

Park & Open Space Advisory Board

September 1st, 2009

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

Present: Patty Linn, Jim Mayer, Robert Boyanovsky, Rick Dominguez, Walter Heeren and S. Scott McDowell.

Absent: Brandie Simon & Pat Biesinger.

Public: No one.

Presiding: Patty Linn.

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 p.m. The minutes from the August 4th, 2009 meeting were approved with one correction regarding the "Rocket Ship" on Page 3 of 3. Ms. Linn discussed an idea she had using the playground equipment to have a band in the park. She had a vision of using the platforms as a stage. She also indicated that the slide on the left side facing the three slides on the new playground, was pinching both Patty and her granddaughter, Josephine.

McDowell indicated that Mr. Jim Howell contacted City Hall recently to determine if the City was interested in purchasing a home and land he owns which is adjacent to the land the City owns southwest of Kirk's Ferry Park. Mr. Howell's property address 122 Main Street, he owns roughly two acres. McDowell had indicated that he would take the question to the Park Board for discussion. Mr. Mayer wondered what the City would do with the property. Mr. Boyanovsky discussed the upkeep and maintenance on the property, if we were interested in obtaining the property. McDowell indicated that Howell was willing to sell it at a somewhat reduced rate to the City. Linn thought it would be best to "chew" on it. She asked about finances. McDowell indicated that the City would have to figure out a creative way to finance the property if the City was interested in pursuing. Mr. Heeren said that there is historical significance in that particular area. He said that Mr. Moyer, years ago, had a mill down there and a glove factory. He stated that there used to be a 'Sash & Door Company' about where Kirk's Ferry Park is today. Heeren also told of a "transportation" company run by Mr. Sam Templeton.

McDowell stated that he had received a call from Anna Thorn. Ms. Thorn had rented the Park for a family picnic/reunion on the weekend of August 22nd, 2009. Her father, 80, and her mother, 79, had both fallen over the curb at the pavilion. She said her father tripped over it while backing up and her mother slipped off the edge of the raised curb. Ms. Thorn indicated that she was not going to bring a law suit against the City. She wanted to make us aware of the incident and let us know that something should be done. She gave her suggestions; paint the curb yellow and ad a tactile warning strip on both sides, the sidewalk side and the pavilion floor side or installing a guard rail or chain system. She said her father had cracked a rib but they were not entirely sure it was from this incident as he had sustained an earlier injury. McDowell contact Mr. Dunny Sorensen, City/County Insurance Services (CIS) Risk Manager, to review the situation. McDowell forwarded other areas that could be considered tripping hazards with the theory – where do we stop? Brownsville prides itself on being an historic city yet as

things are "safety proofed," it looks anything but historical. Mr. Sorenson said in his e-mail, "citizens have a duty to watch out for hazards they can readily observe..." Jim McWilliams, Property/Liability Claims Supervisor CIS, felt that the City should paint the curb around the wheel chair ramp.

McDowell brought the issue to the Board because it is a discretionary issue. Mr. Dominguez said it didn't matter what color you paint the curb – yellow, pink, purple or otherwise – if you are going to be walking backwards in that area, you are probably going to fall. Ms. Linn stated that she has never heard of anyone falling off or tripping over this curb. Mr. Boyanovsky asked about the future liability. McDowell stated that the only people who may remember this incident would be the City and perhaps CIS. The Thorn family could come down, not pay attention, and hurt themselves again – but the City would lean on Mr. Sorenson's comment. It is impossible to make everything 100% safe for every possible person and scenario. This is one of the major problems with our society. We think we can pass a law or install a sign and everything is going to be okay. (Well, it's not.) The consensus of the Board was to not paint the curb. The reasons the Board cited were, 1) This incident was the first time anyone can remember there being an accident at the pavilion, 2) Interferes with the historic feel of the park and the town, 3) People should have a duty to be aware of their surroundings, and 4) Where would the City stop painting edges and curbs?

McDowell reviewed the photos of Kirk's Ferry Park revisiting the improvements plan with the Board. The tenets of the plan include, 1) Paving and striping the parking lot area, 2) Installing a raised curb of some kind to delineate the parking lot area and the grass area, 3) Removing most of the existing fencing except behind the two basketball poles and along Kirk Avenue and changing the fence fabric to green, 4) Repave the existing asphalt, and 5) Install skateboard appurtenances. McDowell indicated that he attended a meeting with Ms. Linn and several members of the Calapooia Food Alliance Board (CFA) including Kathleen Swayze, Marcia Rae, Tricia Thompson, Cheryl Hayworth, Steve Brenner, Kristi Glaser and Tom Ing. McDowell explained the project above and discussed the grant process with OPRD. Basically the State, if the City is awarded the grant, wouldn't make the award until fiscal year 2010-2011. McDowell was asked if they could pull pickup trucks along the edge. It would work and parking would still be easily accessible. The CFA did want to discuss certain improvements that may be made over the next year or two. They are interested in installing a wooden floor with posts so that setup and tear down is easier. They will come back to the Board with some drawings. They were also concerned about power to the site. The contract indicates that the CFA will be responsible for the power. How do they recoup their costs if community events are held at that site in the future? McDowell told them that issue would have to be dealt with in the future as it is unclear at the present time what if anything would actually happen in the park.

