



CITY OF SWEET HOME PARKS AND TREE COMMITTEE MINUTES

January 13, 2022, 9:30 AM
Santiam Conference Room
3225 Main Street, Sweet Home, OR 97386

WIFI Passcode: guestwifi

PLEASE silence all cell phones – Anyone who wishes to speak, please sign in.

Mission Statement

The City of Sweet Home will work to build an economically strong community with an efficient and effective local government that will provide infrastructure and essential services to the citizens we serve. As efficient stewards of the valuable assets available, we will be responsive to the community while planning and preparing for the future.

Meeting Information

The City of Sweet Home is streaming the meeting via the Microsoft Teams platform and asks the public to consider this option. There will be opportunity for public input via the live stream. To view the meeting live, online visit <http://live.sweethomeor.gov>. If you don't have access to the internet, you can call in to 541-367-5128, choose option #1 and enter the meeting ID to be logged in to the call. Meeting ID: 200 344 653#

Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance

The meeting was called to order at 9:34 AM

Roll Call of Park and Tree Committee Members:

PRESENT

Debra Northern
Lena Tucker
Nanci Curtis
Wally Shreves
Bob Dalton
Nancy Patton

STAFF

Crew Lead: Facilities and Parks, Sean Hegge
Community and Economic Development Director Blair Larsen
Public Works Director Greg Springman
Associate Planner Angela Clegg
Parks Crew Gabe Aiello

Project Priorities for the 2022 Budget

Clegg informed the Committee that the meeting was a work session to discuss the items they want on the upcoming budget.

Shreves asked if upper Sankey Park was what they are supposed to talk about. Clegg stated that they are to discuss upper Sankey Park as well as other park items such as City Hall Park and Northside Park.

Northern told the Committee that Northside Park had a tree down. Hegge stated that there was also a large limb down at Ashbrook Park and other parks after the last wind storm.

Springman stated that City Council stated a desire to look at areas like Northside Park. Staff will be discussing the budget with Council sometime in February.

Shreves asked Springman to give examples of what staff envisions. Springman stated that we are still in the design phase of Upper Sankey Park. While the Committee is working on the design, staff can be working on task items in other parks. There was further discussion on the design of upper Sankey Park.

Northern asked the Committee about the tasks they'd like to complete at Northside Park. Shreves stated the path to the river and walking paths. Springman asked about resurfacing the tennis court and other spaces. Shreves stated that the tennis court has a tree root coming up in the court. There was discussion about the repairs to the tennis court. Staff and the Committee discussed the half-court basketball court. Northern asked if the racquetball court is used. Clegg informed the Committee that there are members that use the court. Shreves asked staff if there were any repairs need to the racquetball court. Hegge told the Committee that it is in good shape, but the floor could be resurfaced or repaired. Springman suggested that the Committee add painting of the racquetball building as a task. Clegg stated that, in past discussions, the Committee decided on a dog park at Northside Park. The Committee asked Springman if the tasks at Northside Park would take up the budget. Springman stated that the paths and the ADA ramp could potentially take a lot of the budget. Springman suggested that the Committee look at design, costs and the budget to determine what can be done. Larsen agreed that it needs to be done and it will be a matter of balancing workloads for staff.

Patton asked staff what parks get the most feedback from the community. Clegg stated that it is Sankey Park and Northside Park. Patton discussed the reasons that the community might not visit Northside Park. Patton requested that staff get the word out to the community when work is done at Northside Park. Clegg stated that once the Committee identifies the tasks that they want to see completed and Public Works begins work at Northside Park, then Staff will get the information out to the community. Patton asked the Committee to not forget about the work identified at Sankey Park still needing to be completed. She feels that Sankey Park and Northside Park are priorities. Clegg stated that the rest of the work at Sankey Park will be in a design phase this coming year, so the Committee can give Public Works other tasks the design is being completed.

Dalton stated that he doesn't want the Committee to forget about the tasks that need to be done at Sankey Park. There was discussion about the condition of Weddle Bridge and what needs to be done. Springman stated that he reached out to Stayton to get information about who they hired to do their bridges and he is waiting to hear back from them. Springman reminded the Committee that they have some funding in this fiscal year to pay for an inspection of the bridge and then they can see what needs to be done and how much it will cost. Dalton discussed the Master Plan task list for Sankey Park. There was discussion about tying in South Hills trail to Sankey Park. Clegg informed the Committee that she had a discussion with the Staff Engineer, Joe Graybill, about making sure the trail system between upper and lower Sankey Park be included in the Phase II plan and grant submittal. There was further discussion on the trail system design. Dalton discussed tasks that need to be completed with the Gazebo. Dalton asked about The City property on the school side of Weddle Bridge. There was a discussion about tasks that could be done on the school side of the property. Dalton discussed the removal of the old bandstand and having the Committee work on a design for a new one. Larsen stated that all the Sankey Park discussion items should be included in the Phase II design.

