



# **PARKS AND TRAILS COMMISSION**

Monday, December 14, 2020 at 4:00 PM

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## **MINUTES**

### **PRESENT**

Chair Carmin Dunn  
Vice Chair Elisa Mann  
Commissioner Jerry Belcher  
Commissioner Howard Blumenthal  
Commissioner John Brewington  
Commissioner Jacob Woodruff  
Commissioner Lynne Pettit

### **ABSENT**

Commissioner Paul Barlow  
Commissioner Walter Fowler

### **STAFF PRESENT**

Sue Nelson  
Doug Morten  
Sheri Ingram  
Thad Houk  
Shanna Duggan  
Jenny Dimsho  
Rachel Berry

### **OTHERS PRESENT**

Kathy Syrstad  
Pat Jewett

### **CALL TO ORDER - 4:02 P.M.**

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

1. Approve Minutes of October 12, 2020

**Motion** made by Commissioner Blumenthal, Seconded by Vice Chair Mann to approve the Minutes of October 12, 2020.

Voting Yea: Chair Dunn, Vice Chair Mann, Commissioner Blumenthal, Commissioner Brewington, Commissioner Woodruff, Commissioner Pettit

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

Pat Jewett said she lives in St. Johns but used to live in St. Helens and is interested in getting a walking club established in the Columbia County area so is curious about urban trails. Morten suggested she come to the next Council work session to give testimony.

**COUNCILOR'S REPORT**

Morten said it is doubtful that he will be with us the next two years of his term. The Mayor may assign a different Councilor to Board. Thanks to Houk and Nelson for all they have contributed. This is the best group of individuals he could wish to be a part of. He feels good about recommendations that they have made and will continue to make. He hopes he will be assigned here but if not, it has been a pleasure working with them. Brewington said he has been around a while and Morten is the best Councilor they have had so he hopes he will come back at some point. Pettit said he has been instrumental in moving forward with the Dalton Lake Preserve and she can't imagine him not being here to give them the information that they need to move forward on additional items.

**NEW BUSINESS**

2. Term Expirations - Carmin Dunn and Jerry Belcher

Belcher and Dunn are both interested in serving another term. Both were voted to recommend another term.

**Motion** made by Commissioner Woodruff, Seconded by Vice Chair Mann to recommend that Council reappoint Jerry Belcher for another term.

Voting Yea: Chair Dunn, Vice Chair Mann, Commissioner Belcher, Commissioner Blumenthal, Commissioner Brewington, Commissioner Woodruff, Commissioner Pettit

**Motion** made by Vice Chair Mann, Seconded by Commissioner Woodruff to recommend that Council reappoint Carmin Dunn for another term.

Voting Yea: Chair Dunn, Vice Chair Mann, Commissioner Belcher, Commissioner Blumenthal, Commissioner Brewington, Commissioner Woodruff, Commissioner Pettit

3. Donated Benches - McCormick Park - Kathy Syrstad

Syrstad turned in an application for two proposed benches for McCormick by the bridge at the creek and by flower bed next to OPR where the trails come together to be donated by the Lions club.

**Motion** made by Commissioner Brewington, Seconded by Commissioner Woodruff to approve the application and send on to Council for their approval.

Voting Yea: Chair Dunn, Vice Chair Mann, Commissioner Belcher, Commissioner Blumenthal, Commissioner Brewington, Commissioner Woodruff, Commissioner Pettit

4. Possible Donation of Benches to Upper Portion of Grey Cliffs Park

Belcher said Syrstad had asked him what he thought about putting donate benches to the top of Grey Cliffs Park. Syrstad said she and Belcher discussed two benches on the bluff overlooking the river where there is a very nice view. It is taking longer to get benches because of Covid but they may have a couple available next year for that area. Morten said if it's in the right of way, it would be a public works issue. Belcher is not sure. Brewington thinks the park rises up to there. Syrstad said she wanted to point out that the benches are donated by the St. Helens Lions Club as a service project and she would like them to get credit for that. Dunn said she wondered if the City could put out a press release on where these benches came from and Morten said yes. Blumenthal said they have had benches budgeted for Nob Hill and they had talked about concrete slabs so he thinks he needs to get Houk out there to decide where to put them.

5. Social Media Accounts for City -Related Facilities, Parks, Etc.

Nelson said if there are Facebook or social media pages for nature parks, they are not going to be allowed anymore because they are associated with Public Facilities and need to be archived as a matter of public record and its very expensive. Any news that needs to be put out as far as work parties or whatnot, should go to Communications Officer to be posted on the City's Facebook page. She was asked to pass this info along to make this Commission aware of the rules. It sounds sudden to us but has been a law. Any event or tour has to channel through the City Communications Officer so it can be documented properly. They would need to contact King to see what to do with past posts/pictures.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

6. McCormick Play Equipment Recommendations

Dunn asked if they reviewed the packets with proposals. Nelson said they re-tooled this whole project and geared it more towards all-inclusive since we won the Moda competition and another project in the Master Plan got pushed off to the side so they had some additional funds for this project. She contacted the contractors who have been pre-approved by the State and let them know what we were looking for. The City got seven proposals from six vendors. Several people got together and reviewed them and they had two that really met all of the requests. They have one they like better than the other but wants to get the Commission's opinions. She would like them to pick one to recommend to Council. They were both included in the Council packets too. She went over both plans with them.

