



PARKS AND TRAILS COMMISSION

Monday, September 14, 2020 at 4:00 PM

MINUTES

This meeting was held electronically via Zoom.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Chair Carmin Dunn
Commissioner Jerry Belcher
Commissioner Howard Blumenthal
Commissioner John Brewington
Commissioner Jacob Woodruff
Commissioner Lynne Pettit
Commissioner Paul Barlow
Commissioner Walter Fowler

MEMBERS ABSENT

Vice Chair Elisa Mann

STAFF PRESENT

Sue Nelson
Thad Houk
Doug Morten
Sheri Ingram
Rachael Barry
Shanna Duggan

OTHERS PRESENT

Wendy Worlitz
Michael Bernet

CALL TO ORDER – 4:03 P.M.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Approve Minutes of August 10, 2020

Motion: Motion made to approve the Minutes of August 10, 2020 by Commissioner Jerry Belcher, Seconded by Commissioner Howard Blumenthal

Voting Yea: Chair Dunn, Commissioner Belcher, Commissioner Blumenthal, Commissioner Brewington, Commissioner Woodruff, Commissioner Pettit, Commissioner Barlow, Commissioner Fowler

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

Approved 10/12/2020

COUNCILOR'S REPORT

Morten asked if the all-inclusive playground equipment was on the agenda and Dunn said it is under old business. Morten said the Mayor is anxious for them to make a decision to get it ordered. Dunn said we had looked at it a while back but we now have the MODA funding we are waiting on. She has a meeting with MODA this coming Thursday to talk to them about how we go about getting the funding and what the next steps are now that the season is over. Duggan also sent a link about a grant from Game Time that has 100% matching potential so there was an email string between her and some City staff last week about that. Nelson said it is another opportunity to boost the equipment and they did talk about that at the Council meeting but this agenda was already set. They had looked at equipment seven or eight months ago that Houk had narrowed down to a couple of options but there has been a large request to have more community input in the final selection so the thought was to have the Parks Commission select a few different options with the all-inclusive and have them work with Duggan and King to get community outreach on what we will ultimately install. We are hoping to install it in the spring. Morten said Council is very involved in getting it done and the Mayor said they need to get plans ready and was hoping to make decision by this Parks meeting. Houk said last winter, after they picked one out, he had a designer come out and they can add anything to it with the MODA funds but COVID put everything behind so they can start whenever they are ready to finalize. Morten said maybe we can bring drawings to next meeting and maybe we will know what money we are getting from MODA. Houk said the plans were all reviewed and Brown said we had the money to do it but COVID happened. Morten hopes they can get a recommendation at next meeting.

Dunn said she has mixed feelings when he says they need to rush but also need to get community involvement. We need to get it right and doesn't think its necessary to add pieces to it but need to look at what is out there for options and invite the community. It needs to be done right, not fast. Belcher said Houk brought several choices last time and Houk said they narrowed it down to one. Belcher asked if we are going to kind of start over and pick two or three new ones to take to the community. Dunn says her suggestion is to take what they already picked and see if it is inclusive play and if not, look at other options because the MODA money is for an all-inclusive playground. They need to look at it again since it's been so long since they've seen it. Belcher asked what the definition is of all-inclusive and Duggan said that means for any ages and any developmental or intellectual ability. Its not necessarily one big structure that has slides that only certain people can climb on so a kid with a disability can only use one part but not another. It needs to be all-access. Having things everyone can play on is important. Belcher said she and Houk should look at some things they can add on and bring them to the next meeting. Dunn said when we get the equipment in, we should have a grand opening.

NEW BUSINESS

2. Bench Donation

Wendy Worlitz put in an application to donate a memorial bench for Grey Cliffs Park and she said her mom and sister recently passed and it was her mom's request to have a bench by the river in that area so she wanted to make something like that happen for them. Dunn asked if everyone had time to look at the application and if there were any questions. Blumenthal said we just had the one for the dog park and asked if we had decided on whether they should be uniform or a certain shape. Dunn said they talked about it but didn't make any decisions so they can take them as they get them. Morten said he thinks the policy needs more latitude on what the parameters are for benches because the Lions Club was going to donate one but when they saw what they need to do as far as filling out the application, they backed out. Pettit said we have benches at Public Works the Lions Club has

donated for Dalton Lake and they are made of the Trex materials and look nice and are comfortable. Nelson said the policy talks about wooden benches but give exceptions for other materials and styles. It's true we should probably update that to make it more inclusive. The Lions Club was okay with that and submitted an application last week.

Dunn said right now we just need to address the bench Worlitz is donating. She asked if there were any concerns with location or details of the bench. Fowler asked if there was a reason we weren't doing a more artistic version and Worlitz said they weren't looking for anything pretty or fancy, they were just were looking for something that would withstand the weather.