Springman stated that he spoke with the Finance Director, Brandon Neish, and was told that the budget for the parks could be near \$250,000. Springman suggested that the Committee work on projects like dog parks and walkways while designing Sankey Park. Larsen informed the Committee that he is looking to find a Resource Assistance for Rural Environment (R.A.R.E) student to help with a new Master Parks plan. If The City is unable to get a R.A.R.E student, Larsen will be looking at other avenues to get a Master Park Plan completed. There was a discussion about what the Master Parks Plan will include.

Shreves stated that he has received feedback about reconditioning the BMX track. Rocks need to be removed and some clay soil needs to be added. There was a discussion about getting the community involved and working with staff to complete the BMX track tasks. Springman stated that they can include those tasks as maintenance until the final design of the upper Sankey Park is

completed. Patton asked if volunteers are covered under City insurance. Clegg stated that she will research volunteer liability and report back to the Committee.

Tucker reviewed the Committee discussion. She stated that the Committee prioritized the continued progress at Sankey Park, and the desires from the community to focus on tasks at other parks. There was discussion about the tasks for Northside Park and the proposed City Hall Park. Tucker put the question to the Committee about taking on another park or focusing on the existing parks. There was further discussion between staff and the Committee about the donations and the lists of tasks to complete the City Hall Park. Larsen asked the Committee to decide if the City Hall Park is a priority for this budget cycle. There was discussion about how the City Hall Park fits in with the Committees priority list. Shreves discussed the community visibility of having a park at City Hall.

Larsen reviewed the priority list that the Committee had discussed including Sankey Park, Northside Park and City Hall Park. Larsen asked the Committee to confirm that list. The Committee members agreed.

Tucker discussed Evergreen Park. The Committee had discussed planting trees during an Arbor Day celebration. Clegg told the Committee that The City did not qualify for the Arbor Day grant in the 2022 grant cycle. There was discussion about funding the trees within the current year budget. Springman and Larsen discussed the amenities that exist and the tasks that are needed for Evergreen Park. Staff stated that Evergreen Park tasks could be completed in the current fiscal year. There was a discussion about benches being added to the park. Springman stated that there was a bench that was removed and Public Works will replace that bench. Clegg stated that she will look into the costs of the trees and report back to the Committee. Tucker stated that Committee members and staff need to do a site visit to figure out where the trees and irrigation will need to go. Clegg told the Committee that she could send out a notice to the neighborhood letting them know about the project and inviting them to participate.

Patton asked about the Adopt-A-Park program. Clegg informed the Committee that the program was discontinued due to lack of participation from the adoptees.

Springman discussed the future grant preparation with the Committee. Clegg informed the Committee about the deadline of the grant. Springman would like to try to submit the grant in April 2023. Clegg challenged the Committee to be ready by fall so that they could start soliciting for donations to acquire the needed grant match.

Shreves reviewed the priorities with the Committee as being work in Northside Park, City Hall Park, and the design of upper Sankey Park. Springman recommended getting costs to use an outside design firm for the design of upper Sankey Park.

Patton asked if the Sankey Park to Mountain View trail would be added to the Sankey Park design plan. Clegg recommended that they not include that portion of the trail system with this grant cycle and instead discuss it as a separate item in the future. Larsen stated that the Parks Master Plan should include a trails system plan that would include the trail.

There was discussion about the plan to solicit donations for the upper Sankey Park grant. Clegg informed the committee of the timeline and tasks that will occur before the Committee begins asking for donations.

Clegg repeated the listed priorities that the Committee identified. The Committee verified that the list was correct. Clegg stated that she will include the list on the next agenda for the Committee to vote on. Clegg will send out the minutes for approval at the next Park and Tree Committee meeting and then staff can bring the prioritized items to the Budget Committee and City Council for discussion.

Round Table Discussions (Committee comments about topics not listed on the agenda)

Shreves asked staff to add the Arbor Day Celebration to the next agenda for discussion. Clegg stated that she would. There was some discussion about having vendors at the celebration.

Springman thanked the Committee for their efforts. Patton thanked Springman for his staff's efforts.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 10:27 AM

The Sweet Home Park and Tree Committee welcomes your interest in these agenda items. Pursuant to ORS 192.640, this agenda includes a list of the principal subjects anticipated to be considered at the meeting; however, the Committee may consider additional subjects as well. This meeting is open to the public and interested citizens are invited to attend.

If you have questions, please contact the Community and Economic Development Department at 3225 Main Street, Sweet Home, Oregon 97386; Phone: (541) 367-8113.