

Parks & Open Space Advisory Board

February 2nd, 2010

Members of the Parks & Open Space Advisory Board met this day in regular session at City Hall, Brownsville, Oregon at 7:03 p.m.

Present: Patty Linn, Jim Mayer, Rick Dominguez, Robert Boyanovsky, Pat MacDermott, Marilyn Grimes and S. Scott McDowell.

Absent: Brandie Simon.

Public: No one.

Presiding: Patty Linn.

The meeting was called to order at 7:03 p.m. The minutes from the November 9th, 2009 meeting were approved with clarification corrections to paragraph three and four on page 5. McDowell informed the Board that Mrs. Simon would not be able to attend this evening's meeting and would like to suggest moving the meeting due to conflicts with the Central Linn Sports Schedule. Mrs. MacDermott agreed that Tuesday night is very busy. Mr. Boyanovsky and Mrs. Linn also noted that another night may be more suitable. After some discussion, the Board decided to move the meeting night to the first Wednesday of the month. The action was by consensus. The next Parks & Open Space Advisory Board meeting will be March 3rd, 2010 at 7:00 p.m.

Mrs. Linn asked Mr. McDowell to proceed through the Discussion Items. McDowell stated that he has been working on the Park Master Plan and hopes to have a draft ready for approval at the next meeting. The Board will need to approve the plan and forward it to Council for acceptance and final approval in order to apply for the Oregon Parks & Recreation (OPR) grant opportunities. McDowell said that he would be attending an OPR grant seminar on February 10th, 2010 in Salem to determine if the City's project is eligible. The project would have been eligible during the last funding cycle but with the cuts happening at the State level, the criteria may change.

McDowell shared an e-mail communication from the State recognizing Brownsville as a Tree City for this calendar year. The Board briefly discussed last year's event and decided to set a date for this year. The Board determined that October 2nd, 2010 at 10:00 a.m. at the Pavilion in Pioneer Park would be the date for the annual Arbor Day celebration. McDowell stated that there should be plenty of places in the park to plant a tree because Public Works plans on implementing the removal plan this Summer.

McDowell described a proposed landscaping project south of Hausman Avenue along Main Street. Mr. Robert Lundberg would like to organize a group from the neighborhood to beautify this space. Mr. Boyanovsky asked if the County approved moving forward. McDowell said the County would entertain a proposal if the City would want to landscape this area. The City would be solely responsible for the maintenance and upkeep of the improved area. McDowell did meet with Mr. Mike Nehls to discuss the possible types of plants and develop a general look for the area. Public Works Superintendent Karl Frink indicated that the current landscaping from Depot to Locust takes the better part of a week to freshen up every year. The Board decided to invite Mr. Lundberg to the next meeting to discuss his proposal.

Mrs. Linn & Mrs. Grimes asked about the leaves in the park at last year's Arbor Day celebration. Linn and Grimes are concerned about the overall health of the trees. It was discussed that the leaves would be mulched in place so the trees received the natural nutrients which are abated by raking the park. Mrs. MacDermott said that if you leave the leaf material, you will kill the grass. Mrs. Linn suggested fertilizer spikes; although this would not be the preferred option. Mr. Mayer mentioned that Harvard or MIT does have some kind of organic process that provides the proper care for urban trees. McDowell said he would investigate.

Mr. McDowell gave some brief updates on City projects around town. McDowell said City Staff met with Linn County officials to discuss the Gateway Project. The Gateway Project includes updating the "entrance" into town by widening OR 228/Bishop Way, installing planter strips, crosswalks and signs at the corner in front of Brownsville Body Shop and Dari-Mart. The project also including bringing the street lights all the way down to Main Street. The County is still in the plan review process. They thought the best case scenario, if all the approvals went through without a hitch, they could possibly start in July of 2010. McDowell briefly described a potential hydrocarbon problem in that general area which could significantly delay the project. The County felt that 2011 would be a more reasonable timeline. Mr. Mayer asked about the Kirk Avenue project. McDowell said that the County is still very interested in doing this project. County Road Master Darrin Lane told Council that it was the County's number two priority in February of 2008. The Road Department is still trying to come up with a preliminary design for the re-design and the necessary Intergovernmental Agreement still needs to be forwarded to the City for review and approval.

McDowell explained that the City has worked with the Calapooia Watershed Council and the Brownsville Senior Center to rent office space in Council room and in the new Community Room respectively. Council is also working on an agreement with the Brownsville Art Association for the use of the Fire Bays. The Association plans to keep the space open for other events such as the Calapooia Food Alliance's Farmers Market, Sharing Hands Food Drives and the Willamette Country Music Festival. The details are yet to be fine-tuned.

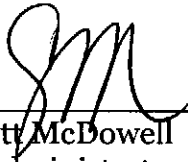
McDowell informed the Board that the Budget Process is beginning. McDowell said that Council discussed the Capital Improvement Projects for 2009-2010. There was consideration about cutting the improvements to Kirk's Ferry Park but ultimately Council decided to proceed with completing an application for funding through OPR. McDowell also informed the Board about an exciting project Mr. Greg Hopla is working on. Mr. Hopla is attempting to do a destination tourism piece on the south side of town. McDowell indicated that Mr. Hopla would be at the next Chamber of Commerce to discuss the business plan on February 11th, 2010 at 8:00 a.m. at Randy's Main Street Coffee.

Mr. Dominguez discussed the lighting of the flag poles at the Library. He is interested in moving the light from the east side of the "porch" roof to the west side so the flag can be lit better. He also stated that there have been some questions about the flags hanging at the Library so he has written an article for *The Times* to explain the POW-MIA flag and its significance. Someone recently was not aware that it was for the Prisoners of War and those soldiers Missing in Action.


Mr. McDowell gave a brief update on the electrical project in Pioneer Park. He and Boyanovsky developed a letter that has been sent to Georgia Pacific and KeyBank. He provided the Board with a copy of the KeyBank letter for their review. So far the City has received donations from Norm's Electric, Sweet Home Sanitation and the Pioneer Picnic Association.

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 7:58 p.m.

ATTEST:



S. Scott McDowell
City Administrator


Patty Linn
Chair