McDowell updated the Board on Council's decision regarding Pets in the Park. Basically, the Council took the recommendation of the Park Board. They will be drafting an ordinance that designates an area for dogs to be off-leash and restricts dogs off leash in the rest of the park from around Memorial Day until some time after Labor Day. McDowell did say that he had received a call from a concerned citizen who wanted to protest this decision. He directed the person to either produce a petition or show up at Council meeting and discuss the issue with the Council. Council has made this no secret as they have put an ad in the paper along with general public notices and only one person has come forward. The Democrat-Herald even wrote an article about the issue.

McDowell discussed the Master Plan and thought it may work just to jot down some ideas to build a five year plan. Mr. Boyanovsky asked about the signage that would tie in the public buildings around town. He mentioned Lebanon's signage as a nice model. The Board came up with the following initial items:

- Uniform Signage for City Properties...
- Landscaping & Skateboard Park at Kirk's Ferry...
- New restroom unit in Pioneer Park by new basketball courts...
- Policy for Liability in the Parks...
- Reforestation of Pioneer Park...
- General Maintenance of Park Buildings...
- Installing Electricity for the east corner of the park...
- Install new entry gates at all entrances to the park...
- Big archway to Pioneer Park...
- Redo Kiddie Park – 1970's equipment...
- Par Course...
- Sidewalk and Bridge for Library Park...

McDowell will forward the list so members can add as necessary to discuss next meeting. McDowell indicated that the Board should finish the Master Plan before submitting the grant in April. McDowell also said that he was recently at a City Manager's meeting in Harrisburg and several surrounding cities indicated that the scoring process through the State has gotten extremely difficult. Many projects that were getting funded two years ago are not scoring well now. He indicated that he would be going to the training in late March or early April to determine the new rules. Mr. Boyanovsky mentioned that his company may be willing to donate toward a project if the City writes a proposal with a cost estimate. McDowell will work with Mr. Boyanovsky to write a proposal.

The street tree project on Spaulding was briefly discussed. If the Board goes with the planter box idea, then low maintenance plants should be installed. The only problem with the planter box is that it does not put greenery in the air. The possibility of a pole hanger with baskets was discussed along with the planter boxes. The discussion was tabled until next meeting.

McDowell said Council has authorized painting of City Hall and the Rec Center. The quotes are due September 11th with a project deadline of October 23rd. McDowell said that if the City has to choose between City Hall and the Rec Center, the Rec Center will be chosen first due to the maintenance issues with the building. Hopefully, both buildings can be taken care of prior to the weather changing.

The Rec Board did forward some items for the website. McDowell has the sports application and the scholarship application forms on the City website. McDowell said he hoped that he would have the schedules and maybe even be able to post cancellations on line in the future. The Rec Board was also interested in running an Open Gym in partnership with the City this fall and spring. The Rec Board decided on having the Gym open from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. on Fridays. Volleyball and Basketball would be available. McDowell indicated that there would be an article in the upcoming newsletter.

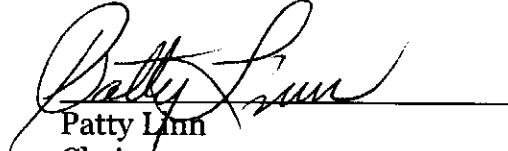
McDowell said that Mr. Heeren, Ms. Linn, Mrs. Biesinger and Mr. Mayer were all at the end of their term with the Board. Ms. Linn and Mr. Mayer were willing to continue. Mr. Heeren said he is ready to retire. He said that he would stay on until we could find someone to replace him. McDowell will check with Mrs. Biesinger to see what she wants to do. There will be an article in The Times for replacements.

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 8:16 p.m.

ATTEST:



S. Scott McDowell
City Administrator



Patty Linn
Chair

** Patty Signature*

City of Brownsville

Parks and Open Space Advisory Board Meeting

City Hall
Tuesday, September 1st, 2009
7:00 p.m.

Regular Session

AGENDA

- 1) CALL TO ORDER
- 2) ROLL CALL
- 3) ADDITIONS/DELETIONS TO AGENDA
- 4) MINUTES: August 4th, 2009
- 5) ACTION ITEMS:
- 6) DISCUSSION ITEMS:
 - A. Jim Howell – Park Purchase
 - B. Anna Thorn & Dunny Sorensen *(Pictures)*
 - C. Pets in the Park
 - D. Planning & Goals Discussion
 - E. Cemetery Update – October 10th
 - F. Street Trees on Spaulding
 - G. Calapooia Food Alliance Meeting Debrief *(Pictures)*
 - H. General Updates – *Building Point
Rec Board WS ; Open Hym
Newsletter*
- 7) CITIZEN INPUT
- 8) ADJOURN *Terms – JM, PB, PL, WH
Foot Project*

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.