



PARKS AND TRAILS COMMISSION

Monday, August 12, 2024

DRAFT MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT

Chair Scott Jacobson
Vice Chair Dana Lathrope
Commissioner Jerry Belcher
Commissioner Howard Blumenthal
Commissioner Reid Herman
Commissioner Lynne Pettit
Commissioner Jacob Woodruff
Commissioner Nicholas Helmich

MEMBERS ABSENT

Commissioner Paul Barlow

STAFF PRESENT

Buck Tupper, Facilities Maintenance Supervisor
Brandon Sundeen, City Councilor
Sheri Ingram, P&T Commission Secretary
Lisa Scholl, Deputy City Recorder

OTHERS

Steve Toschi
Robin Toschi
Zach Sylvester

CALL TO ORDER - 4:00 p.m.

TOPICS FROM THE FLOOR: From attendees not otherwise of the agenda

S. Toschi said he has walked every inch of the urban trail more than once and part of it runs by his house and he came to talk about the request for the signage grant for the unfenced cliff. As far as the risk of falling off cliff and doesn't think a sign should be put up. There is a better use of money for signs in other areas along the trail. Oregon has very strong law of public entities regarding public use and he thinks a sign will cause more problems than it will solve. They don't have to warn about obvious things. The law is sufficient. If they put up some kind of barrier, there are options that will preserve the view. He thinks a sign will cause more harm than good. With Oregon statutes, it is an obvious risk and there are ways to build low impact barriers. They are willing to help if there is a desire to put stairs by tree or railing. They can help with getting donations.

Zach Sylvester lives on Goodman lane and is here about the net at Campbell Park. It needs to be repaired and put back up. Tupper said he has looked into prices of a new one and talked to

leagues. Insurance agent says it's not really a liability but cost is about \$2000 for a new one. They will stitch up old one for now and will try to get a new one up before the rains hit and it gets soft in there.

Going back to the Urban Trail, Belcher also thinks there should be a barrier there and if there was, we wouldn't need a fence. It should be safe and attractive. It is the nicest viewpoint between Portland and Astoria. If it was a State or Federal road, he is willing to bet money there would be a barrier along there. Three people have gone off it over the years. It has since been cleaned off so it is a 50' drop with asphalt at the bottom. He thinks the City would be totally liable because three people have already gone off and a road goes by it. If there is a barrier, we don't need a sign. There are other cliffs in town but not right next to a road.

Lathrope agrees and considering cost and time, would they consider a less intrusive sign until barrier is put up. Belcher is good with majority decision. He thinks there should be a barrier even if there is not an urban trail. Tupper said he will talk to engineering, insurance, lawyer to see what liability is.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Review Scappoose Bay Watershed Council IGA Renewal

Taylor Theel with SBWC had PowerPoint on what they have done over the last year and summarized last fiscal year and talked about the new IGA.

Pettit said the contact person listed is the Parks and Rec Coordinator needs to be changed to Buck Tupper, Facility Maintenance Supervisor.

Tupper said the IGA does not come out of the Parks fund. It comes out of the Comm Dev forestry fund. Scott asked if different from last year and she said it's the same.

Motion made by Commissioner Blumenthal and seconded by Commissioner Woodruff to recommend that Council approve the new IGA with Scappoose Bay Watershed Council with an edit to the contact person.

Voting Yea: Chair Jacobson, Vice Chair Lathrope, Commissioner Belcher, Commissioner Blumenthal, Commissioner Hellmich, Commissioner Herman, Commissioner Pettit, Commissioner Woodruff

2. Campbell Field Softball Net - Nick Hellmich

Discussed during Topics from the Floor.

3. New Urban Trail Subcommittee - Commissioner Belcher

Belcher thinks this is a moot question now. When they talked about this three meetings ago, they decided the chairman of the subcommittee can call meetings. The next time they call a meeting, he will contact Kathy so it can be put in the paper and he hopes everyone who is interested shows up. One of the members would take the minutes. They were told with a subcommittee meeting, they would not have to have a City employee there. That is why he will call this null and void. (After this meeting, Kathy sent out information that says subcommittee meetings must be treated like regular meetings. They must be advertised and recorded and minutes taken and held in an ADA accessible place so they need to be at City Hall and City staff will have to be present.)

4. Request for Signage Grant for Unfenced Cliff - Commissioner Belcher

Belcher said he still thinks a good idea to have a sign. He thinks there will eventually be a barrier and if there is, they don't need one. He would have like to have sign made with grant money we got. Whether it will be put up or not may be up to other people. He asked how much the grant was

and Blumenthal thought it was \$1500 or \$2000. Lathrope supports a sign. Belcher would like to see all the requests for signs and then they can decide what to spend the grant money on. Pettit would like to see it used for one at the BMX track to replace one that was stolen.

5. Sign Grant Awarded to City - Howard Blumenthal

Blumenthal said this discussion goes into his agenda item and the sign with rules at Grey Cliff is not legible. And they need a sign saying the lower area is a leash area because a lot of people say the whole park is off leash and it isn't. Lathrope said that is an issue at every park.

Belcher is willing to take the cliff sign off the list. Lathrope said they have grant money and money raised by Tina so should get cost estimates on them and they can decide. Blumenthal said we need a sign for Civic Pride park and Tupper said it is on his list. Jacobson doesn't think it's needed by the cliff and Belcher said the Urban Trail is on other side of street from the cliff.

They will send their sign requests in and Tupper can get some estimates on costs so they can discuss at the next meeting.

