



PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

Monday, December 12, 2022 at 4:00 PM

APPROVED MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT

Commissioner Howard Blumenthal
Chair Lynne Pettit
Commissioner Dana Lathrope
Commissioner Scott Jacobson
Vice Chair Brandon Sundeen
Commissioner Paul Barlow

STAFF PRESENT

Shanna Duggan, Parks & Recreation Manager
Melisa Gaelrun-Maggi, Parks & Recreation Administrative Assistant
Jacob Graichen, City Planner
Doug Morten, City Council

OTHERS

Emily Martin
Steve Toschi

CALL TO ORDER - 4:00pm

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Approve Minutes of October 10th, 2022
Motion made by Blumenthal to approve minutes, seconded by (*secretary note: upon review of the meeting recording, it was determined that a second was never made, and so this motion was not complete. At the Commission's next meeting on (January 9th, 2023) a new motion will be made to approve these minutes*).
Voted yea: Sundeen, Jacobson, Lathrope, Pettit, Barlow.

NEW BUSINESS

Discussion of HB 3115 - Jacob Graichen, City Planner

Graichen called attention to the two maps in the packet. HB3115 is about how homeless people camp in Oregon. There are some ongoing court cases, one that has to do with cruel and unusual punishment. Cities need to be careful about enforcement. A simple statement would be, "no punishment without a destination within City limits." It is a complex issue that the Council will be dealing with. He assumes that the Parks will keep enforcing the current rule of no overnight camping. As there are not decades of case law to rely on, we want to be prepared when this bill takes effect next year. This bill does not require the City to build shelters.

Blumenthal wants to know if some parks could be treated as more fragile, such as those with more sensitive vegetation, versus those that used to have camping spaces. Graichen agreed that it is possible to have some parks treated differently than others, especially those with sensitive watersheds.

Sundeen thought that Sand Island should continue to be the only place that camping should be allowed.

Morton suggests that the door should not be opened to homeless at all. He feels that the City will be overrun like Portland.

Jacobson feels that the language "objectionably reasonable" is too broad. (edit: Jacobson feels that the language "objectionably reasonable" is a two way street.)

Graichen clarified that the language states that it is objectionably reasonable from the eyes of the person experiencing homelessness.

Pettit feels that homelessness is a public health hazard. Morton followed up that he feels homelessness is a mindset and that we need to do something other than build shelters.

Graichen stated that it will be discussed, and Duggan will be updating the Commission.

Jacobson asked if we need to start scouting for homeless camp locations. Graichen stated that it might be part of the management solution.

Morton feels that the solution to surplus right of way areas is to make it an official park so that we have official ordinances to keep people out. Graichen claims that you can also just say no camping in undeveloped right of ways.

Duggan added that many City officials and organizations are working on this issue.

Mural & Graffiti prevention - Commissioner Lathrope

Lathrope gave a presentation on a mural project in Campbell Park. She touched on vandalism, possible surveillance systems, and increased security. She referenced a plan that Australia used to implement murals on the various buildings in the park. She asked what steps the park staff have taken to stop vandalism.

Duggan stated that they have removed the barriers near the bathroom doors and the bench in the bathroom. Security cameras are hard due to the low wireless signal in the area. They are looking into trail cameras instead. Staff are increasing their passes in the area especially after school hours and have closed the bathrooms sooner in the day.

Lathrope says the bathrooms should be open more and she has heard complaints.

Permission was given at the July 2022 Commission meeting to pursue the mural project. Lathrope spoke with one of the vandalizing youth and feels that a "free wall" allowing graffiti art would help. Lathrope wants the park staff to gather baseline data to compare to data gathered after the project to see if it helps with graffiti and vandalism. She wants the youth, community, and professional artists to be involved in the mural project. She already has some community and artist interest and would encourage feedback. Lathrope would like the work documented along the way and then have a celebration of the completion. She feels that all funds will be able to be raised through volunteers. Lathrope wants Parks to develop a graffiti removal strategy.

Lathrope wants to know what the next step should be. Pettit thought that since it was already approved back in July of 2022, the next step would probably be to present this to the Council. She had questions about the cost. Lathrope said that she was looking into youth grants since she was wanting to use youth to create the mural.

Morton says that it sounds like the Arts & Cultural Commission may be resurrected. Jacobson wants to know how they could do that. Morton said it would only require three people and a suggestion to the Council.

Duggan would love to meet and talk with Lathrope about art grant opportunities.

Sundeen mentioned that if the Youth Council is brought back, that would be a great partnership as well.

