



## Parks & Open Space Advisory Board

November 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023

Members of the Parks & Open Space Advisory Board met this day in regular session at City Hall, Brownsville, Oregon at 7:02 p.m.

**Present:** Chair Rick Dominguez, Vice-Chair Brandie Simon, Betsy Ramshur, Pam Solberg, Joann Neddeau, Administrative Assistant Elizabeth Coleman & City Administrator S. Scott McDowell.

**Absent:** Pat MacDermott.

**Public:** Patrick Starnes. (7:04 p.m.)

**Presiding:** Rick Dominguez.

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 p.m.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Chair Dominguez asked if there were any changes to the agenda. Mr. McDowell added one item to the agenda under Presentations & Action Items regarding a recent court decision *Fields v. City of Newport*.

### **Minutes: September 13<sup>th</sup>, 2023**

*Brandie Simon moved to approve the September 13<sup>th</sup>, 2023, Minutes as presented. Betsy Ramshur seconded the motion, and the minutes were approved unanimously.*

### **Presentations & Action Items**

#### *Recreation Center Renovation Update*

McDowell shared a multi-slide presentation on progress being made at the Rec Center. McDowell indicated that the contract completion date has been pushed back to November 13<sup>th</sup>, 2023, due to a delay with the entry decking. The windows have been installed. Painters have been busy completing both interior and exterior painting. The City's Public Works discovered two huge rocks in the way of the necessary waterlines. Staff just finished those installations and will backfill the trench this week. Overall, things are going well, and the City has had to make other arrangements for the storage unit and the rental of the gymnasium at Pioneer Christian Academy for volleyball and basketball practices.

McDowell provided a review of the City priorities, including the major ticket items and timelines.

#### *Fields v. City of Newport*

A recent ruling by an Oregon court has negated recreational immunity. The basic tenants of the case can be seen in the information attached to these minutes. McDowell indicated that this issue will be the foremost focus of legislative efforts during the upcoming short-session of the Legislative Assembly in January 2024. McDowell has already requested a meeting with Representative Jamie Cate and Mayor Craven to discuss possible legislation



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to restore recreational immunity. This terrible decision will negatively impact every Oregonian if left unchallenged and unchecked. It is hard to imagine how any governmental entity could operate any public park system in the State of Oregon.

### ***Progress Reports***

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Chair Dominguez turned the floor over to McDowell for updates.

#### ***Central Linn Recreation Association Agreement***

Council has negotiated a new agreement with the Association for the operation of the Rec Center. Council passed a unanimous motion to modify the agreement with the Central Linn Recreation Association that addresses building rentals and other logistical and operational issues. The City will provide a lump sum to cover the cost associated with the rental of the Rec Center.

#### ***Brownsville Art Association Agreement***

Council passed a unanimous motion to modify the Brownsville Art Association agreement that includes a plan to pay for taxes to be levied by Linn County. Linn County hadn't levied taxes against the City for the Association's use of the space until this year. The City will cover the full amount of the taxes, \$1,212.21 this year, half the amount next year and the future taxes will be the full responsibility of the Association. Staff will work on legislation to modify the State law.

#### ***Advertisements | Park Board & Library***

McDowell said the City will be advertising an opening on the Parks & Open Space Advisory Board and the Library Advisory Board. The deadline for applications will be December 8<sup>th</sup>, 2023.

### ***General Updates***

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#### ***GR 12 Waterline Construction***

This project will supply water for the next 40+years.

McDowell indicated that the City just received unanimous approval for an easement from the Linn County Commissioners for the project. The proposed timeline is out for bids in either December 2023 or January 2024 with construction starting in February or March and ending in May or June. McDowell expressed concern about the overall cost of the project due to current market conditions.

#### ***Regional Efforts***

Council passed a unanimous motion to accept the policy statements recommended by the Legislative Advocacy & Policy Committee (LAPC). These statements will serve as guidelines for future policy discussions with State lawmakers in coordination with Small Municipalities Advocacy Coalition (SMAC). McDowell reported that several efforts have slowed down while others are progressing nicely.



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McDowell mentioned that Staff will be forwarding an ordinance to Council regarding Parks & Open Space Advisory Board attendance. Several years ago, the City changed the Board's meeting frequency by ordinance but did not change attendance requirements.

### **Citizen Input**


Patrick Starnes introduced himself as the new President of the Calapooia Food Alliance (CFA). Starnes said he renovated the Wade Harden (*Lois Winn*) property on Kirk Avenue. He is busy doing a similar renovation in Sweet Home. Starnes indicated that he was a member of the City of Roseburg's Park Board and is interested in serving here. McDowell said that he would forward a link to Mr. Starnes about the opening.

Chair Dominguez provided a handout that detailed the meaning of the thirteen folds of the United States flag.

Domiguez discussed reasons for his absences this year, apologized to the Board members, and recommitted to being at all future Park Board meetings.

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 7:49 p.m.

### **ATTEST:**

  
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S. Scott McDowell  
City Administrator

### **APPROVED:**

  
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Rick Dominguez  
Chair