6. Sand Island - Scott Jacobson

Jacobson said he got an email from Patrick Birkle about a lot of trees being taken out and putting in more campsites than originally agreed on. Belcher said they did see the contract but did it have anything about how many campsites they could have and Jacobson said it did not. Woodruff said they had talked about only removing trees that were downed and damaged and Jacobson said Birkle indicated more that that were being removed. Belcher said any structures being built would need to go through P&T, Council and Planning. Woodruff thought they had been told about them already. Blumenthal said they went through the process and planning before Parks & Trails found out about it. Tupper said Zaher is the City Forester and Cameron Page is the Parks Specialist so they would be contact points.

Lathrope said she has seen feedback on concerns for accessibility to Sand Island. It appears they used to shuttle for day use but currently are not allowing anyone unless they pay for overnight camping. Maybe some clear communication with the public should be made. The general public doesn't understand why city is not letting people go over when it is a contractor operating it. Tupper said it would be good to talk to Crystal King, the Communications Officer about that so she could put something together to put out on social media. Hellmich said they had an idea to take CCMH clients to Sand Island and he received an email on June 3rd that said they did not have a day use shuttle available due to staffing issues. Belcher said transportation wasn't in the contract. If the city was running it, people would still have to find their own way over so nothing is being taken away by having a contractor who can't do it. Jacobson said they should take another look at the agreement and discuss it at the next meeting. Lathrope said it could take away a lot of the frustration at the city. Belcher said either party can open the contract at any time to break it and renegotiate.

7. Roles & Responsibilities of Commissioners - Dana Lathrope

Lathrope said in our Bylaws Article 2 that talks about the Purpose and Powers of the Commission, it is to be a liaison for the parks and make recommendations to Council and perform any tasks as directed by Council to perform. In addition, there are some responsibilities and duties in the Municipal Code. Article 5 in reference to officers, the role of the Chair is to conduct all meetings in an orderly manner and can vote but can't make motions and the Vice Chair's role is to stand in in absence of Chair. In the Municipal Code section 2.74.090 Responsibilities, Powers and Duties, she would like everyone to go through and look at them over and have a more detailed discussion at the next meeting after everyone has looked it over to clarify their rolls and what their true responsibilities are and boundaries. They should consider park assignments and taking actions on proposals. A few things

they do are not clearly outlined in the bylaws like park assignments. They can make clarifying edits in bylaws by vote. Right now, it could make a potential liability if they go above and beyond what their duties are. They should be making recommendations to Council rather than taking action on things especially prior to going to the Council in the first place. That isn't technically what they should be doing. The Municipal Code is on the City's website and they decided to discuss it at the November meeting. They should also look through the Bylaws and see if there is anything else they feel should be updated.

OLD BUSINESS

8. Milton Creek Reserve - Standing Item

Jacobson sent out an email with a proposal on moving forward with it. Belcher thinks they should have a special meeting to talk about what they would like to accomplish. He would like to see a trail and the old Boise park become a City park and see the camas field saved and all the little quarry sites. At some point, they need to get the City Administrator and the Mayor involved in it. Jacobson said they can open a dialogue with the Port but have to get the OK from the City and he's not sure of the best way forward. Jacobson thinks they should talk to Walsh and branch out from there. Sundeen suggested they come up with a plan to present to council and have Walsh involved because he has powers and duties the council doesn't have. Belcher proposes that Jacobson meet with Walsh and Sundeen and he can be there too to discuss the Milton Creek Woodland Project. Lathrope would like a group consensus about the plan before they make an initial meeting. Tupper said they should come in with a footprint of how much land you want and put it on a map and see how that goes over. Later you can make a broader plan. Lathrope suggested a special meeting to come up with a plan. Tupper thinks they should do it soon as there is a lot of discussion on the sale of the property. Belcher will get maps. He asked if there were other plots for sale and Sundeen said other areas have not been plotted out and are not for sale yet.

9. Review Annual Report to City Council - Chair Jacobson

Pettit prepared a nice report for Council and he asked if she could add a slide for the Urban Trail, the Milton Creek Reserve and the sign grant. Pettit said they could put them on a slide for thing they hope to do. Send her an email on those items and she can add a slide. Jacobson will be there and does anyone want to help present. It will be at the September 4th Work Session.

STAFF REPORT

Tupper said the parks are full. They took down antique swings at Godfrey with worn parts that were unsafe. They have been off for three weeks and they may have to get rid of them if they can't get parts. They trimmed trees on 6th Street around the park. Youth football will be using the field for practice. They installed working timers on all the restrooms. Having 13 Nights at McCormick Park seems to be going well and there have been no big issues. PUD will be replacing a light bulb at one of the softball fields tomorrow.

COUNCILOR'S REPORT

Sundeen said he wanted to thank them and the parks crew for all the good work they are doing. He thinks it's been great to highlight McCormick Park with 13 Nights. There are a few more chances to see it. He was a little surprised at the number of people who reached out to him wanting to keep it there. They like the location, the playground and the parking. He thinks they intend to take it back to the river next year but doesn't see why they couldn't have concerts and events there now that it is an option. Jacobson said he went to one and he was surprised how well he liked it there.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Blumenthal is concerned about microplastics from the 1/2 mile of construction fence that is breaking up and going into river. Tupper said it is scheduled to be replaced. Blumenthal said the question then is how much of the old stuff gets picked up. Hopefully we will now more in the next couple of weeks.

Pettit said they need to update the Parks list to add Hellmich and Herman. Jacobson asked them if they would email him which parks they were interested in being assigned.

Jerry will give a report on the Botanical Gardens and Godfrey in November.

Lathrope has a stack of Parks pamphlets if anyone wants any.

ADJOURNMENT

6:05