

# Park & Open Space Advisory Board

November 6, 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. in a joint session with the Historic Review Board.

**Present:** Carla Gerber, Bill Nelson, Walter Heeren, Pat Biesinger, Jim Mayer and S. Scott McDowell.  
Historic Review Board Members: Joni Nelson, J. David Erickson and Tony Gorsline.

**Absent:** Ruth Lawhon & Patty Linn.  
Historic Review Board Members: Mandy Cole & Jim Bitle.

**Public:** Don Ware.

**Presiding:** Carla Gerber.

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. Minutes from the October 2, 2007 meeting were approved as presented. Ms. Gerber turned over the meeting to Mr. McDowell for explanation. McDowell gave a brief synopsis of the proposal brought forward by Mr. Rick Dominguez. Mr. Dominguez working with Robert Dominguez, Veteran's of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century, had received six concrete benches from Astoria. Rick Dominguez, being a long time resident of Brownsville, was interested in creating a Veteran's Memorial in Library Park. His original idea was to place a few benches along the Menefee walking path and relocate the existing memorial at the corner of Averill and Park to a centralized location north of the Mill Race. The plan included placing the benches around the relocated memorial and constructing asphalt, ADA paths to the area. Discussion ensued at the last Parks & Open Space Advisory Board meeting and the plan grew into a possible foot bridge across the Mill Race and a granite memorial with the names of all veteran's who had served in all the wars from the Brownsville area.

Parks & Open Space Advisory Board wanted to ensure that the public was informed of the proposal. They recommended that the benches be allowed and that a possible foot bridge could be installed based on design and the final layout of the memorial plan. Rick & Robert were going to work with McDowell to develop a PowerPoint presentation. At the Council meeting on October 15, 2007, Council approved the Parks & Open Space Advisory Board's recommendation for the placement of the two benches only. Mr. Gorsline suggested to Council that the Historic Review Board be included in the discussion at the next Parks & Open Space Advisory Board meeting which dovetailed with what the Board had requested at the last meeting.

McDowell read a statement from Mandy Cole who was unable to attend. Ms. Cole was concerned about the preservation of green space and did not want to see the existing memorial moved to any other location. She supported the idea of a foot bridge but wanted to make sure that the bridge would look appropriate for the park. She was concerned about the asphalt paths carving up the green space. Ms. Cole suggested other locations including Pioneer Park and the Cemetery. Ms. Patty Linn called McDowell to express similar thoughts. Linn was concerned about the conservation of green space and the historical significance of the monument in its present location.

Gerber opened the floor for discussion. Mr. Gorsline began by echoing Ms. Cole's thoughts adding that there are several monuments around "Old Town" that are perfect for Brownsville and really

give the flavor of the local history. He mentioned the fountain in front of Key Bank on Main Street that was erected in memory of Raymond Templeton who was lost in World War I.

Mrs. Nelson indicated that the memorial is listed on the Historical Inventory and should not be moved for that reason alone. She thought that a foot bridge may be a nice addition to the space. She also suggested putting the additional benches around the existing memorial site. Mr. Erickson felt that the monument should not be moved and moving seemed almost irreverent. He felt that the area would be asphalt instead of grass. Mrs. Nelson commented on the personal memorials that were being placed on public space. She felt that memorials were appropriate if major contributions were made but otherwise, they should be placed very judiciously. Don Ware felt that a lot of personalized memorials in the park was unnecessary and felt that a more centralized location could be appropriate if presented correctly.

Jim Mayer stated that he walked the park shortly after the last meeting to get a feel for the space. He felt that space was a concern; however, he is excited that these gentlemen have brought this idea to the Parks & Open Space Advisory Board and would love to help them find a more appropriate spot for the memorial. He stated further that the foot bridge would not be done by these gentlemen if they were unsuccessful in using the park for the purpose of the memorial. Bill Nelson thought that a memorial to all war veterans nearby would be nice. Pat Biesinger is excited that the gentlemen want to do something for the veteran's but understands the concerns raised this evening. Mr. Heeren stated that the park is simply not big enough. He thought moving the memorial would be inappropriate. He also felt that a memorial should incorporate all wars. Gerber loves their enthusiasm and would really like to find another location.

