



Parks & Open Space Advisory Board

November 2nd, 2022

Members of the Parks & Open Space Advisory Board met this day in regular session at City Hall, Brownsville, Oregon at 7:03 p.m.

Present: Chair Pat MacDermott, Lynlee Bischoff, Pam Solberg (7:08 p.m.), Rick Dominguez, Betsy Ramshur, Brandie Simon, Joann Neddeau, Administrative Assistant Elizabeth Coleman & City Administrator Scott McDowell.

Absent: Everyone was present.

Public: No one attended.

Presiding: Pat MacDermott.

The meeting was called to order at 7:03 p.m. Bischoff requested adding 7) C. Trees. The item was added by consensus. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Minutes: September 21st, 2022

Lynlee Bischoff moved to approve the September 21st, 2022 Minutes as presented. Rick Dominguez seconded the motion, and the minutes were approved unanimously.

Park Board Schedule 2023

Administrative Assistant Elizabeth Coleman said it was time to set the schedule for 2023. Coleman said the proposed dates are January 4th, March 8th, May 10th, September 13th & November 1st. The Board agreed to the 2023 schedule by consensus.

Progress Reports

Chair MacDermott turned the floor over to Mr. McDowell for updates.

Woodblock Architects & the Rec Center

McDowell reported that the project was progressing as expected. Tyler Miller is currently taking the lead on the project. Jonathan Dunn and his wife recently had their first child which required a leave of absence. Miller has been on the project since inception. They are currently working on contract language and specifications. Last Tuesday, Council approved the formation of a fundraising committee for the project. McDowell asked Brandie Simon if she would be interested in serving in this capacity since she previously served on the Facilities Review Committee. Simon agreed. McDowell said he didn't anticipate many meetings and that the group would try to get together after Thanksgiving to brainstorm ideas. McDowell voiced pricing concerns due to the fact that it is an old building and we really don't know what we are getting into.

Events, Agreement & Camping

McDowell shared news about the Rally on the River event. Organizer Wade Long was at last Council meeting to provide a review of the Rally that has been held in Pioneer Park



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since 2016. Mr. Long has the second largest vintage RV rally in Oregon. People come from all over the western United States. The Rally is capped at 120 participants, but the demand is higher. The Rally has recently been featured in Vintage Trailers magazine and on YouTube. McDowell said that there will be a nationally televised piece on this past year's Rally airing soon. Mr. Long provided Council with pictures from the event, stickers and other goodies from the event. McDowell said Long may be hosting an event in October based on conversations being held by the national Spartan trailer rally folks. In 2023, the Spartan rally is in Pismo Beach. Long is still waiting for a call to develop a plan on organizing this potential rally. McDowell is a bit concerned about October due to unpredictable weather. The Rally has made arrangements to bring in portable showers for campers. The Rally is slated to be held July 12th through the 16th, 2023.

Trees

Lynlee Bischoff was interested in entertaining the idea of planting trees in the Park. Bischoff said the City has removed several trees in various location over the last two years and it is time to replant. Bischoff said that there is a beaver in the Park taking trees down back in the riparian area. Administrative Assistant Elizabeth Coleman talked about the time frame for replanting in specific areas. McDowell also talked about the use of certain areas for special needs parking. Many years ago an expert from the Calapooia Watershed Council made recommendations on tree varieties for replanting which can be found in the Master Park Plan. Coleman suggested having Public Works Superintendent Karl Frink file a report on replanting. McDowell will ask Frink for a report, but McDowell added that the Park was overplanted originally. Many trees are crooked and bending around in certain places to get to sunlight.

Bischoff asked about the leaves. She would propose to keep the leaves in the Park to help serve as nutrients for the ground and grass. McDowell said leaves will blow everywhere if not kept in place. He also shared a project suggested by former Park Board member Patty Linn that was a very similar proposal years ago. McDowell will provide a report for the Board's consideration in January.

General Updates

Coleman prompted McDowell to talk about the recent camping ordinance. At last Council meeting, Council acted upon the Parks & Open Space Advisory Board unanimous vote to add two items to the ordinance governing the park. The Board recommended adding quiet hours for generators from 10:00 p.m. to 7:00 a.m. They also recommended a twelve (12) day cap on camping for any individual or group. Council will vote on this issue in November.

