

# Parks & Open Space Advisory Board

November 9<sup>th</sup>, 2009

Members of the Parks & Open Space Advisory Board met this day in regular session at City Hall, Brownsville, Oregon at 7:04 p.m.

**Present:** Patty Linn, Jim Mayer, Rick Dominguez, Brandie Simon, Robert Boyanovsky, Pat MacDermott, Marilyn Grimes and S. Scott McDowell.

**Absent:** No one.

**Public:** No one.

**Presiding:** Patty Linn.

The meeting was called to order at 7:04 p.m. The minutes from the October 13<sup>th</sup>, 2009 meeting were approved with minor corrections. There were no additions or deletions to the agenda. McDowell introduced two new members to the Board. Council appointed Pat MacDermott & Marilyn Grimes at a Special Session on November 5<sup>th</sup>, 2009. The City is very appreciative of their willingness to serve on the Parks & Open Space Advisory Board. Mr. Walter Heeren and Mrs. Pat Biesinger served the Board well for many years. Mr. McDowell will forward a thank you on behalf of the Council and the Parks & Open Space Advisory Board.

McDowell indicated that he would be taking the liberty to explain a little more of the background of the items for this meeting in order to bring Mrs. Grimes and Mrs. MacDermott up to speed. He began by briefly explaining the history with the Calapooia Food Alliance and their future plans to use Kirk's Ferry as a possible market site. Ms. Marcia Rae will be at a meeting in the near future. Mrs. Linn will follow-up with the Calapooia Food Alliance, as she is also a member of that Board, and report back at the next meeting.

The Board began discussing the goals from the last Park Master Plan. The goals are listed below with the discussion highlights underneath:

## **Goal 1. Acquire Additional Parkland and Open Space**

- *Acquire new neighborhood and mini-parks in areas that are underserved*

Mrs. Linn began the discussion regarding City Staffing levels and the seeming disconnect between adding more work for a very small staff with many responsibilities. McDowell explained that the City Comprehensive Plan currently has policies and goals that drive the City to expand as expressed in this tenet. McDowell indicated that he would be talking to Council about this issue when the Council discusses Community Development over the course of the next several months. The Board has discussed other alternatives to preserving the current parks and space the City has available. The Board agreed to delete this as a tenet of this goal.

- *Focus on underserved areas, particularly areas south of the river*

Mr. Mayer described some areas south of town that are still possibilities for development of new park areas. He mentioned the area across from the City Shop as a possible location for a Baseball/Softball/Soccer Field as proposed. Council is currently reviewing the possibility with the developer of the property. Mayer also mentioned the property behind the Chevron along Gap Road. There was a developer looking to create

an 80 home subdivision in the area that would have included a “pocket park.” Mrs. Linn also mentioned the establishment of Blakely Park at the corner of Washburn/Gap & Blakely.

- *Partner with school district to use school property*

The Board felt this should continue to be a viable goal. The Board & Council have worked with the School District to provide a Community Garden at the old Elementary School off of Blakely Avenue. The Calapooia Food Alliance operates the space per agreement.

- *Develop parks to serve a range of demographic ages*

The Board feels that it currently provides a wide range of activities covering a large demographic. Mr. Mayer mentioned how well the park has served younger ages with the installation of the playground structure a few years ago.

- *Acquire and develop “view park”*

Mr. Mayer explained that this concept was to have a “view park” not unlike Hendricks Park in Eugene. At the time, the hill was developing so the thought was to install a park in that area. Currently the City does own a parcel known as Remington Park. The Board voted a few months ago to remove the climber from the park. Public Works has just started to make the park a priority due to the way in which the situation transpired over time and the development of the subdivision. The Board felt this was an old idea moved forward primarily by the group from Eugene who completed the Plan.

- *Develop and adopt a park systems development charge (SDC) ordinance that allows the City to accept parkland in lieu of fees*

McDowell discussed Council’s reluctance to add more fees to building permits. He explained the process involved in developing a SDC. The Board felt that this could be left in the Plan and revisited when the economy turns around.

## **Goal 2. Ensure Adequate Access to Parks**

- *Create a pedestrian and bicycle linkage to south Brownsville*

The Gateway Project will help with this to a great degree.

- *Ensure the parks are accessible to residents of all ages throughout the City*

The Board feels this is being accomplished. Mrs. Linn mentioned the major contribution made by Leo Haney to put sidewalks in Pioneer Park.