Dunn asked if the zip line has an accessible chair and Nelson said she can't answer that right now. Belcher asked if one looked more durable than the other and Nelson said no. Play & Park has the strongest warranty in the industry. He asked about safety with the zip line - can it tip over? Nelson said she doesn't think it's possible. They can change things if they want to. Dunn said it looks like they get a lot more for their money with the second one. If they order by the end of the year, they could probably get it in March. Nelson said she wanted to thank everyone who supported this project and getting it off the ground. She has been thankful to be a part of this and she will follow through on this project and with Dimsho on the Campbell Park project. She will be stepping back from the Parks Commission as the new Public Works Director, Mouhamed Zaher will be taking over. She really appreciates them and their great ideas.

**Motion** made by Commissioner Brewington, Seconded by Vice Chair Mann to recommend the Play & Park by Wildwood Playgrounds Northwest to Council.

Voting Yea: Chair Dunn, Vice Chair Mann, Commissioner Belcher, Commissioner Blumenthal, Commissioner Brewington, Commissioner Woodruff, Commissioner Pettit

7. Recreation Program Update

Duggan said they are doing a reindeer bells scavenger hunt at McCormick Park. They post a new set of clues every Monday and they go find the bells and unscramble the word to get a prize. She applied for a grant for a permanent story trail. They are looking forward to spring and would love to bring in disc golf for kids and tennis and golf and they would like to restart the walking groups. Dunn asked if they could get events posted in the monthly newsletter and Duggan said King sends out a reminder for newsletter items so maybe they can streamline that.

8. Urban Trail Update

Dunn said the subcommittee met a couple of weeks ago and went through the old presentation and map. They revised it for the current state and will be presenting it at the Work Session on Wednesday. The overall goal is to get support so staff can get focused and move forward on it. The recommendation is to include this and future urban trails in the next Parks Master Plan because it is not easily updated. Barry said we have a resolution drafted to move forward in good faith and partnership.

9. Dalton Lake Preserve Update

Pettit said they had the concrete poured in October and the kiosk, bench and bike rack was installed in December. The bike rack is whimsical, and they should look at it when they get a chance. Willows were cut again so she is going to work with PW to get some signs up there saying it is a preserve. They had a Zoom meeting with CREST in November. The only thing that came up was making sure there was enough water in the summer for the birds and aquatic wildlife. They are talking about using the beavers to keep the water levels up. They will quit taking out the beaver dam.

She did a couple of interviews for the Chronicle and Spotlight. She went to Dahlgren's because the plaques were ready for the donated kiosks. Dahlgren said he would donate materials any time for more kiosks.

Still looking to the City to help access the trails for Madrona. Nothing has happened on it so far. Hopefully she will be talking to Planning again.

10. Master Plan List Additions

Blumenthal asked how often will stuff get added to the Master Plan. Dunn said it doesn't make sense to do addendum to current Master Plan but keep the list going so we can make additions to new Master Plan after the census information is released. Nelson said it is not an easy thing to change. They have to change the Comprehensive Plan, hold public hearings, etc. It is time-consuming and there is a cost to it with all of the notifications and staff time attending meetings after hours. Dimsho would be more knowledgeable about the process it needs to go through. Dunn said we just need to keep compiling items for now.

Morten said he thinks its non-functional the way it works now so he is going to bring it to the Council about the process of a Master Plan and how inflexible it is. Blumenthal thought there should be some way things could be added or subtracted every six months or once a year. Dunn said she thought that could be built into the next Master Plan. They should add something to the plan where they could have addendums.

### **DISCUSSION ITEMS**

Dunn asked about an update on Millard Rd. property. Morten said that through the Planning Department, there was a sense of getting things done so Chase road could have access to the property so they had to decide on a use so they decided on Mixed Use. There was a possibility of a future trail through the wetland area. We have to answer to the citizens on how it's going to be used. Mixed Use does allow parks and can be almost anything. Pettit said it is listed on page 88 of the Master Plan and they should look that up. Belcher feels the whole thing should be a park because of future development around it. Brewington gave the history of property. Pettit said it is also a wildlife corridor. We will put it on the next agenda and Dunn will track down the maps of the property.

Blumenthal said they are putting in more plantings in Nob Hill and doing a lot of leaf blowing and the Watershed Council getting closer to what they are going to do with 5th Street ROW.

### **OTHER BUSINESS**

**ADJOURNMENT - 5:45 P.M.**