



Parks & Open Space Advisory Board

March 6th, 2024

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: Chair Rick Dominguez, Pat MacDermott, Betsy Ramshur, Pam Solberg, Joann Neddeau, Nichole Solberg, Rick Morrow, Administrative Assistant Elizabeth Coleman & City Administrator S. Scott McDowell.

Absent: Everyone was present.

Public: No members of the public were present.

Presiding: Rick Dominguez.

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Mrs. Coleman welcomed Nichole Solberg and Rick Morrow as the two new members on the Board.

Minutes: January 3rd, 2024

Betsy Ramshur moved to approve the January 3rd, 2024, minutes with one date correction. Joann Neddeau seconded the motion, and the minutes were approved unanimously.

Presentations & Action Items

Schedule Park Walk

Mrs. Coleman asked the Board if they wanted to take a park walk this year. Coleman said that if the Board would like to take a walk through the Park, members would meet by the sign in Pioneer Park at 6:00 p.m. on May 1st, 2024. *The Board agreed by unanimous consensus to walk through the Park in May.*

Discussion Items

Progress Reports

Rec Center Renovation Project

McDowell shared a multi-slide Rec Center presentation. Staff continues to tend to unfinished punch list items, but progress is still being made. Public Works Superintendent Karl Frink had the building keyed a week and a half ago. The City is still waiting on two locking devices for the two main entry doors.

Rec Center Open House

The City held an Open House on February 22nd, 2024. Several community partners participated in the event including the Chamber of Commerce, the American Legion, the



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Brownsville Fire Department, the Central Linn Community Foundation, the Lion's Club, Linn County Pioneer Association, the Brownsville Senior Center, and local Boy Scout Troupe 7184. The Emergency Preparedness Committee sponsored the event. The event was attended by nearly one hundred people who seemed to enjoy checking out the new digs!

Central Linn Recreation Association Update

McDowell reported that he continues work with the Association providing support with organizational development issues among others. McDowell has relayed to the Board that there will be decisions that will need to be made as we roll through this first year with the new Rec Center. Operationally, the City will be playing a different role than what has been historically the case at the Rec Center. Council and the Association rewrote the operational agreement this past fall so the implementation will require effective communication as we work through the details. McDowell thanked the Association members responsible for the basketball program. Everyone was very cooperative throughout the transition, which was much appreciated.

McDowell reviewed the City's offer about the baseball equipment trailer due to a question about a snack shack concept where a trailer would be tethered in the Park during baseball season. McDowell said that Staff is not really in favor of a trailer that is 'temporarily permanent' in the Park during the season due to vandalism and other precedence such permission would create. The City has been reticent to allow storage sheds in the Park because every civic organization who uses the Park will want to locate a shed in the Park. The City has experienced these kinds of requests many times over the last eighteen years.

Betsy Ramshur said that there was a snack shack that was taken to the Park for games but the person responsible for the snack shack is no longer interested in providing the service. The City has no problem with a mobile effort if it is not left in the Park.

City Website Review

McDowell provided the Board with an overview of the City website showing the information available and the overall functionality of the site. McDowell showed the Board the steps Public Works takes during the year to prepare Pioneer Park for use. Pioneer Park is open from April 1st through October 31st every year. McDowell also reported that Terri & Fred Shepherd are returning as Park Caretakers for 2024.

Budget FY 2024.2025

McDowell jokingly said that the Board is done spending money for the next twenty years due to the expense of the Rec Center Renovation project. The City still needs to address relocating the playground equipment and to plan for the replacement of the pavilion. McDowell will know more as he prepares the FY 2024.2025 budget over the next couple of months.

McDowell loosely followed the agenda, rather, he followed the prepared slide presentation.

General Updates

GR 12 Waterline Construction

McDowell reviewed the scope of the project and explained that the contractor, Jesse



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Rodriguez Construction, LLC from Silverton, Oregon, has been doing an excellent job installing the waterline. Just yesterday, the line being bored underneath Main Street was completed. Public Works Superintendent Karl Frink said the waterline portion of the project will be completed by the end of next week. The City also removed the old Water Treatment Plant which used to sit behind the Rec Center, as part of this project. The Linn County Museum has events set for late April and early May, but the City will be completed with the work prior to those events.

Fields v. City of Newport

A recent ruling by an Oregon court has negated recreational immunity. CIS helped draft a bill, SB 1576, which passed through the Senate and the House and is awaiting Governor Kotek's signature. If Kotek signs the bill, protections will sunset after one year. The Legislative Assembly wants to take a "deeper dive" during the next session. McDowell said that he would keep the Board informed of progress as letters and phone calls of support will more than likely be needed next legislative session. He explained the purpose and importance of recreational immunity.

McDowell briefly reviewed other court cases that could have a significant impact on City operations.

Calapooia Food Alliance (CFA)

The CFA recently told Council they no longer needed the use of Library Park and Park Avenue for the 2024 Farmers Market. The CFA has entered into an agreement with Donnie Nealon to host the event on private property near the Brownsville Body Shop.

Canal Company Meeting

McDowell shared that the City has been working with the Canal Company for many years trying to reach an agreement that would be mutually beneficial to the City and the Company. McDowell briefly explained the current arrangements. A meeting of the Company is scheduled for March 14th, 2024.

CIS Conference

McDowell shared that property and liability rates are going up a whopping 13.5% this year bringing the total increase to nearly 60% over a four-year span. Poor policy choices have led to these massive increases. The Legislative Assembly has raised the tort limits on public exposures and, with the recent threat to recreational immunity, they do not seem to fully comprehend the implications these policies are having on Oregonians. At least that is what McDowell hopes; because if these policies are intentional then that means something different altogether.

Sweet Home Sanitation's Cleanup Day is scheduled for April 6th, 2024. The event will take place in the Rec Center parking lot.

Council Goals

McDowell showed the top priorities Council have identified over the next several years. Council is pleased with the progress that has been made on the current goals and has made no changes for the remainder of 2024. Anyone wishing to see those goals in more detail can see the report in the upcoming Council agenda packet.

Miscellaneous

McDowell shared concerns about the use of the Rec Center for baseball. McDowell does



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not want the finishes damaged due to this use. One citizen is interested in using the Rec Center for pickleball however the same concerns apply.


McDowell reviewed dog complaints in Pioneer Park. Off leash dogs are a problem for some. McDowell said that he would have the LCSO patrol on this issue once the Park officially opens to the public on April 1st.

Citizen Input

No one present.

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 8:03 p.m.

ATTEST:



S. Scott McDowell
City Administrator

APPROVED:



Rick Dominguez
Chair