



Parks & Open Space Advisory Board

May 3rd, 2017

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: Betsy Ramshur, Pat MacDermott, Brandie Simon, Sarah Glenn (7:05pm), Marilyn Grimes, Rick Dominguez, Scott McDowell & Administrative Assistant Elizabeth Coleman.

Absent: Patty Linn.

Public: None.

Presiding: Rick Dominguez.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

The meeting was called to order at 7:01 p.m. The minutes of the March 1st, 2017 meeting were reviewed; *Mrs. Simon made a motion to approve the minutes with two minor changes; Mrs. MacDermott seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.*

Mr. McDowell reported on the Senate's Judiciary Committee decision on restoring Recreational Immunity with a 30 – 0 vote in favor. The next decision will be made at the House. Mr. McDowell was appreciative of the community partners who sent letters of support; he may ask for the same when the bill reaches the House.

The Park Master Plan, along with Appendix B (Recreational Immunity) meets the criteria of the Oregon Parks & Recreation Board. Mr. McDowell said the goals set by the Park Board were well articulated in the document, and opened the floor for discussion. Mrs. Simon said the plan looked thorough. *Mrs. Simon made a motion to accept the 2017 Park Master Plan and Appendix B, and recommended to Council for adoption; Mrs. MacDermott seconded and the motion passed unanimously.*

Progress Reports

The cost to repair the damage of the eroding riverbank at Pioneer Park was estimated several years ago to be approximately 1.2 million dollars, with no guarantee the issue would be remedied. Council and Park Board decided to retreat at that time. Mr. McDowell reported that twenty-two to twenty-three feet of the riverbank has since eroded. The Budget Committee has designated 20K – 25K to put back for a relocation of the main playground. Additional budgeting was also set for unforeseen expenditures for the Rec Center. Rather than passing a bond, many communities in Oregon are adding a General Fund fee for their parks & police departments in an effort to accumulate funding for capital improvements or to keep current services.

Blakely Avenue Gymnasium & the Rec Center have been strong topics in the community; the City was approached by the School District to take over the Blakely Avenue Gymnasium. Council had several questions for the School Board around that issue.



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A combination of Councilors, Staff, and the Mayor met with the School Board and the Superintendent in an effort to understand the expectations of the City/Community.

It was articulated at that time the City could not make any decisions without answers to some important questions in terms of cost, maintenance, development, and other expenditures. Council decided the Rec Center is a better option for community and sports events, as it provides more opportunities than the Blakely location, such as parking & seating. The cost to repair the Blakely Gymnasium would be at least 325K. The General Fund cannot take on another expense of this nature.

The Calapooia Food Alliance has a contract with the City and the School District to use the Blakely Avenue land for a community garden. Since the future ownership and plans of the Blakely Avenue property is unknown, the City will continue to provide a certain amount of water service for the community gardens, but the CFA will be responsible for working out land use agreements with the School District for future access. Mrs. Coleman & Mr. McDowell discussed this reality with members of the CFA in March 2017.

Mrs. Glenn inquired as to the actual classification of the playground that is located at the Blakely Avenue property; the playground, busses, gymnasium & community gardens are all located on property owned by the Central Linn School District.

General Updates

The Picnic Association letter was approved by Council as a Park Use Agreement. Mrs. Gosda has provided the City with the ODOT Permit and insurance certificates. Camping will be handled by the City this year; sites will be charged daily per City policy. The Park Caretakers will take camping fees for the event. Mr. & Mrs. Bayer will be the Park Caretakers for 2017. The vintage trailer club from 2016 was very interested in coming back to Pioneer Park for the Antique Faire in August; Wade Long, the vintage trailer event contact, was encouraged to discuss the feasibility of that option with the Chamber of Commerce.

Inquiries have been made as to the City offering a community kitchen; Mr. McDowell will bring up the logistics of the City running a community kitchen at the upcoming Budget Committee meeting. Staff reiterated the fact that Halsey has a reasonably priced community kitchen that is currently being underused. A state and county license is required when cooking in a commercial kitchen; the cost can be over \$400 for that licensure. Discussion ensued.

Public Works is incorporating the inspection sheets for playground equipment and public areas around the parks. July 5th Cleanup is still in the works. The 4-H Club, Boy Scouts, & Brownsville Assembly of God Youth are the three organizations that have been helping Public Works & the caretakers clean Pioneer Park after the 4th of July. Mrs. Coleman is in communication with those organizations.



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The City accepted 1st Rate Roofing's contract for the Library roof; work to commence soon. As the Board will be in recess for the summer; the next meeting is scheduled for September 13th.

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 7:38 p.m.

ATTEST:

Handwritten signature of Elizabeth E. Coleman in blue ink.

Elizabeth E. Coleman
Administrative Assistant

Handwritten signature of Brandie Simon in blue ink.

Brandie Simon
Vice-Chair