McDowell gave a brief history of the City's relationship with the McClain family who live immediately adjacent to the cemetery. The Board and Council made a few changes to the ordinance at the request of the McClain's earlier this year. Public Works Superintendent Karl Frink is finishing up a drainage project that is designed to improve the maintenance of the road. Frink is also in the process of installing a new gate that matches the conditions of the new ordinance.



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The Calapooia Food Alliance (CFA) Agreement

McDowell recapped the discussions with the CFA and Council over the last several months. Two years ago, Park Board recommended an agreement with the CFA to help them with a temporary home for the Farmer's Market. Kirk's Ferry Park has been used for the last two years while the Market is in transition from Sandy Mooer's lot which is across from Napa on Main Street. Council will be looking at combining the Market agreement with the Community Garden and Red Barn agreements the City has with the CFA. Councilors Hansen and Thompson are on the committee reviewing this new document. The CFA will have to move to Library Park for the upcoming season due to the construction of the GR12 waterline that will go through Kirk's Ferry Park.

The City partners with many of the City's non-profit groups to increase capacity of these specific efforts. McDowell shared some historical perspective on the use of Pioneer Park and how certain groups use the Park through agreement. The biggest difference between this agreement and others is that the CFA is using the Park weekly from April through October. There are certain legal implications that must be addressed if this were to become a permanent location.

McDowell talked about the Red Barn component and the Community Garden component of the agreement as well. The City grants up to \$1,300 per year just in water to sustain the effort of the Garden. The CFA pays for any water used over a certain amount. The Garden is moving from the Pioneer Christian Academy's back lot abutting E. Bishop Way to 185 N. Main Street. McDowell said he hopes a compromise can be struck that works well for both parties, as that has always been the case.

MacDermott asked how other communities handle Farmer's Markets and why is this different? McDowell said that all events in town are driven by non-profit groups. Some cities are responsible for the Market or other event, but not in Brownsville. So, whatever the City does with an agreement or decision to use certain property a different way than normally used can cause a precedence that could lead to something less desirable. The City cannot discriminate against any non-profit use which is why the City has to think carefully about what is to happen with this agreement. It's also important to note that the CFA has always had their Market on private property. It is not the responsibility of the City to find them a location. The City loves all non-profit groups who give so freely of their time to make Brownsville such a great place. But, these are tax payers dollars and careful consideration must be given by Council.

Brandi Simon asked if the agreement would be a three year agreement. McDowell said that he hoped Council would agree to a three year deal.

McDowell talked about the upcoming election. The City will have a new mayor for the first time in sixteen years and possibly three new Council members depending on the outcome.

McDowell gave an overview of several unfunded mandates that are coming down from the State of Oregon driving Council & Staff concerns.

McDowell explained that Council recently reviewed an agreement that was to require



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cities and counties to pass FEMA requirements that would adopt ordinances for flood and fire protection. The DLCD received a FEMA grant to implement these policies. McDowell spoke with Linn County who said that if the City does not sign the agreement, the City would not be eligible to receive Federal funding in the event of a natural disaster. Council is deeply concerned about the implications of this agreement and this overall process.

The City received a request from the Oregon Mayor's Association (OMA) to support a letter asking the State Legislature for money to help with the implementation of State homelessness goals and laws. The State is requiring cities to provide shelter, medical services, mental health screenings, water, sewer and other amenities. The OMA concept is in reaction to HB 3115 and recent insurance requirements sent to cities by CIS. McDowell said that cities should be opposing this entire concept and approach to homelessness which small cities do not have the wherewithal to address.

McDowell explained the basic components of the *Martin v. Boise* case that has led to the State of Oregon's codification. Cities need to advocate for the State to handle this matter instead of pushing it out to all cities in the form of another unfunded mandate. McDowell continued by saying that homelessness situation boils down to three basic, fundamental challenges, 1) addiction, 2) mental health, and 3) civil rights. The United States decided to stop funding mental health in the late 1980's, early 1990's. Our humanity should dictate a way to help our people get better results.

The State seems to be addressing the symptoms and not the real underlying problems. HB 3115 comes into law starting July 1st, 2023. Cities are scrambling to develop a plan.

McDowell shared thoughts about the State's handling of these and other matters especially as it relates to Home Rule. The City is actively working with other cities to speak out about these issues that are have the potential to exhaust City resources.

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

ATTEST:

Handwritten signature of S. Scott McDowell in blue ink.

S. Scott McDowell
City Administrator

APPROVED:

Handwritten signature of Pat MacDermott in blue ink.

Pat MacDermott
Chair