

# Park & Open Space Advisory Board

October 6, 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, Jim Mayer, Patty Linn, Walter Heeren, Brandie Simon, Rick Dominguez and S. Scott McDowell.

**Absent:** Pat Biesinger.

**Public:** No one was present.

**Presiding:** Carla Gerber.

The meeting was called to order at 7:01 p.m. The minutes from the September 9, 2008 meeting were approved without exception. Mr. Heeren and Ms. Linn moved and seconded respectively. Mrs. Gerber had a few items to add to the agenda that included a donation from Mandy Cole and arborist training. Ms. Linn added bush trimming at the Post Office and stripping the public parking lot at the corner of Averill and Stanard and Mr. McDowell added landscaping on OR 228 on the west side of Brownsville and the Tauzer cottonwood tree.

Gerber turned the floor over to McDowell to discuss the agreement with the Calapooia Food Alliance. Gerber and Linn indicated that they would not be voting on this matter as they are also members of the Calapooia Food Alliance. McDowell refreshed everyone on the discussion that Councilor Brenner and he had had a few months ago. Councilor Brenner is also the President of the Calapooia Food Alliance. They were looking at possibilities of where to locate the Farmer's Market. Brenner was excited about the prospect of using Kirk's Ferry Park upon reviewing the space.

Mr. Brenner forwarded a draft Lease Agreement for the Calapooia Food Alliance to use this property starting in 2009. Two changes were discussed among the Board members and they included, paragraph 1. Leased Premises, excluding the option of using the fenced area for future expansion and paragraph 8. Utilities, adding to the end of the sentence, "and also for the cost of bringing service to the area." The concern Board members had was that recently the community was invited to discuss the future of the park space and decided that the courts would stay basketball courts. It was feared that by allowing the Calapooia Food Alliance use of the space, conflicts could occur with kids playing basketball throughout the summer. The other addition was to ensure that any costs associated with bringing electricity to the site would be done by the Calapooia Food Alliance. A motion was made by Mr. Mayer, seconded by Mrs. Simon to approve the Lease Agreement as amended. The motion carried unanimously. Mr. McDowell will make the changes and forward it back to Mr. Brenner for consideration at the upcoming Calapooia Food Alliance meeting.

McDowell then discussed the details around the Arbor Day Celebration scheduled for October 18<sup>th</sup>, 2008 from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. McDowell indicated that many of the same vendors are interested in being a part of the day including the Calapooia Watershed Council, Mike Nehls from Native Grounds Nursery and the State will have a representative to present the Tree City Award. McDowell asked if having the

Scouts available to present the colors would be good. Gerber and McDowell will contact the appropriate Scout leaders and invite them for the Celebration. Gerber indicated that she would also talk to the high school band to come play the "*Star Spangled Banner*."

McDowell stated that he had contacted Gravagraphics out of Lebanon to print some ribbons for the event. Twelve ribbons in all, Blue being first place, Red being second place and White being third place. McDowell said that he would talk to Randy's and Bella's about donating a gift card for the event which would be given to the first place winners. Everyone was in agreement. Gerber indicated that she is willing to bring over some craft materials for an activity for the children under the pavilion. McDowell said that he was trying to get the County Parks folks to at least drop off their display. Everyone thought it would be a good idea to promote local parks given current fuel prices. McDowell stated that the entire process will probably be about one hour depending on how many people read their stories and poems. Gerber asked if Mr. Tony Gorsline was still willing to judge materials. McDowell said he was but Gerber and McDowell may be needed to judge if there are a lot of materials submitted. Gerber reported that she has seen the contest posters at the schools but is unsure if the teachers are promoting the contest or not.

Patty Linn and McDowell found a location for the tree to be planted in Pioneer Park. The tree will be placed close to the Leo Haney fountain which is across from the eastern edge of the pavilion. The Board wanted to make sure that the species planted would not cause problems with the sidewalk. McDowell said that there are already a row of silver maples along the sidewalk and that this new tree would be somewhat of an extension of that row. The great thing about this spot is that it has plenty of sunshine and height for a nice sized tree.

Gerber then discussed the Library Park Project. McDowell showed pictures of the "finished" project. There are still several items outstanding including smoothing the rocks, fixing the irrigation system, placing more sand in the pavers and painting the book return box. Sherri Lemhouse and Public Works Superintendent Karl Frink are working on these final items. McDowell thanked all the groups involved including the City Public Works Department, Team Depot from Eugene, the Friends of the Library, Native Grounds Nursery and the Women's Study Club. Sherri Lemhouse, Sandy Sayer and Mike Nehls had logged many hours working diligently on this project. Lean Baer from Team Depot thought the project was very successful from his standpoint. Team Depot donated \$2,000 and brought over twenty volunteers. This was the largest donation Len had ever seen; typically Corporate gives between \$250 and \$500. The City definitely wants to maintain a great relationship with the folks at Team Depot so they may be interested in targeting another project.

Gerber reported some concerns that she had heard over the tree removals that were done. Gerber asked what could be done to prevent this kind of thing from happening in the future. McDowell said there were a lot of circumstances surrounding this project that made it difficult and challenging. The most foreboding is the major changes and transformation that happened. The Board and Council have been waiting on this project to be completed for nearly fourteen months. Anyone could have stepped up and volunteered at any time, but no one did. The most difficult thing to do in any community is remove trees. The trees that were removed, needed to be removed. They were too close to the building and had lost their shape over the years. The Board was very pleased with the overall outcome.