Mrs. Nelson suggested the nook by the Library just off Spaulding next to Shipp's Shop. The cemetery was also discussed as a good location. McDowell stated that he would talk with Rick and Robert expressing the concerns presented this evening and would suggest the other locations.

Gerber opened the floor for discussion about park projects for the Team Depot folks. McDowell explained the Home Depot program. Gerber mentioned the Dance Hall flooring. Heeren had a presentation about the Mill Race bridge in Library Park. He indicated that Paul Smith, Librarian, has had an idea for a foot bridge for some time. Discussion ensued about the style of bridge that should be installed. It was decided that the bridge would need to be discussed further to come to better agreement. The debate was between a covered bridge versus an open bridge. Mayer thought that identifying something to be done with the Jail at along Kirk Avenue. He is concerned with the current condition of the building and would like to see something done before it is too late. He also suggested the restrooms in Pioneer Park as a possible project. Mrs. Nelson asked if they may be interested in doing the landscaping around the Library. It was decided that McDowell will contact Mr. Baer with the Dance Hall and Library Planting project ideas.

Mr. Nelson stated that the Recreation Board will be holding off their proposal for a storage building at Pioneer Park until the spring.

McDowell discussed the Willamette Country Music Festival. McDowell explained that the Council meeting was not as divisive as the editorials in *The Times* made the meeting out to be. McDowell spoke with Williamson who is planning to withdraw his request of the park. Mr. Williamson is still working toward making the festival a reality somewhere around Brownsville. Council did move to not allow alcohol in the park for this event or any other event. Mr. Williamson voluntarily moved the date given the public comments.

McDowell updated the Board on happenings with the Central Linn School District regarding the possibility of using school space for the purpose of community gardens. Ms. J.D. Cochran had

requested a new location in Pioneer Park. Mr. Nelson and McDowell met with Cochran to explore possibilities. The location at the school is perfect because of its access to water, parking and it is partially fenced. Mr. Curtis, School Superintendent, indicated that it may be four to six weeks before any decision is made as far as taking the matter to the School Board. Ms. Cochran has developed possibilities for funding and programming through the Oregon State Extension Office in Corvallis. They are looking for outreach program which provide curriculum for first through third graders. She has also discussed bringing in Master Gardner's for demonstrations and help with the gardens. The project appears to be a very positive program for the City.

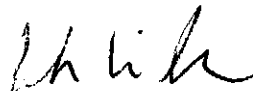
Gerber mentioned the resistance of some people to the City providing water for the gardens. McDowell gave a brief summary of that concern and felt that Council would repair that policy in February of 2008.

Due to the hour of the meeting, Gerber tabled the remaining two agenda items for next meeting. The being no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 8:13 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  
Tuesday, November 6, 2007  
7:00 p.m.

### Regular Session

#### AGENDA

- 1) CALL TO ORDER
- 2) ROLL CALL
- 3) ADDITIONS/DELETIONS TO AGENDA
- 4) MINUTES:
  - A. October 2, 2007
- 5) ACTION ITEMS
  - A. Rick & Robert Dominguez – Veteran’s Memorial Concept
    - Joint discussion with the Historic Review Board
  - B. Team Depot Project Ideas
  - C. Bill Nelson – Recreation Center Consideration
- 6) DISCUSSION ITEMS:
  - A. Willamette Country Music Festival
  - B. Co-op Community Gardens Update
  - C. Skateboard Park & Master Plan
  - D. Remington Park Update
- 7) CITIZEN INPUT
- 8) ADJOURN

*\*Carla Signature*

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.