

Park & Open Space Advisory Board

September 4, 2007

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, Ruth Lawhon, Walter Heeren, Pat Biesinger, Bill Nelson, Patty Linn, Jim Mayer and S. Scott McDowell.

Public: Brandy Stutz

Presiding: Scott McDowell

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 p.m. Minutes from the July 19, 2007 meeting were approved without exception. Ms. Gerber indicated that Eric was not aware he was on the agenda for this evening and is still in the process of finalizing plans for the proposed batting cage storage building. Eric will be ready for the next meeting. Three members had items they wanted to add to the Discussion Items section of the meeting.

McDowell explained that Rick and Robert Dominguez had a few ideas for the Veteran's Memorial behind the Library. They were going to be present to discuss their vision but were not in attendance. Ms. Gerber moved to the Citizen Input portion of the agenda. The floor was given to Ms. Brandy Stutz.

Ms. Stutz indicated that she had called City Hall recently to book the park for her wedding in June of 2008. She was told by Staff about the policy for the lottery. Ms. Stutz was very upset with this policy stating that she cannot wait until January 2nd, 2008 to see if she has a venue for her wedding. She explained that she was a long time resident of Brownsville and a tax payer and felt that those two reasons should count for something. Jim Mayer forwarded defense for the policy and system that are in place by stating that many folks from outside of Brownsville were reserving the park and keeping others from using the facilities. Bill Nelson supported that idea by saying that gathers were held there on an annual basis and some system had to be devised to handle the demand.

Ms. Stutz said she felt that citizens of Brownsville should be priority for use of the park. She stated further that weddings should take precedence over company picnics or reunions due to the planning and lead time necessary for a wedding. Ruth Lawhon indicated that her daughter was married in the park and it is a beautiful place for such an event. Stutz reiterated her desire to be married in the park. She felt that the policy should be revised. McDowell urged Park Board not to act in a reactionary manner much like the State and Federal government, but rather to evaluate the request on the merits of the request. The policy was in fact put in place to deal with problems the City was experiencing when renting out the facilities to the public. The folks at that time had good reasons the system should be instituted and it has worked very well since this is the first request of this nature the City has received.

Mr. Mayer and Mr. Nelson asked if this issue should be Council issue. McDowell said that it would be a Council issue if the intent of the Board was to change the policy, however to make an exception to the policy was at the discretion of the Board. Given the facts of Ms. Stutz request, an exception could be made. A motion was made by Patty Linn, seconded by Walter Heeren to allow the exception for the Stutz Wedding for June 7, 2008 in Pioneer Park. Ms. Gerber asked for this topic to be placed on the agenda for the next Board meeting so that it can be evaluated more closely.

McDowell discussed the possible new location for the Community Gardens. J.D. Cochran, Bill Nelson and Scott McDowell reviewed several potential sites around Brownsville. No one felt that the gardens would fit with the feel of Pioneer Park. Ms. Cochran had found a location north of the elementary school. The land had plenty of sunshine, vehicle access, water access and fencing. Mr. McDowell has spoken with Central Linn Superintendent Ed Curtis about the possibility of entering into a lease agreement for the property. Mr. Curtis asked for some time to gather his Staff and discuss the matter. He did indicate that there have been some talks among the Staff to create community gardens in Halsey and Brownsville. McDowell will continue to monitor the situation as it develops.

McDowell reported that one of the fire pits was stolen during the 'Stand By Me' event. Bill Nelson suggested chaining down the remaining pit. Walter Heeren suggested screwing the pit into the ground. While it defeats the purpose of a portable system, it also prevents the pits from being stolen. Ms. Gerber thought it may be best to leave it the way it is because it may be an isolated incident.

McDowell reported that City Planner Bill Sattler has sent the punch list completed by Public Works to the Smith's for completion. To date, nothing has been done toward making the necessary improvements. McDowell will follow-up to ensure that the park meets the requirements set forth by the City. McDowell indicated that the City has some leverage based on the new developments being completed west of Depot Avenue by Smith's Construction.

Pat Biesinger asked why the lights on the bridge were so inadequate for Christmas? She hopes that something can be done to make the display better. Bill Nelson indicated that the crew got a late start last year and it was kind of thrown together. Patty Linn said the County got rid of the electrical outlet that was used for the lights on the bridge when the repairs were made a few years ago. McDowell said he will look into the situation because it will probably deal with Linn County since the bridge and road are under their responsibility.

Bill Nelson asked about Mike Will's request for tree removal. McDowell indicated that the Board had extended their responsibility by passing the Tree Ordinance in 2005. Now the City is responsible for "public" trees. Jim Mayer asked that the skateboard park be placed on the next agenda and that the master plan be reviewed by the Board. Mayer indicated that the park is currently an eyesore and something needs to be done since it is the most visible park in town. McDowell indicated that funds are limited but the City could get creative on what can be done to enhance the park for the community.

Patty Linn expressed a "growing" concern on the hill by the Christian Church. Patty said that the English ivy is out of control and needs to be taken care of before it spreads to others parts of town. She asked McDowell to determine who owns the property so she can do a presentation to abate the concern.

Board members went to Mike Will's residence at the northeast corner of Washburn Street to review a maple tree. Upon reviewing the tree, a motion was made by Carla Gerber, seconded by Walter Heeren to remove the tree. McDowell indicated to the

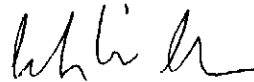
Will's that he would have the tree removed as soon as possible however he was going to explore options for the removal.

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 8:07 p.m.

ATTEST:



S. Scott McDowell
City Administrator



Carla Gerber
President

City of Brownsville

Parks and Open Space Advisory Board Meeting

City Hall
Tuesday, September 4, 2007
7:00 p.m.

Regular Meeting Agenda

- 1) CALL TO ORDER
- 2) ROLL CALL
- 3) ADDITIONS/DELETIONS TO AGENDA
- 4) MINUTES:
 - A. July 19, 2007
- 5) ACTION ITEMS
 - A. Rick & Robert Dominguez – Veteran’s Memorial Concept
 - B. Eric Gerber – Recreation Center Consideration
 - C. Mike Will – Tree Removal Request
- 6) DISCUSSION ITEMS:
 - A. Co-op Community Gardens Idea
 - B. Fire Pit Stolen
 - C. 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) 466-5666 in advance. Thank you.