

Park & Open Space Advisory Board

February 5, 2008

Members of the Park & Open Space Advisory Board met this day in regular session at City Hall, Brownsville, Oregon at 7:00 p.m.

Present: Carla Gerber, Bill Nelson, Walter Heeren, Ruth Lawhon, Pat Biesinger, Jim Mayer and S. Scott McDowell.

Absent: Patty Linn.

Public: No one was present.

Presiding: Carla Gerber.

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. Minutes from the December 4, 2007 meeting were approved as written. Mrs. Gerber proceeded with the agenda. McDowell stated that he had been in contact with Lena Tucker from the State Division of Forestry regarding the celebration of Arbor Day. McDowell was interested in moving the date due to the fact that April isn't the best time to plant trees. Ms. Tucker indicated that as long as the City had a Proclamation and celebrated Arbor Day that the date wasn't important. Members felt that the move would be a good idea. October 4th, 2008 was set for the event. McDowell also shared some ideas about having a more elaborate poetry and short-story portion perhaps sponsored by Bedbug Press.

The Board then discussed ideas and concepts for creating a procedure to deal with plaques and memorials. Over the years, items have been donated in memory of many individuals. Since there is no process in place, memorials have been placed all over the City. The Board and the Historic Review Board would like to see a defined procedure in place for people wanting to memorialize loved ones. The Board considered the following questions with regards to creating a policy: What should the City offer to citizens wanting to memorialize a loved one? What should the City offer to citizens who have given generously of their time and financial resources? Is there a central location to display the memorials? Should there be any criteria on the physical plaque or memorial to unify a look?

The possibility of using the east wall of the pavilion seemed to be a natural spot. The Board liked the idea of having a wood memorial board carved and placed in that area if the criteria were met. McDowell indicated that he was unable to find a model policy regarding this topic. Gerber stated that Brownsville is unique and this may be something that really needs our attention. McDowell asked members to forward him their thoughts this week and he would try to tailor a policy that members could review for next meeting.

Steve Otis had provided McDowell with an idea for a benefit concert in Pioneer Park for May 17th, 2008. Otis would give the money to the Central Linn High School Music Department. McDowell stated that Council wanted to invite them to the February 26th, 2008 Council meeting where Mr. Otis will present his ideas for the event. Council was optimistic about the event. McDowell explained that Council has made changes in the Brownsville Municipal Code to address concerns such as these and other special events in the future. McDowell hopes to move that ordinance through Council at the next meeting as well. Gerber asked about tickets versus donations. McDowell said the logistics of how that is going to work hasn't been decided yet. Mr. Otis is going to meet with McDowell to discuss the issues prior to the upcoming Council meeting.

McDowell explained the progress that was recently made with the Central Linn School District with regards to the community garden proposal. McDowell, representatives from the Brownsville Co-op, Steve Brenner and J.D. Cochran, and Mayor Ware attended the most recent session of the School

Board. McDowell met this week with Superintendent Ed Curtis and worked out the major issues. McDowell will be attended the upcoming School Board meeting for final approval. The details of how the School would like to be involved with the gardens will be worked out once the agreement is signed. The Brownsville Co-op has put together some guidelines for the usage of the gardens which will be reviewed by Council. McDowell explained the Resolutions as passed by Council regarding this topic. McDowell stated that Council has made efforts to make a public policy statement about these types of recreational opportunities for the citizens of Brownsville.

McDowell presented a PowerPoint presentation which included pictures of Remington Park, Pioneer Park, the park at Kirk & Main and the Jail. McDowell discussed the improvements which still need to be made to Remington Park before the City accepts it and provided a rough draft of the City's concerns. McDowell showed the plans of Public Works for Pioneer Park with regards to major restroom improvements and earthwork throughout the park. McDowell also relayed Mr. Frink's plans for the newly constructed basketball courts. The park at Kirk & Main was discussed at length. Gerber suggested that the Board consider this a top priority for next meeting and asked members to think about a concept for the area. Bill Nelson really liked the idea of having a tennis court there. Jim Mayer thought the idea forwarded by Joni Nelson about a learning station that focused on the mills and history of Brownsville would be great.

The jail was discussed at length too. Gerber suggested getting the Girl Scouts involved with giving the jail a makeover. McDowell said that more investigation would have to be done to determine if a restroom facility would be possible. He did report that the walls were made of very thick concrete so the hole in the roof was not causing structural problems. McDowell will look into getting the materials for the makeover and discuss the project with Public Works for their ideas and input.

McDowell reported the Karl Frink and himself were putting the finishing touches on the Capital Improvements Plan (CIP). The CIP is a comprehensive list of all facilities owned and operated by the City. The intent is to give the elected and appointed officials as well as the public and the staff a better understanding of the current condition of the City's facilities and infrastructure. McDowell would like to discuss this issue further and how it relates to the Master Plan at the next meeting.

Rob Wingren had suggested the City should purchase the lot along Park Avenue across from Library Park from the Gutierrez family. Mrs. Gutierrez was at City Hall recently and indicated that someone was interested in their property. Mr. Gutierrez said that he wasn't interested in splitting the lots at present.

Len Baer of Home Depot, Team Depot, out of Eugene is still interested in doing some the Library landscaping project. McDowell has not heard from Rick or Robert Dominguez regarding the new location for the proposed Veteran's memorial.

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

ATTEST:



S. Scott McDowell
City Administrator



Carla Gerber
President

City of Brownsville

Parks and Open Space Advisory Board Meeting

City Hall
Tuesday, February 5, 2008
7:00 p.m.

Regular Session

AGENDA

- 1) CALL TO ORDER
- 2) ROLL CALL
- 3) ADDITIONS/DELETIONS TO AGENDA
- 4) MINUTES:
 - A. December 4, 2007
- 5) ACTION ITEMS
- 6) DISCUSSION ITEMS:
 - A. Moving Arbor Day Celebration - Lena Tucker
 - B. Plaques & Memorials
 - C. Benefit Concert
 - D. Community Gardens
 - E. Park Ordinances & the Municipal Code
 - F. New Facilities at Pioneer Park
 - G. Master Plan (Tabled)
 - H. Jail Building (Field Trip)
 - I. Len Baer Landscaping
 - J. Rob Wingren's Suggestion
 - K. Remington Park Update
 - L. Veteran's Memorial Update
- 7) CITIZEN INPUT
- 8) ADJOURN

This agenda is a list of topics anticipated to be considered at the meeting. The Parks and Open Space Advisory Board may add or remove topics as required. The location of the meeting/hearing is accessible to the disabled. If special accommodations are needed, please notify S. Scott McDowell, City Administrator, at (541) 466-5666 in advance. Thank you.