Parks Internet Presence - Commissioner Jacobson

Jacobson asked the Commission what they thought of the Park's presence on the internet. Sundeen said there should be more pictures. Duggan brought up that they are currently working on updating the website and adding more pictures. Jacobson thinks there should be some history of each park as well. Duggan said that any suggestions should be emailed to her.

Changes to Bylaws – Chair Pettit

Pettit did not like that they didn't meet in November. She made a recommendation that the bylaws be changed to reflect the municipal code which is that six of the nine commission members need to be in city residents. She also made a recommendation that the Commission meet every month of the year. If the date falls on Veterans Day in the future, they can change it at that time.

Sundeen made motion to amend the bylaws with the stated changes to reflect the municipal code, Lathrope seconded. Pettit, Lathrope, Sundeen, Jacobson voted yea. Blumenthal voted nay.

Appoint & Vote Members-Chair Pettit

Pettit stated that she will be setting up Zoom interviews through a City employee for Commission applicant interviews this week and has designated Sundeen and Dana as fellow panel interviewers. There are currently three applicants for two positions. Morton and Duggan brought up the fact that Sundeen will be on City Council in January and therefore voting on his own Commission recommendation. Morton highly advised Pettit to pick another panel member. Lathrope informed Pettit that she is busy all week and not available. Duggan informed Pettit that if she wants the Zoom meetings to be done through a City employee, then it needs to be done during City work hours. Pettit then appointed Jacobson and Barlow to be on the panel.

Blumenthal wants to be included in the process. Lathrope agreed that she liked the process better when they all interviewed together instead of a sub-committee. Pettit said she will give Duggan and Gaelrun-Maggi dates and times. Lathrope is upset that a conversation was had without the Commission to change the way the process was done. Pettit states that this is how it will be from now on. Blumenthal does not like that the process was changed without any input. Jacobson agrees that it was out of leftfield. Pettit asked if they didn't want to fill the positions. She stated she will talk to Kathy Payne and put the process on hold for now.

Pettit stated that she and Paul Barlow's terms are up, and they need to be re-appointed.

Blumenthal made a motion to re-appoint Pettit and Barlow to the Parks & Recreation Commission. Jacobson seconded. Pettit, Lathrope, Sundeen, Jacobson, Blumenthal voted yea.

OLD BUSINESS

URBAN TRAIL - Duggan

Duggan has no new information to bring about the Urban Trail. The project is still on pause though it is talked about at manager meetings. We want to make sure that when we do it, we do it right. Morton added that it is much more complicated than anyone thought.

STAFF REPORT**Semi Annual Report - Duggan**

Duggan provided a copy of the Bi-annual Report in the packet. If the Commission has any questions, they can email her. They can also watch the last City Council report.

She will be working on getting grants to get the Campbell Park playground equipment updated.

Pettit brought up the spring 2023 launch of Park Adoption Program. Pettit and Blumenthal are concerned about others coming into their parks and undoing their work. Duggan and Gaelrun-Maggi tried to explain more details about the upcoming SOLVE spring cleanup week and the theory of the program. Pettit wants to be more informed. Sundeen agreed that more information would be nice. Lathrope likes the idea of the program as she needs more volunteers for Campbell Park.

Duggan mentioned that there is an update to the IGA out of the funds that are already allocated to allow spraying at McCormick Park.

Sundeen asked Emily Martin if she visited in person and if she saw a lot of poison oak. Emily said she did visit and did not see a lot, but she did not look under the blackberry bushes. She mentioned a couple different ways of treating the poison oak that she did find. The price mentioned is for the few that she found. Sundeen said that he feels it is important to spray so that others can work in that area.

COUNCILOR'S REPORT

This is Doug Morten's last meeting. He has great excitement for the future of park land. He plans to do a lot of work with First Nations.

ACTION ITEMS

Pettit wanted to follow up on the possible fencing of the dog park at McCormick. Morton stated that the issue was brought up years ago and that most people who frequent the dog park do not want it fenced. He has never heard of a dog death.

Duggan talked to the person who brought up the issue and suggested that they start a "friends" group to raise funding.

Pettit asked if anyone has been tracking their time. Blumenthal stated that he has. Sundeen says he has, but he needs to update it. The others stated that they have not. Pettit says that she has tracking sheets that she will send out.

OTHER BUSINESS

Blumenthal is going to do some mowing. He wants to plan for the traffic that Nob Hill will be getting in the next few years.

Sundeen is officially resigning from the Commission as he is going to City Council.

ADJOURNMENT at 6:46pm