- *Work toward achieving compliance with the American Disability Act standards and provide wheelchair access to all restroom facilities and the river*

Mrs. MacDermott felt the best approach would be to possibly create an overlook for the river. Actually creating a path all the way to the river seems unrealistic for several reasons. The Calapooia Watershed Council has done a good job installing a pathway around the back of the park that does access the river.

- *Provide effective directional signs to parks from key roadways and pathways*

The Board felt comfortable about continuing to work on this area. Mrs. Linn mentioned the uniqueness of the signs for the Menefee path next to Library Park. McDowell also mentioned the directional signs for Pioneer Park and for the Linn County Museum.

- *Provide year round access to parks*

Mrs. Grimes indicated that the City does provide year round access to parks. Mr. Mayer explained that this was an issue several years ago because the City placed the boulders to

prevent people from vandalizing the grounds. There were several anti-boulder people. So, this statement reflects that particular discussion.

### **Goal 3. Ensure a Balance Between Natural Areas and Active Recreation Areas**

- *Maintain camping in Pioneer Park*

The Board will continue to provide camping in the park.

- *Provide exercise activities*
- *Develop a playground at Blakely Park*

Done.

- *Develop a succession tree plan for Pioneer Park, other city parks and planting strips within public right-of-ways*

Mr. McDowell explained the process the Board went through earlier this year with Bud Baumgartner from the Calapooia Watershed Council. Mr. Baumgartner is a certified Woodland Forester and he gave the City some good advice on the reforestation of Pioneer Park. The plan is to remove several trees that are dead and grind the stumps of ones that have long been cut. The City will then replant native plants such as Oak and Big Leaf Maple in those locations to begin the process. The City has plans to start that program this year.

- *Identify critical natural areas within parks, including an inventory of native plants found within the park system*

McDowell explained the work being done in cooperation with the Calapooia Watershed Council. He also stated that Mr. Nehls is interested in turning the Library Park into a native plants area. McDowell stated that the City would like to work with Eagle Scouts in the future to bring some of these plans to life. Mrs. MacDermott thought it would be a great idea to create an “adopt” a flower garden program whereby folks would be encouraged to beautify public spaces. Mrs. Linn discussed fighting the good fight of eliminating invasive species such as blackberries and English ivy.

- *Provide pedestrian access and seating opportunities as appropriate*

The Board felt that access and seating was dramatically improved due to Mr. Dominguez spear heading the bench and sidewalk project at Library Park this past year. McDowell explained that the City plans on connecting the sidewalk along Averill to the rest of the sidewalk along the Library. Mr. Dominguez indicated that this may be the American Legion’s first project.

### **Goal 4. Conduct Needed Park Maintenance**

- *Provide adequate park maintenance*

The City continues to make head way in this area. The Public Works crew made substantial improvements to the public restrooms over the last year.

- *Consider park maintenance when evaluating acquisitions and improvements*

The Board has done an exceptional job at looking at the workload created by adding land. This tenet is in direct conflict with the first tenet under Goal 1.

### **Goal 5. Secure Long Term Funding**

- *Develop a short and long-term financial plan for city parkland*

McDowell explained the importance of the Capital Improvements Plan as developed in May of 2008. The City is aware of the overall condition of their assets.

- *Develop partnerships with the private sector and other public agencies*

Mr. Dominguez indicated that he had recently spoken with Public Works Superintendent Karl Frink about the maintenance of Library Park. The American Legion is interested in maintaining Library Park and the strip between the Library and Shipp's Shop. They are also interested in installing the last bench once the sidewalk project is completed along Averill.

- *Adopt a parks system development charge (SDC) ordinance*

Discussed earlier.

## **Goal 6. Increase Public Outreach**

- *Develop consistent, attractive signage for all parks in the system*

The Board is currently working on this idea. The members are still researching ideas for signs and the like.

- *Provide effective directional signs to parks from key roadways and pathways*

- *Develop park pamphlets that provide a map of all parks and describe opportunities and amenities*

The cemetery concept was discussed. Currently, Eagle Scout John Lawrence is working on a pictorial catalogue of the cemetery. McDowell also mentioned the City website as a great source for information regarding the parks.

