

## Park & Open Space Advisory Board

April 8, 2008

Members of the Park & Open Space Advisory Board met this day in regular session at City Hall, Brownsville, Oregon at 7:01 p.m.

**Present:** Carla Gerber, Patty Linn, Walter Heeren, Ruth Lawhon, Pat Biesinger, Jim Mayer, Karl Frink and S. Scott McDowell.

**Absent:** Bill Nelson

**Public:** Tara Putney, Calapooia Watershed Council; Rick & Robert Dominguez, Veterans of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century.

**Presiding:** Carla Gerber.

The meeting was called to order at 7:01 p.m. Minutes from the March 4, 2008 meeting were approved as written. Mrs. Gerber asked for additions to the agenda. The Board wanted to discuss Bill Nelson later in the meeting. Gerber skipped to Tara Putney since Mr. Smith was unavailable. Putney gave a brief description about the Calapooia Watershed Council activities in Pioneer Park. Tara stated that they would like to turn their attention to the area by Kirk park. They are only interested in planting native species and attacking the invasive species such as English Ivy and the Blackberry bushes. Putney stated that they are interested in hiring Jeremy Gibbons out of Crawfordsville. Mr. Gibbons has a tried and true way of eliminating blackberry without damaging other plant life. Putney indicated they would like to have May 3<sup>rd</sup> as the volunteer day. Patty Linn stated that she would love to help but that that may be difficult in a late 19<sup>th</sup> century dress... 'Carriage Me Back' is the same weekend. Putney indicated they would reschedule.

Putney discussed the Calapooia Watershed Council's Middle Reach Implementation Plan. The Council is interested in doing a project that would include the City, the Gerber's, Fred Smith and the River's Edge Development. It is part of the reclamation project from Brownsville Dam to Sodom Dam. Putney stated that we may be eligible to get some technical assistance on this important project. McDowell stated that the permits for this alone would be well over \$100,000 according to City Planner Bill Sattler. McDowell stated that the valuation of the restroom is over \$100,000. McDowell recently spoke with Harrisburg City Administrator Bruce Cleeton about the Willamette River threatening the Wastewater Plant. Basically the Army Corps' approach is that the structures will have to fall into the river before they do anything. The bottom line is that the City is interested in doing all we can to save the restrooms and restore the river bank. A motion was made by Patty Linn, seconded by Pat Biesinger to support the Calapooia Watershed Council event for the Kirk park area. The motion passed unanimously.

Robert Dominguez spoke to the Board about the idea of benches in the Library park. McDowell explained that Council delegated authority to the Park Board on this issue. McDowell presented photographs of the park for discussion purposes. Dominguez stated the reasons this idea has been presented is that there is no where for anyone to sit down. Robert echoed what McDowell said in terms of bench placement with the exception of one bench. The Board asked for clarification about how many of the

benches will be ADA compatible. Dominguez stated that it is in the best interest of the City if all of the benches would be compatible. He also stated that if a sidewalk extension is necessary, now is the time to mention it because of his contacts. Robert felt strongly that Knife River would donate the concrete for the sidewalk if the Board wanted one.

Jim Mayer asked about the back of the park and the pathway to the other two benches. Robert said that they would be ADA compatible which would take up green space. Patty Linn asked why all of the benches had to be ADA compatible. She stated that she loves the green space. Discussion ensued. Frink and Mayer wanted to see a more detailed drawing of the plan before anything was done. McDowell, Frink and Dominguez will get together to develop a plan to bring back to Park Board in a week.


McDowell indicated that Mr. Smith wanted to come to the meeting tonight to discuss the punch list that has been forward to him by the City. According to Bill Sattler, Tim was getting mixed signals on what was supposed to be done at the site. The Board felt that the list provided by Public Works Superintendent Karl Frink was completely in line with earlier discussions with Mr. Smith. Mayer stated further that two benches should be included as a number. The reason the list read the way it did was due to Frink wanting to make sure that the benches met a certain specification. The Board stated that their follow-up has been lacking due to the hiatus the Board had during the course of the project but at the same time, the Smith's were responsible for bringing updates back to the Board. A motion was made by Patty Linn, seconded by Walter Heeren to support and approve the punch list as presented by Staff and to note that two benches are requested. The motion passed unanimously.

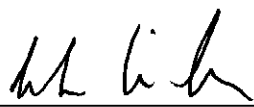
Bruce McMurray requested that the Board allow him to place ducks in Pioneer Park. McMurray is an independent contractor for the City of Albany, hired to remove ducks. The Board stated that the area is used by all members of the community for a wading and swimming area. Adding ducks would make a mess of the park. A motion was made by Carla Gerber, seconded by Pat Biesinger to decline Mr. McMurray's offer.

