



City of Brownsville

Parks and Open Space Advisory Board Meeting

City Hall
Wednesday, February 4th, 2015
7:00 p.m.

Regular Session

AGENDA

- 1) CALL TO ORDER
- 2) ROLL CALL
- 3) ADDITIONS/DELETIONS TO AGENDA
- 4) MINUTES: January 7th, 2015
- 5) PRESENTATIONS & ACTION ITEMS:
 - A. New Park Board Member – Betsy Ramshur
 - B. OPRD Technical Assistance Grant
 - C. Park Board Responsibilities
- 6) DISCUSSION ITEMS:
 - A. Progress Reports
 - B. General Updates
- 7) CITIZEN INPUT

▶ *Park Board asks that comments be limited to three minutes per audience member. Please state your name and address prior to commenting for the public record.*
- 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 necessary. The location of this meeting is accessible to the physically challenged. If special accommodations are needed, please notify S. Scott McDowell at 541.466.5880 in advance. Thank you.



Parks & Open Space Advisory Board

February 4th, 2015

Members of the Parks & Open Space Advisory Board met this day in regular session at City Hall, Brownsville, Oregon at 7:00 p.m.

Present: JoAnn Neddeau, Pat MacDermott, Rick Dominguez, Brandie Simon, Betsy Ramshur, Elizabeth Coleman & Scott McDowell.

Absent: Patty Linn, Marilyn Grimes.

Public: None.

Presiding: JoAnn Neddeau.

The meeting was called to order at 7:08 p.m. The minutes of the January 7th, 2015 meeting were reviewed; *Mr. Dominguez moved to approve the minutes with no corrections, the motion was seconded by Mrs. MacDermott, and the minutes were passed unanimously.*

New Park Board Member

Mrs. Ramshur was welcomed as a new member of the Park Board; she is a long time resident of Brownsville and a community supporter. For the last three years, she has organized the “chicken dinner” during Pioneer Picnic; the primary fundraiser for the Brownsville Recreation Center. Mrs. Ramshur is also a member of the Pioneer Picnic Association.

Oregon Parks & Recreation Department Technical Assistance Grant

Mr. McDowell, who is in his second term of the state Park board (OPRD), representing cities under 15,000, gave the Board an overview of the OPRD and the technical assistance grant. The OPRD has a biennial budget where the majority of the money is spent in the first half of the biennial, and the rest in the second. A portion of the grant goes toward technical assistance; these grants are directed to small cities like Brownsville to help with park planning, such as a Park Master Plan. In order to receive any funding from departments like the OPRD, a Park Master Plan that meets criteria is a requirement. The Board reviewed a Park Master Plan in 2010; changes have occurred since then and it is time for an update. During his term(s) on the OPRD, Mr. McDowell has strongly encouraged the OPRD to require a “capital improvements list” for cities that are requesting grants for their parks and open spaces. He has also helped shift the idea of funding projects that may be best suited for community group fundraising (dog parks, skate parks), to the broader spectrum (trails, picnic benches and tables, ball diamonds, etc.). Mr. McDowell re-iterated the need to apply for a technical assistance grant in order to be eligible for future funding.

Park Board Responsibilities

The Spaulding Avenue planter project, located in Old Town Commercial, brought about some concerns with the Historic Review Board. These concerns were relayed to Council, where it was decided that the Historic Review Board should be involved in the planter review process. The Park Board, Mrs. Coleman, and Mr. McDowell thought it a good time to review the responsibilities of the



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Parks and Open Spaces Advisory Board, as decided by the City Charter. Mr. McDowell assured the Park Board that the decision to recommend the Spaulding Way Planter Project to Council was fully within their scope of responsibilities, being additionally supported by the role and responsibilities set in the City Charter.

Progress Reports

Phase II of the Park Electricity is underway; pipe has been ordered and conduit should be installed in the next few weeks. The Picture Gallery had approximately \$1,600.00 in repair done. Norm's Electric has been asked to provide the City with a quote to replace the stage lights in the Rec Center; these will match the lights in the gym.

Donation Pedestals are still on the list but will probably be pushed back to the next fiscal budget. Ally Maser, a local artist, is working on a map for Pioneer Park to accompany the message boards to be installed near the Prairie. Ally is designing a map to compliment our town charm. The map should be ready by the end of April. The new gates are a great addition to Pioneer Park, the yellow entry gates will be pulled out in the near future.

Mr. McDowell also mentioned working with the Watershed Council to replant the bank along the river for stability. As discussed by the Park Board, Public Works will return a portion of the east road to grass sometime in the 2015-2016 timeframe. The Pioneer Park Kitchen will receive a new freezer; the warmer will also be repaired or replaced. Staff has received nearly sixty Park Caretaker applications and will be moving forward with the interview/hiring process in the next month.

General Updates

Waterline improvements for 2015 are underway; replacement of the Main Street line from Pioneer Bookkeeping to the north side of the bridge. The GR12 well is in good shape and will set the City up for another 30 + years. The City replaced the 8" line servicing north Brownsville with a 12" line.

Several banks have been approached to locate in Brownsville; OSU Federal, Willamette Community, Citizens, Umpqua Bank being the most receptive. The City hosted a meeting in the Baptist Church for community members to hear an Umpqua presentation and for Umpqua to get an idea of the feasibility of locating a branch in Brownsville. Anyone interested in having a bank in Brownsville is strongly encouraged to contact Umpqua as soon as possible. Every dollar counts towards the total amount needed.

McFarland Cascade, the pole peeling plant in south Brownsville is up and running; unfortunately, the peeler is louder than some citizens like. In 2007, the Planning Commission allowed the McFarland Cascade peeling plant with Conditions of Approval, one of those conditions were to follow the rules for noise pollution; which the City does not have and DEQ no longer regulates. Without guidelines to direct the City, Mrs. Coleman & Mr. McDowell researched decibel levels in Light Industrial Zones (70 dB) and with the Planning Commission's consent, presented our findings to McFarland Cascade. Mrs. Coleman and Mr. McDowell also toured the peeling plant in Wilbur, one of McFarland sister companies, where decibel levels were tested at various distances. McFarland also hired Vigilant, a company that works on noise mitigation, to test the Brownsville location at certain distances.



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At the request of City staff Vigilant tested six areas around Brownsville;

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| 1. Kirk Avenue (end). | 2. Washburn/Worley (corner). | 3. Brownsville Christian Church |
| 4. Pioneer Park. | 5. Linn Way/Hausman | 6. Remington Park |

These locations all tested in the 43 to 45 dB level range, significantly below the decibel level number of 70. Though McFarland Cascade is not breaking any rules, the company wants to be a good neighbor, and therefore has taken steps, of its own accord, to work with the City on noise mitigation efforts, such as baffling around the structure.

Mr. McDowell updated the board on the issues surrounding medical marijuana and decisions currently in front of Council and the Planning Commission. Additional information will be available on the city website, under General Information.

Mr. McDowell updated the board on the Willamette Country Music Festival; the Linn County Commissioners passed a new Outdoor Assembly code in December 2014, hopefully this will have a positive impact on WCMF 2015.

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 8:04 p.m.

ATTEST:

Elizabeth E. Coleman
Administrative Assistant

Joann Neddeau
Vice-Chair