



## Parks & Open Space Advisory Board

**March 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2021**

Members of the Parks & Open Space Advisory Board met this day in regular session via teleconference at 7:00 p.m.

**Present:** Pat MacDermott, Rick Dominguez, Betsy Ramshur, Brandie Simon, Lynlee Bischoff, Elizabeth Coleman & Scott McDowell.

**Absent:** Joann Neddeau

**Public:** No one was present.

**Presiding:** Pat MacDermott & Scott McDowell (*Due to teleconference format*).

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. Nothing was added or removed from the agenda.

Mrs. MacDermott recited the Pledge of Allegiance. Mr. McDowell reviewed the ground rules for participation and voting on motions.

Everyone was joined via telephone as Centurylink was experiencing service issues with the local internet service.

### **January 6<sup>th</sup>, Minutes**

*Ramshur moved to approve the minutes as corrected, two typographical errors. Dominguez seconded the motion, and the minutes were approved unanimously.*

### **Calapooia River Erosion Review**

McDowell reported on the Calapooia River Odyssey. Due to a recent article in *The Times* this situation has once again become a large topic of current conversation. McDowell reviewed by screen share the river erosion over time and detailed all the ideas, measures steps Council has taken over the last ten years. All applicable Federal & State agencies have been involved in the review of the City's erosion situation. Several official reports and opinions have been generated from the United States Army Corp of Engineers 2011 findings, the Calapooia Watershed Council, Linn Soil & Water Conservation, River Design Group (RDG) twice including a recent report provided by Chris Smith from RDG due to the removal of a gravel bar in Albany late in 2019. Basically, the City had two options for repair, 1) soil lifts and woody vegetation including root wads, or 2) a major bank overhaul at a 6:1 ratio with heavy rip rap installed. Option 1) was projected to cost \$600,000 in 2011, but could fail any given year. Option 2) was projected to cost \$1.2M in 2011 and Council deemed that it was too cost prohibitive.

Council has decided that the reparation options to stabilize the bank offered no significant long-term solution, and at a cost of over \$1.2 - \$2.2 M, this project is not something that the City can take on at this time. (The projected cost in 2021 is \$2.2M.) Council decided to retreat from the bank as needed and has held that line for ten years. Council revisits the situation almost every year. The playground equipment will be moved to the prairie area by consensus from Park Board and Council. When possible, the City will be buying new playground equipment due to estimates received to move the existing structures. McDowell reminded Council that it is their call on where they want to spend their limited funds. McDowell offered that it is a good idea to monitor the situation; perhaps hiring a group to take a look at the situation every other year.



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Bischoff asked about possible planting the top of bank in native species to help prevent further erosion. McDowell explained that the City looked at that with the Calapooia Watershed Council on two separate occasions even going so far as to budget monies about eight years ago. Council did not move forward with that proposal because the Watershed Council said that it would offer next to no protection without doing soil lifts.

McDowell promised to send the slides to Board members tomorrow.

### **Remington Park**

Coleman explained that she has been working with Mike Nehls on the development of the dry riverbed and planting portion of the project. Coleman met with Nehls and Eric Osborn who shared new ideas for maintenance and planting. Coleman explained that the ideas were similar to what the Board had already discussed, but she suggested the Board review the ideas before they are implemented. Coleman did not receive the information from Nehls and Osborn prior to this meeting unfortunately.

McDowell suggested to MacDermott that the meeting be tabled, once business on the current agenda is addressed, and members can meet at Remington Park for a field visit before finalizing the installation details. The Board agreed to do so by consensus.

McDowell said that Public Works Superintendent Karl Frink had received a quote for the concrete work that was what Staff quoted at the last meeting. McDowell said he felt confident that the project would come under budget. McDowell said that he would ask for a consensus on the amenities the Board has reviewed since June 2020 including the bench, picnic table and trash receptacle as he would like to order those this week. The Board agreed by consensus.

Bischoff suggested using any left-over funds be used to install a dog park. McDowell explained the nuances of a dog park, the cost of fencing, possible placement, narrow focus, and liability around that issue. McDowell shared that he recently spoke with a Councilor about a private group being interested in donating the money for such a project. There are a lot of details that would have to be addressed and considered. McDowell explained a few locations as brought up by Bischoff.

### **Progress Reports & General Updates**

McDowell reported that Council is busy putting together goals and priorities for 2021-2022. Sweet Home Sanitation has moved Cleanup Day from October to April 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2021. Budget season is now upon us once again. McDowell will try to add some additional funds toward the Rec Center and Pavilion projects. McDowell lamented over the delays caused by the Pandemic, but on the bright side it does allow for the City to possibly place more funds in reserve that will help meet the project in the Park Master Plan.

McDowell said the City would love to finish the Remington Park project and the Downtown Sanitary Sewer project before the end of the fiscal year, June 30. McDowell said he was working on setting up some specialized audio equipment that will allow Boards, Committees and Council to start meeting again under the Governor's imposed restrictions. Hopefully, this will be the last meeting we will have to teleconference. McDowell talked about the importance of advocacy and the role Council may take on to protect city functions.



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Bischoff said she would like to see the dog waste bags be better for the environment. McDowell explained that the bags are bio-degradable and that is why the City pays a premium for the bags we use.

MacDermott asked if there was anyone else wishing to speak. There were no other questions or comments. MacDermott tabled the meeting until further notice for reconvening in Remington Park soon.

### **Citizen Input**

No one was present.

Mrs. MacDermott tabled the meeting at 7:40 p.m.

### **ATTEST:**

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S. Scott McDowell  
City Administrator

### **APPROVED:**

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Pat MacDermott  
Chair