The Board then discussed Bill Nelson. Currently, Nelson has fallen ill. He has done a tremendous amount of community service especially in the parks. McDowell stated that he has been approached by a few people asking if the Board would consider naming something after Mr. Nelson. Several ideas were discussed. Karl Frink suggested the Rec Center. Mayer loved the idea. McDowell asked the members to think about the possibilities for further discussion next week. Gerber stated that she would talk to Joni Nelson about this as well.

Due to the hour of the meeting, the Board tabled the meeting to reconvene at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, April 15<sup>th</sup>, 2008.

ATTEST:

  
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S. Scott McDowell  
City Administrator

  
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Carla Gerber  
President

# **City of Brownsville**

## **Parks and Open Space Advisory Board Meeting**

City Hall  
Tuesday, April 8, 2008  
7:00 p.m.

### **Regular Session**

#### **AGENDA**

- 1) CALL TO ORDER
- 2) ROLL CALL
- 3) ADDITIONS/DELETIONS TO AGENDA
- 4) MINUTES: March 4, 2008
- 5) ACTION ITEMS:
  - A. Tim Smith – Remington Park
  - B. Calapooia Watershed Idea
  - C. Veteran’s Memorial Plan
  - D. Bruce McMurray & Ducks
- 6) DISCUSSION ITEMS:
  - A. Plaques & Memorials
  - B. Kirk Avenue Park – Tennis Court v. Shuffleboard
  - C. Capital Improvements Plan
  - D. Jail Building Project
  - E. Benefit Concert – May 17<sup>th</sup>, 2008
  - F. Community Gardens Update
  - G. Remington Park Update
  - H. Website Facelift
- 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) 466-5880 in advance. Thank you.

## **Park & Open Space Advisory Board**

**April 15, 2008**

Members of the Park & Open Space Advisory Board met this day to reconvene in regular session at City Hall, Brownsville, Oregon at 7:02 p.m.

**Present:** Carla Gerber, Patty Linn, Walter Heeren, Pat Biesinger, Jim Mayer, Karl Frink and S. Scott McDowell.

**Absent:** Bill Nelson & Ruth Lawhon.

**Public:** Rick & Robert Dominguez, Veterans of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century; Blanche Nellis.

**Presiding:** Carla Gerber.

The meeting was reconvened at 7:02 p.m. Mrs. Gerber turned the floor over to Mr. Rick Dominguez to discuss the placement of benches in Library park. Park Board requested that drawings be made available. Mr. Dominguez provided pictures of the park along with a detailed drawing of the exact location of all benches. Mr. Dominguez and the Board reviewed the drawings carefully. Basically, the plan consisted of the placement of six benches; two curved benches along the sidewalk of the War Memorial located at the southeast corner of the park; one bench on the southwest corner by the foot monument and bolder; one bench along Menefee trail; one bench between the trees and bushes near the center of the park; and, one bench located at the northeast corner of the park by the landscaping berm. The bench that was going to be located under the Willow will be installed at a later time due to the sewer construction project taking place this summer. CenturyTel will be relocated some utilities to accommodate the City's installation of a new sewer for Averill Street. (The sewer extends from Kirk Avenue to Stanard.) Mr. Dominguez also explained that as part of the project they would like to extend the sidewalk from the edge of the Menefee trail to the edge of the monument; ninety feet more or less. Mrs. Gerber wanted to make sure that skilled labor would be available for the installation of the sidewalk.

The Board really appreciated the detailed maps and plans as presented. No one had any questions for Mr. Dominguez. Robert Dominguez indicated that they would like to proceed with the project as soon as possible. McDowell explained to the Board that the target date for having the project "kick-off" would be Saturday, May 17<sup>th</sup>. McDowell indicated that he will contact Jason Curtis and Ben Swartzendruber, local contractors, to assist with the installation of the sidewalk. McDowell also stated that he would like to organize lunch or something for the folks volunteering on this day. McDowell discussed the possibility of having a dedication for the benches on the following Saturday. Rick is going to line up the VFW or the American Legion to present the colors and perhaps execute a twenty-one gun salute. Robert will be organizing the materials for the project. A motion was made by Jim Mayer, seconded by Patty Linn to approve the improvements as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

