

Park & Open Space Advisory Board

May 6, 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, Patty Linn, Walter Heeren, Ruth Lawhon, Jim Mayer, and S. Scott McDowell.

Absent: Pat Biesinger

Public: Don Ware, Leslie Heckathorn, Janet Michael, Colleen Garrison, Jay Marsh, John Marsh, Denver Marsh, Eric Tetamore, Dillon Francis, Cody, Josh and others.

Presiding: Carla Gerber.

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. The minutes from the meeting held April 8th and continued on April 15th were approved without exception. Mrs. Gerber asked if Erica Lewis was present. Miss Lewis had asked to be placed on the agenda to discuss a Senior Class project but was not present.

Mrs. Gerber turned the floor over to Mr. McDowell to explain the process of what has happened to this point regarding the park at the corner of Kirk and Main. McDowell explained that the Board has been talking about making improvements to this park for the last several months. The Board had several options available on how to best engage the public. They discussed the following options, 1) sending out a survey, 2) holding a host of public meetings, or 3) publishing a proposal and holding a public hearing. The Board chose option three and sent a recommendation to Council.

Council had concerns with the proposal but ultimately honored the Board's process and advertised the meeting as requested. Councilors Cole, Ginn and Shepherd voiced concerns. The Board's intent was to open a discussion for the improvement of the park. They are interested in what the public thoughts are for the area. The proposal placed in The Times on April 25th and May 2nd, 2008 stated the following considerations, 1) naming the park Kirk's Ferry Park, 2) renovating the Jail Building complete with an historical plaque, 3) removing the existing fence and basketball poles, 4) remove the existing asphalt and return it to green space and 5) plan for the future installation of a gazebo.

McDowell stated that Council had requested that Edi Smith be contacted about the proposal. Mrs. Smith had worked on that park in the past and was instrumental in creating the play space. Mrs. Smith liked the name, liked the renovation of the jail, liked the idea of a gazebo but did not want to see the courts removed. Councilors Ginn and Shepherd had stated to McDowell on two other occasions that they would recommend the courts stay as well. They both raised families in the area and loved the fact that the kids could go to the end of the street, be loosely "watched by neighbors," and have a safe place to play.

Gerber opened the floor for public comment. Mrs. Heckathorn, 203 Averill, started the discussion. She stated that sprucing up the jail is a lovely idea. She really thought the courts should stay. She said the half-pipe is in need of attention. John

Marsh, 382 Kirk, said the half-pipe was in bad condition. He wanted to see the courts left the way they are now. Jay Marsh stated that the history of the park is what is important. The park has been that way for a number of years and he really didn't want to see the use changed. Janet Michael, 323 Kirk, just loves the court. Everyone can see the court and keep an eye on the activities. She would love to see the jail turned into a restroom.

Colleen Garrison stated that it is in a wonderful location for people to see what is happening. The problem with Pioneer Park is if someone gets hurt it is more difficult to get help. She appreciates the fact that the park is so visible. Josh, 326 Kirk, suggesting installing a drinking fountain and fixing the bottom of the fence by the two basketball hoops. Patty Linn stated that part of the problem with the aesthetics of the park is that there is no unified look. She suggested doing something to delineate the difference between the grass and the parking lot. Denver Marsh asked for lights.

Gerber asked about skating accessories. The kids in attendance thought it would be nice to have a bike rack down there. People liked the idea of installing a bathroom in the old jail building. McDowell indicated that no one has truly checked the feasibility of installing a bathroom there. There are a couple of major concerns, 1) ADA Requirements, and 2) Historical integrity. It could be very costly to try a retrofit.

Eric Tetamore, 407 Kirk, said that the half-pipe is unsafe. He explained the problem with the angle iron versus a pipe on the skateboard. He also said that the side for skating needs to be smoother because the current asphalt eats up the wheels and the boards. Dillon Francis, 133 Sage, said that he loves "T Courts" and the rugged asphalt, the chain nets and how it currently exists. He did say they could use new backboards.

Gerber gathered the suggestions and then provided a list of things that were identified. Everyone liked naming the park Kirk's Ferry Park, everyone liked the idea of sprucing up the jail building and everyone wanted the fencing to stay. Skate accessories like a rail, a bench and a possible ramp would be welcomed additions. Adding a drinking fountain, new backboards and a bike rack would be useful. Everyone also agreed that the half-pipe ramp needed to be removed. Jay Marsh volunteered to remove the ramp.

A motion was made by Carla Gerber, seconded by Jim Mayer to name the park Kirk's Ferry Park, install a drinking fountain, place a bike rack, replace the backboards and install skate accessories. The motion carried unanimously. Gerber and Mayer thanked everyone for coming.

Gerber tabled the discussion about plaques and memorials until next meeting. The Calapooia Watershed Council has planned clean-up day for invasive species down by Kirk's Ferry Park for Saturday, May 10th at 9:00 a.m. Everyone in attendance was invited. McDowell mentioned the BrownPort Music Festival on May 17th; proceeds benefit the Central Linn Music Department. McDowell discussed Remington Park. The City has forwarded the punch list letter to Smith's Custom Construction. McDowell stated that the bottom line is that the City does not have to accept the park; so we will stand pat for now.

McDowell indicated that he had received a message from Joyce Martinak of the Linn County Museum. The Museum, as earlier reported by Mr. Heeren, is interested in doing some kind of memorial fundraiser. I explained to Ms. Martinak the Board's ideas

gathered from Harrisburg. The Board agreed that they would be willing to work with the Museum. McDowell will attend one of their upcoming meetings.

McDowell indicated that Council and the Rec Board agreed to dedicate the new basketball courts to Bill "Ace" Nelson. McDowell said that the Pioneer Picnic Association also wanted in on the memorial. Leisa Keyser thought it would be great to publicize the dedication and hold it during Picnic. There will be a 3 on 3 basketball tournament. We thought it would be appropriate to dedicate the courts before the official start of the tournament. McDowell will iron out the details with Joni Nelson, the Rec Board and the Picnic Association. McDowell has spoken with Public Works Superintendent Karl Frink who does have dirt put back for the edge of the courts. Karl also has some ideas about the parking area.


Gerber asked McDowell to talk about the vacancy on the Board. McDowell explained that the ordinance requires the member be from the Rec Board. McDowell said that he had spoken with Wendy Parker about the post. They had discussed several names including Paul Baxter and Brandi Simon. McDowell will canvas the members to see who is interested in filling the position.

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

ATTEST:



S. Scott McDowell
City Administrator



Carla Gerber
President

City of Brownsville

Parks and Open Space Advisory Board Meeting

City Hall
Tuesday, May 6, 2008
7:00 p.m.

Regular Session

AGENDA

- 1) CALL TO ORDER
- 2) ROLL CALL
- 3) ADDITIONS/DELETIONS TO AGENDA
- 4) MINUTES: April 8, 2008
April 15, 2008
- 5) ACTION ITEMS:
 - A. Erica Lewis – Senior Project
 - B. Kirk Park - Public Comments
- 6) DISCUSSION ITEMS:
 - A. Plaques & Memorials
 - B. Calapooia Watershed Update
 - C. Jail Building Project
 - D. Benefit Concert – May 17th, 2008
 - E. Remington Park 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) 466-5880 in advance. Thank you.