Gerber indicated that Councilor Mandy Cole approached her about the possibility of planting some trees along the southwest corner of the Library to block the view of the back of the buildings along Spalding. McDowell addressed some challenges given the space considerations in that area along with the proximity to the roof which was ultimately the downfall of the Rhododendron. McDowell will talk with Councilor Cole and Mike Nehls about some possibilities.

McDowell also expressed concern about the planting of flowers. McDowell indicated to those involved that the City Public Works Department will not be maintaining the flowers. The original intent of the landscaping project was to put native Oregon plants in place that were low maintenance. McDowell indicated that Public Works does not have the time to perform this type of service. The flowers in front of City Hall are done by Jannea Deaver and Kathy Nida on their own time. The flower baskets along Main Street are sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce. The Chamber hired Cindy Flandermeyer to take care of the maintenance of the baskets. McDowell will be suggesting to the Friends of the Library and the Women's Study Club that they make arrangements to take care of the flowers. McDowell will be forwarding this discussion to Council at the next Council meeting.

McDowell asked about an unveiling for the Veteran's Memorial Benches and the Landscaping. It was decided to wait until Memorial Day 2009.

McDowell reviewed the idea of discussing the Park Master Plan and the Capital Improvements Plan. He stated that soon an ad hoc committee of Council will be attempting to prioritize projects and will want the input of the Board. Members requested an electronic copy of the Master Plan and the appropriate pages from the Capital Improvements Plan.

Under Council Outcomes, McDowell indicated that the Memorial Ordinance will be up for second reading at the next Council meeting. The ordinance has made it through Council without any revisions to this point. Council did approve the update to the Park Facilities and Rule Changes as submitted. McDowell said the City recently sent out the September Newsletter; again the City is attempting to put out two Newsletters per year, one in March and the other in September. Highlights around Brownsville include, the City continues to get the utility billing to accurately reflect the Sewer Debt Service after much consternation with the City's software provider, the City will be hosting a open house for the community to see the Fire Hall space on the 18<sup>th</sup> of October from 11:00 a.m. to Noon; the City Hall Usage meeting will be held on October 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2008 at 7:00 p.m. in Council Chambers. McDowell mentioned the Meet the Candidate meeting slated for tomorrow night at 7:00 p.m. hosted by the Chamber of Commerce.

Gerber brought forward the idea of having one of the Public Works staff trained as a certified arborist. McDowell said he would see if any of the crew is interested in this type of training. McDowell thought that perhaps Mr. Borntreger may want to pursue this opportunity.

McDowell discussed the Wastewater Improvements Project history as it relates to tree removals on the west side of town by the mobile home park. The State really doesn't want the City to put anything back in this location but has indicated they would work with us. Marsha Morrill, Mobile Home Manager, is interested in getting something in

there soon as she is taking many complaints about traffic and McFarland-Cascade. McDowell stated that Council reviewed the situation and decided that nothing was the best thing to do largely in part to the canopy of existing trees and the limitations the State was imposing. McDowell will follow-up with Public Works Superintendent Karl Frink and Mike Nehls of Native Grounds Nursery to develop some type of compromise for the area. Mayer suggested Valley Ponderosa.

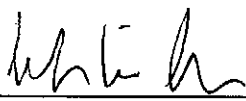
Linn and McDowell visited Mr. Rick Tauzer of 192 Kirk Avenue. Mr. Tauzer and his wife are very concerned about a hulking cottonwood tree that is leaning toward their home. The Board reviewed this concern last September as well. The tree is hollow from the ground to about eleven feet up. Patty Linn could get her entire arm in the tree. McDowell provided pictures of the tree and another tree close to the area. Public Works Superintendent Karl Frink received a quote to remove the tree at a total cost of \$2,695. The Board felt that the tree should come down. McDowell said that the trees will be taken down and left at the site as total disposal would be even more costly. McDowell explained that the City will be obtaining another quote at the very least. The gentleman quoting the tree felt that the tree was a hazard and did recommend the removal of the tree; his name is Vernon Esplin and he is a certified arborist. A motion was made by Patty Linn, seconded by Carla Gerber to remove the tree once the City obtains the best price for removal. The motion carried unanimously.

Patty Linn stated that she was coming out of the Post Office on Stanard, turning left toward Carlson's, when she noticed the bushes at the Post Office were in desperate need of a trim. Mr. Dominguez said that the Post Office is aware and as of to date has done nothing to remedy this concern. McDowell was asked to intervene. Ms. Linn also expressed concern about the parking lot behind the medical center at the corner of Spalding and Averill. She suggested painting lines for the entire parking lot. She noted how nice people park when the lines are there versus when lines do not exist. McDowell thought this issue was being attended to but will again check with Public Works.

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 8:28 p.m.

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  
Monday, October 6, 2008  
7:00 p.m.

### **Regular Session**

#### **AGENDA**

- 1) CALL TO ORDER
- 2) ROLL CALL
- 3) ADDITIONS/DELETIONS TO AGENDA
- 4) MINUTES: September 9, 2008
- 5) ACTION ITEMS:
  - A. Calapooia Food Alliance Agreement
- 6) DISCUSSION ITEMS:
  - A. Arbor Day Planning Finalization
  - B. Library Park Project & Unveiling
  - C. Master Plan Review & Capital Improvements
  - D. Council Outcomes
    - ◆ Appointed Rick Dominguez
    - ◆ Memorial Ordinance
    - ◆ Park Facilities & Rule Changes
  - E. General Updates
- 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.