The Board then continued the discussion about a tribute to Bill Nelson. Patty Linn reported that she had spoken with Joni Nelson about the ideas presented at last meeting. Joni was comfortable with the Basketball Court idea and also forwarded the thought of naming the annual Easter Egg Hunt in honor of Bill. Bill Nelson was the driving force behind both of these projects and efforts. McDowell reported that there

was an overwhelming response to do something of this nature for Mr. Nelson because of his many hours of community service to the parks and youth of our community. McDowell did report that a few folks felt it was best to not name anything after Mr. Nelson pointing out that other things are not named after anyone or anything. The bottom line is that not everyone is going to be in agreement with any decision that is made by this Board or any other public board. McDowell encouraged the Board to do what they felt was right. Mrs. Gerber thought that the Board should recommend both projects to Council and then to the Rec Center Board; both are really a decision that should be made jointly with the Rec Center Board. Gerber indicated that she had spoken with Rec Center Board President Tim Marchbanks about the ideas. Tim was in favor of the concept. He indicated that he would contact Rec Board members and get back with Mrs. Gerber if there were any concerns about these ideas. The Board discussed their thoughts about this matter. A motion was then made by Patty Linn, seconded by Carla Gerber to request that the Rec Center Board consider naming the new basketball court and/or the Easter Egg Hunt event in honor of Mr. Bill Nelson. The motion carried unanimously. McDowell will forward this to Council for their approval and then to the Rec Center Board.

Mr. Heeren and Mr. McDowell visited the old jail this week. Mr. Heeren asked McDowell about the park in Harrisburg. Heeren likes the idea in place for memorials there. McDowell contacted Harrisburg City Administrator Bruce Cleeton for pictures of the park and presented them to the Board. There was much discussion. The Board really liked the idea. Basically, names are stamped in concrete. Mayer stated that the costs associated with the work would be incorporated in the "memorial" fee so the City would not be spending money for memorials. Gerber talked about the formation of an actual policy. Members will review the information provided by Mr. Mayer and discuss this at the next meeting.

Gerber directed everyone's attention to the ideas for Kirk park at the corner of Main & Kirk. McDowell provided information regarding the possibility of a tennis court or shuffleboard courts in the area. A regulation size tennis court is not possible in the current space. Patty Linn asked if anyone is even interested in shuffleboard. Discussion ensued. Mayer discussed the limitations of holding public hearings. He recalled the reason why the park is what it is now was because of a group who were interested in a skate park. The Board thought that maybe forwarding an idea to Council for public review would be best. Gerber asked McDowell what his opinion was regarding the state of the area. McDowell talked about his first impressions driving into Brownsville. He thought that the "nasty" chain link fence completely broke the mood of town.

McDowell stated that, if the City had a lot of money, he would like to see the jail building refurbished as the Board has been discussing. He would like to remove the basketball hoops, the fencing and turn the area back into green space. Place a gazebo with flowers around it sponsored by local Master Gardeners. Upgrade the portable toilet and allow someone like Randy Ginn or other organizer to hold acoustic concerts using the gazebo as a showcase in the park throughout the summer. McDowell said that it would dovetail nicely with the ideas presented by the Calapooia Watershed Council. A nice trail could be created to the river, and the park could have a more "old town" feel. Basically, it would be more conducive for town. This was not possible before because the new basketball courts were not constructed. The Board liked the concept. Patty Linn asked what to name the park and McDowell suggested Kirk's Ferry Park given it's

proximity to the river and based on the historical name of Brownsville. The Kirk family used to operate a ferry across the Calapooia when the area was originally settled.

A motion was made by Carla Gerber, seconded by Pat Biesinger to recommend to Council that the following proposal be placed in the newspaper for public review: the park be named Kirk's Ferry Park, the fencing and basketball poles be removed, the jail building be renovated complete with a new roof and an historical plaque and to plan for the installation of a gazebo for the area. The motion carried unanimously.

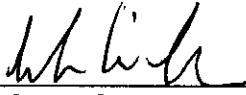
The Board wants to invite interested member of the public to the next meeting for comment and discussion of this proposal.

McDowell reported that he "politely declined" the Bruce McMurray request about placing ducks in Pioneer Park. McDowell will be forwarding the letter to Mr. Tim Smith about Remington park this week. McDowell reported that the City website has received a "facelift" and let the Board know that the City is allowing folks around town to place information on the site such as sign up sheets, pictures or whatever to promote their events. He encourages anyone interested to contact him at City Hall. McDowell reported that the Memorandum of Understanding with the School District and Food Alliance for new community garden space has been consummated. McDowell also reported that he has spoken with Ben Zoon, a Central Linn Senior, who may be interested in the Jail project. McDowell estimates the cost of a new roof to be between \$600 to \$800. Karl Frink is getting official estimates.

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 8:17 p.m.

ATTEST:

  
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S. Scott McDowell  
City Administrator

  
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Carla Gerber  
President