Council report.

**ADJOURNMENT 6:25pm**