- *Expand volunteer program to foster participation by all age groups addressing projects throughout the system – specifically including a youth volunteer program with teen-focused events*

The Board discussed the involvement with the Senior Class at Central Linn High School. McDowell loves this program because he feels that it directly lessens the amount of vandalism that happens in the park and throughout town. He was informed that Central Linn will be doing something different this year. McDowell stated that he will be reaching out to the Boy Scouts in Albany and locally to provide those opportunities for scouts. Mrs. Grimes also stated that the local Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints is also very interested in doing civic service projects.

- *Formally establish a Parks Advisory Board appointed by City Council. The advisory board would review issues related to parks and make recommendations to City Council*

Done.

- *Include Plan Review for parks as one of the functions of the parks advisory board*

Done.

## **Goal 7. Respect Historical Context**

- *Ensure historic resources are protected*

Mr. Mayer explained that there was a controversy brewing at the time regarding the City placing the big green building in the park. The overall feeling was that the park should retain the feel that it currently has with wooden buildings that fit the "feel" of the park. There was also some historical discussion about the Tail Race and the old mill that used

to be there. Mrs. Joni Nelson was interested in doing something in that area to explain and demonstrate the history of the mills in Brownsville. The jail building had also fallen into a state of disrepair. Recently, the Board made some improvements to the building. Mayer also discussed a controversy over developing a park at the end of Washburn Street. At one time, there had been a ferry crossing there. Mr. Steve Brenner thinks the other portion of the ferry crossing infrastructure could be on his property. Mr. Brenner lives south of the Brownsville Christian Church.

- *Ensure development of new facilities are designed within existing historical context*

Mr. McDowell stated that the Arbor Day Celebration will be held this Saturday at 11:00 a.m. in the Community Room at City Hall. Mr. James Ewing will be presenting the Tree City Award to Mayor Ware. The group will then proceed to Pioneer Park where they will plant a big leaf maple tree just north of the west ball diamond.

The Board decided to continue looking for examples on how to solve the concern on Spaulding Avenue with the street trees and beautification efforts. Someone suggested a field trip to McMinnville or other location to get some ideas and possible applications.

McDowell indicated that the City has delayed the painting project that includes City Hall & the Recreation Center with Fitzpatrick until the weather is suitable. McDowell also reported that Council has changed their position regarding the removal of the restrooms in Pioneer Park. The issue was discussed at the last Council meeting and Council felt that it would be best to play the situation on a day to day basis. If the river does impede the bank further, the City will remove the restrooms. Council felt that it was a shame to tear down a perfectly good public building in the event the river does not move any more.

Mr. McDowell also briefly explained the electric project in Pioneer Park. McDowell indicated that he will be working with Mr. Boyanovsky to finalize the proposal once other funding sources are explored. He indicated that Mrs. Leisa Keyser, Pioneer Picnic Association, is working on the project as well.

Mr. Dominguez wanted to make everyone aware that on November 16<sup>th</sup>, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. is the next meeting of the American Legion. He stated that on December 8<sup>th</sup>, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. the Post will receive their temporary charter. Everyone is welcomed to attend.

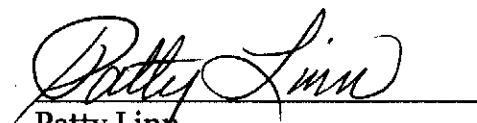
A gentleman from the audience praised the Board, the Council and the citizens of the town for keeping Brownsville a clean, safe place to live.

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 8:29 p.m.

ATTEST:



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S. Scott McDowell  
City Administrator

  
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Patty Linn  
Chair

# City of Brownsville

## Parks and Open Space Advisory Board Meeting

City Hall  
Monday, November 9<sup>th</sup>, 2009  
7:00 p.m.

### Regular Session

#### AGENDA

- 1) CALL TO ORDER
- 2) ROLL CALL
- 3) ADDITIONS/DELETIONS TO AGENDA
- 4) MINUTES: October 13<sup>th</sup>, 2009
- 5) ACTION ITEMS:
  - A. Calapooia Food Alliance – Marcia Rae
- 6) DISCUSSION ITEMS:
  - A. Planning & Goals Discussion
  - B. Arbor Day Celebration
  - C. Street Trees on Spaulding (Tabled)
  - D. General Updates *Fitzpatrick*  
*Rest rooms*  
*Boyanovsky*
- 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.