Belcher said the artistic ones were commissioned by the Arts & Cultural Commission and were specifically designed for certain locations around the city. He thinks the north end of Grey Cliffs would be good for this one and would eventually like benches on the top. Brewington asked how long it takes to get the bench and plaque and Worlitz said they told her five to seven weeks after it is ordered. Morten said the benches on the south end are in a grouping and he thinks a slab should be poured on the north end so other benches can be added for a grouping in the future so there aren't benches scattered. Blumenthal asked if there was a budget for the concrete and Morten said its cheap and keeps the benches in place and makes mowing easier.

Motion: Motion made to approve application for donated bench from Wendi Worlitz with a concrete pad big enough to accommodate two or three benches in the future and forward to Council by Commissioner Blumenthal, Seconded by Commissioner Woodruff.

Voting Yea: Chair Dunn, Commissioner Belcher, Commissioner Blumenthal, Commissioner Brewington, Commissioner Woodruff, Commissioner Pettit, Commissioner Barlow, Commissioner Fowler

3. Native Species Donation, Michael Bernet with Wilsonville Concrete

Michael Bernet with Wilsonville Concrete said they grow different native species and have done reclamation projects in the past in Wilsonville and Yamhill County and since they are new to the community, wanted to reach out and see if we had any interest in doing a planting. He can send out an e-mail with what plants they currently have available and they can contact him with any requests or projects in the future.

4. Community Input Survey Parks & Trails Results - Rachael Barry

Rachael Barry shared the 2020 community survey results and gave an overview. The survey was open in January and February of this year. About 5% of the population responded and 3/4 of them left comments. There was a good range of participants among new residents and people who have lived here for a long time. Public Works does a fabulous job on core services. The area in which we have the most work to do is economic development. People had very positive responses about the Police Department and the Library. She would be interested to see the current feeling on the restrooms now that they are being cleaned twice a day with COVID. She thanked Dunn for input with the questions. She is also curious about impacts of COVID on the number of visits to the parks, library and rec program. The thing they find dissatisfaction with is planning for growth and greatest challenges were growth and traffic.

Belcher said he'd like to see something about the urban trail next time she does a survey. They put together a nice trail and would like to show her a handout and get her up to speed so she could mention it when she talks to people. Barry said the Street trail is a great way to connect. Belcher said the entire trail was two miles long and went in a figure eight and hit five or six parks. Brewington said there was talk of a trail all the way from Trojan through St. Helens to Scappoose and up to

Banks. Hopefully someday that will be possible. Dunn said people are not aware of all the parks and they need to get info out there. Maybe they could do a Park of the Month. Barry said Duggan is doing a great job of going out to the parks and engaging with people. Blumenthal said it would be good to get more brochures to hand out and Dunn said the concern with that right now is COVID but they can promote them online. Barry said it might be an opportunity to partner with the County or Columbia City. Belcher thought the Park of the Month was a good idea.

5. Athletic Field Use Process

Nelson said there is a new document on Field Use just for their review. There is a methodology to favor local groups for field reservations. If they have any feedback, they can e-mail it to Matt Brown or Nelson. Brown took another municipality's document and changed it to meet our needs.

OLD BUSINESS

6. Recreation Program Collaboration - Shanna Duggan

Duggan said they are going to put a new book on the story trail October 1st at McCormick. She is looking for funding opportunities to put in some permanent story trails. She met with Barlow and looked at all the bikes. Some of them look great and others need some TLC. Some of them may not make it back out on the streets. They did a scavenger hunt app and got into all of the parks. About 30 families are really active in it. She had a challenge where they take a garbage sack to each park and fill it up with garbage and send in a picture. She thinks the ideas of doing a park campaign is amazing and she would be happy to work with Farnsworth on that. She took over Trunk or Treat and changed it to a Drive Thru Boo with different booths set up and will hand out an activity bag at the end. It will be a ticketed event because of COVID and price will be really low and will be from noon to 4:00 on Halloween and want them to dress up. It will be in back parking lot of the Rec Center and people will stay in their cars.

7. McCormick All - Inclusive Playground Equipment

See Councilor's report.

8. Master Plan List Additions

Pettit said she is making some changes to page 32 so they can talk about it next month.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Blumenthal said he is hoping to have work party next month. They are hoping to get plants with a grant they got from the Portland Garden Club and talked to a local nursery about what they can get. It should be easy to stay socially distant and a lot of the planting will be along new trail.

Pettit said they are having a work party at Dalton Lake with SOLV Sept. 26, 9-12 to collect garbage and work on trails at north entrance.

Dunn asked about the donated benches and Pettit said there are two donated and one is at Public Works and the other one should be there soon.

OTHER BUSINESS

ADJOURNMENT – 5:44 pm

Respectfully submitted by Sheri Ingram