



PARKS AND TRAILS COMMISSION

Monday, September 11, 2023 at 4:00 PM

APPROVED MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT

Chair Dana Lathrope
Vice Chair Lynne Pettit
Commissioner Howard Blumenthal
Commissioner Jacob Woodruff
Commissioner Scott Jacobson
Commissioner Brian Long

MEMBERS ABSENT

Commissioner Jerry Belcher
Commissioner Paul Barlow

STAFF PRESENT

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

CALL TO ORDER 4:10pm

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Approve August 14th, 2023 Minutes

Edit by Commission Pettit.

Motion made by Commissioner Blumenthal, Seconded by Commissioner Jacobson.

Voting Yea: Chair Lathrope, Vice Chair Pettit, Commissioner Woodruff, Commissioner Long

NEW BUSINESS

3. Japanese Garden Update - Pettit

No new updates. Need to organize a cleanup day soon.

4. New Commission Nominee - Lathrope

The Commission recommended Lacy Tolles to Parks and Trails Commission. She has a background in grant writing that they feel will be useful. Counciler Sundeen will pass the recommendation on to City Council.

5. Bicycles in parks - Blumenthal

Blumenthal has noticed bike skid marks in the gravel on the trails in Nob Hill Nature Park. Buck Tupper clarified that an electric bike is a motorized vehicle, and they are not allowed on the trails in the parks.

Blumenthal would like to add something about this in the City newsletter. Buck Tupper thought maybe a reminder on social media would be better.

Lathrope asked what protocol would need to be followed to change the signs to clarify these rules. Buck Tupper said he would investigate it.

6. Future of Nob Hill - Blumenthal

Blumenthal is worried about how to preserve the Nob Hill nature park with the Waterfront Development. Pettit feels that the dusk to dawn sign should be sufficient and that they should not borrow trouble and assume that more traffic will destroy Nob Hill.

Blumenthal feels that more talk is needed. Lathrope asked him to do some homework on other parks with nature trails that have larger populations.

OLD BUSINESS

7. Council and Commission Debriefs - Lathrope

Lathrope asked for any reports from any council meetings attended.

There were no reports.

Jacobson mentioned that there were sprinklers watering at 6th Street Park. Buck Tupper responded that they were doing that to soften the ground so that they could till it.

Pettit asked when and if they could get water to Civic Pride Park. Buck Tupper said that he will investigate it. Lathrope feels that Civic Pride Park would be a good place for a community garden.

8. PTC Liaison Schedule - Lathrope

Lathrope pulled up the calendar of City meetings and asked for volunteers to attend each in order to not miss any information that might pertain to parks.

9. Special Use Permit Review - Lathrope

Lathrope went through pages of the Special Use permit and asked for questions and comments.

Jacobson suggested that the City be the one to provide the event insurance instead of the applicant providing their own. Jacobson has concerns about private security on public land. Jacobson doesn't want the name Hudson Garbage on the application for waste disposal, he wants the applicant to search the internet for themselves to find Hudson Garbage. Jacobson does not like the idea of pre-event meetings. Buck Tupper and Melisa Gaelrun-Maggi explained more of the pre-event meeting process and its open discussion forum.

NOTE: Per October Meeting, Jacobson would like it noted that he didn't mean for it to sound like he did not like the idea of pre-event meetings. He just does not care for any verbal communication.

It was asked how the Police Chief approves the permits. It was stated that we trust the Chief's knowledge and opinion.

ACTION ITEMS

More conversation needs to be had about how to receive donations. Lathrope would like to talk about the creation of a Parks Friends group.

Blumenthal has questions about how he was paid out in the past from the City. He was advised to ask them directly from the City Finance Director.

STAFF REPORT

Construction has begun on the Veterans Memorial, and it should be done by Veterans Day.

Sundeen and Tupper would like to update the no smoking signs in the parks and brought a couple examples for the Commissioners to look over.

Some homework has been done on fire safety and a thirty feet parameter is the goal as well as a fire danger sign during the worst of the season. We will be following the Forestry Department Levels as a guide.

COUNCILOR'S REPORT

Councilor Sundeen appreciates the talk about sign updates in the parks. While he knows it won't stop everyone, he hopes it will help.

He is looking forward to the changes at the Veteran's Memorial, Columbia View Park, and the Police station.

Sundeen wanted to remind all the Commissioners to track and turn in their volunteer hours.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Blumenthal mentioned that nine people showed up at the work party at Nob Hill on Saturday. They planted new plants and re-graveled trails.

Jacobson would like traffic lane changes at Gable Rd. Tupper feels that would be quite a project that would entail ODOT and the railroad.

ADJOURNMENT 5:58pm