



PARKS AND TRAILS COMMISSION

Monday, January 08, 2024 at 4:00 PM

APPROVED MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT

Chair Dana Lathrope
Vice Chair Lynne Pettit
Commissioner Jerry Belcher
Commissioner Howard Blumenthal
Commissioner Scott Jacobson
Commissioner Brian Long

MEMBERS ABSENT

Commissioner Jacob Woodruff

STAFF PRESENT

Brandon Sundeen, City Council
Melisa Gaelrun-Maggi, Parks Administrative Assistant
Jennifer Dimsho, Community Development Project Manager

CALL TO ORDER 4:00pm

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes from the last meeting were not reviewed by enough Commissioners in time for January meeting. Will be reviewed in next meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Columbia View Park - Associate Planner Jenny Dimsho

Jenny Dimsho shared the current plans for St. Helens Riverwalk site. She referred Commissioners to the last Riverwalk work session for more detailed information.

Belcher asked if the deadline for the project for the streets was still September and Dimsho was unsure as of this time.

Lathrope asked if people would have access to the river from the park with this new design, Dimsho responded that it would still be steep and unsafe.

Jacobson asked if the City has looked for more bids, Dimsho said that the Mayor had brought up the idea and they would do so around February.

Blumenthal asked about the retention materials on the south side near Nob Hill, Dimsho did not have details as it was not part of this design.

Paul Barlow joined the meeting

Lathrope asked about the lighting on the guardrails, Dimsho stated that the lights within the guardrails are special LEDs and that there is dimmable lighting in other areas of the park.

Barlow asked what kind of bike racks would be installed and stated that his group would be interested in installing a bike workstation.

Blumenthal wants to know if they have thought of recycling the splashpad water, Dimsho said they do not have plans at this time.

2. Chair & Vice Chair Nominations - Chair Lathrope

Lathrope asked if anyone would like to present themselves for the office.

Jacobson thought that Pettit would automatically be Chair. Pettit accepted. Blumenthal seconded.

Voting Yea: Chair Lathrope, Vice Chair Pettit, Commissioner Belcher, Commissioner Blumenthal, Commissioner Jacobson, Commissioner Long.

Pettit nominated Jacobson as Vice Chair.

Jacobson nominated Belcher as Vice Chair.

Jacobson accepted. Belcher seconded.

Voting Yea: Chair Lathrope, Vice Chair Pettit, Commissioner Belcher, Commissioner Blumenthal, Commissioner Jacobson, Commissioner Long, Commissioner Barlow

3. Japanese Gardens - Councilor Brandon Sundeen

Taylor Theel from the Scappoose Bay Watershed is interested in removing invasive species and possible future design. Councilor Sundeen is giving her history information and there is talk about starting a "Friends" group.

Pettit asked which invasive species they were thinking of removing, Councilor Sundeen said they were talking of blackberry but does not know the full scope.

Jacobson thought it would be a good idea to make a map of the garden. Councilor Sundeen and Pettit agreed.

Councilor Sundeen said in the past there was interest from the Portland Japanese Garden, but it did not go anywhere.

Belcher asked if the St. Helens Garden Club has any interest, Councilor Sundeen said that he has heard that their members are getting up in years and they are stretched for commitments.

4. Interview/New Commission Member(s) - Chair Lathrope

Pettit is going to send available dates and times to the Commission Secretary who will check with two current applicants.

5. Future Budget Items - Chair Lathrope

Lathrope asked if any Commissioners had major wish list items. Both Lathrope and Pettit wish for more park signage. Jacobson wants to make a Parks only website. Belcher wants a concrete stamp and a kiosk for his Urban Trail. Blumenthal wants a kiosk and a new bridge for Nob Hill Park. Pettit wants historical signage for Dalton Lake.

Lathrope would like to redo the Master Plan. Councilor Sundeen remembers that the last time it was brought up the cost was about \$125,000.00. Jennifer Dimsho mentioned that a master plan can be covered by SDC funds but needs to be staff lead and woven into City Council strategic with years of planning. The first step would be involving Buck Tupper. Pettit stated that a few years ago the Commissioners sent in their ideas for a new master plan and if they could use those. Dimsho claimed that they are still filed. Barlow asked what the average expiration on a master plan is as he doesn't feel nine years is that old. Dimsho said that most are ten to fifteen years. Councilor Sundeen stated that he doesn't feel that now is the best time to try for a new master plan as there are many items that have not been accomplished on the old plan and due to budget needs. Dimsho agreed with Councilor

Sundeen and echoed budget and added staff issues. Pettit feels that Dalton Lake is not well represented on the old master plan. Jacobson asked if they could just add an addendum, Dimsho stated that addendums make a plan unruly.

Lathrope wants everyone to keep in mind that they should not ask for budget items that won't be finished in this budget year, such as the Urban Trail kiosk as the area is under construction for another year or so. Belcher still wants his kiosk this year.

6. Review Current Park Assignments & Create 2024 Calendar for Presentations - Chair Lathrope

Lathrope went through the park assignments and verified if each commissioner wanted to keep their park and which month to report in.

Pettit is going to do May for Dalton and Walnut Park. Blumenthal is going to do February for Sand Island. Councilor Sundeen is going to invite Brad Hendrickson to that presentation. Woodruff has McCormick Park with Barlow for the month of September. Barlow has the BMX track for September. Woodruff has Sixth Street Park for the month of September. Belcher has the Botanical Gardens and Godfrey Park for the month of November. Long is assigned Campbell Park and Civic Pride Park for the month of March. Jacobson has Columbia View Park and Heinie Heuman Park for the month of October. Blumenthal has Nob Hill Park for the month of April. Lathrope has Grey Cliffs Park for the month of July. Japanese Gardens will be addressed by a group in the month of June.

OLD BUSINESS

Belcher wants the City to give a presentation on the Sand Island contract. Councilor Sundeen said that he will ask Brad Hendrickson and the City Administrator to attend the February meeting.

Belcher wants to know if Councilor Sundeen is still interested in renaming Botanical Gardens. Councilor Sundeen says he is interested but wanted to get the opinions of the people who first created the garden.

COUNCILOR'S REPORT

Councilor Sundeen thinks that there could be a better job with a new commissioner on boarding and remember to be a voice for your parks.

Lathrope agrees that there needs to be a commissioner onboarding and felt it was lacking when she was a new member. Sundeen thinks that maybe brainstorming and making a list between the members would be a good start.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Blumenthal gave a recap of all the hours he and his partner spent at Nob Hill.

Blumenthal mentioned the new lawsuit that was won when someone slipped in a park. He was told the City is aware of the situation.

Jacobson stated that people are not cleaning up after their dogs on the gravel trail next to Columbia View Park. He stated he is also working on a grant for an ADA trail going from the Senior Center to the Heinie Heumann Park.

ADJOURNMENT 6:05