

CITY OF COOS BAY
MINUTES OF THE PARKS COMMISSION

April 15, 2008

Parks Commission members present: Chris Coles, Bob Golden, Beverly Meyers, Floyd Vandervelden, Jon Eck

Not Present: Patty Scott, Bill Otten, Cindi Miller

Staff present: Jim Hossley, Steve Doty, Chuck Freeman, Amy Carlson

Guests present: KCBY, Linda Newman, Mike Newman, Laura Jo Hofsess, Marie McKeeman, Mark Daily, Bob Huggins, Janet Huggins, Gene Melton, Rondi Potter, Dennis Schmidt, Dione Lutz, Kate Groth

APPROVAL OF MARCH 18, 2008 MINUTES

Ms. Coles called the meeting to order at 4:05 p.m. The March 18, 2008 Parks Commission meeting minutes were unanimously APPROVED.

DOG PARK

Mr. Hossley stated he wanted to start a discussion of the dog park again after calling for more community input. He introduced a map of city-owned property. This map includes a 5-acre parcel off Morrison Street that may be a potential dog park site. Ms. Coles asked if there was anyone in the audience that would like to speak on the issue.

Kate Groth stated that she is part of a group that includes Lisa Barrington, Janet Huggins, Rondi Potter and Liz Dodge that would like to help in designing the dog park, which would include site selection, design, and addressing safety issues, management, maintenance, and liability. She stated that they would like to see the park as a stand-alone feature or as part of the future Pacific Cove Humane Society (PCHS).

Janet Huggins, president of PCHS, discussed ideas of a combining an Off-Leash Recreation Area (ORLA) with PCHS's pet-adoption and animal welfare center. She stated that partnering the ORLA with PCHS's shelter would be a win-win situation that would limit expenses to the city. PCHS's large volunteer base could provide excavation and materials and assist with park development, safety and upkeep. Lon Samuels has drawn a mock-up which was given to each Parks Commission member. She spoke further about the vision and scope of work for PCHS. Once a site is dedicated by the city, PCHS would raise the funds needed to build, maintain, and operate the facility. When questioned by Ms. Coles, Ms. Huggins stated that PCHS does not have a site picked out, but they are actively seeking one.

Ms. Coles stated that the general consensus is that the Parks Commission is for the dog park, but a site needs to be found. Mr. Hossley posed the question of what kind of site is suitable. He would like to have neighborhood issues considered. He reminded the commission that many of the properties owned by the city are not ideal. Ms. Groth stated that they would like to go look at the properties that could be potential sites. She stated that most dog parks are a couple of acres,

but they were ok with having a smaller dog park if the alternative is not having one at all. Mr. Golden stated that having a central location is important

Denny Schmidt stated that he lives on 12th Street and is a dog owner. He represents people in his neighborhood that live near Mingus Park. They are concerned about being able to still walk their dogs in Mingus Park if a dog park is established. He would like to know if this is just a rumor. Ms. Coles affirmed that it was just a rumor and not founded.

Mr. Freeman pointed out that maintenance is an issue and that pet licensing may be a way to offset some of the costs. He is also concerned about the lack of animal control due to cutbacks at the county. Mr. Hossley offered to provide information and point the public in the direction of any properties that are identified by the Parks Commission. Mr. Eck stated he thinks the Morrison site would be a logical extension of John Topits Park, but he is concerned about zoning. He thinks the partnership with PCHS is a good idea so that they can look after the dog park as well. Ms. Coles would like to look at the site as a dog park first, then look to adding PCHS in the future. Mr. Doty stated the property was donated by Phil Keizer to be designated as a park.

PARK HOURS

Mr. Hossley stated that all parks are open during daylight hours only. However, Mingus Park's daylight-only restriction has been waived because of the lighting provided in the park. Due to the amount of vandalism at Mingus Park during the evenings, he would like the Parks Commission to consider closing the park from 11pm to 5am. Ms. Coles said she has seen some of the vandalism and likes the idea. Mr. Eck pointed out that softball games run late, but he doesn't think closing the park at 11pm is unreasonable. Mr. Hossley stated that exceptions or modifications can be made for special events.

MOTION: Bob Golden - set 11pm to 5am as closed park hours at Mingus Park.

SECOND: Mr. Eck

VOTE: Unanimous

PARKS MASTER PLAN

Mr. Hossley stated he would like the Parks Commission to consider having the Parks Development Program integrated into a Master Plan by a consultant that would give us a strategic plan and look at safety, maintenance, needs assessment and maybe consider grants. This may give the city a basis to look at system development charges.

IVY REMOVAL AT MINGUS PARK

Mr. Hossley presented a project proposal by South Slough Education Program Director Tom Gaskill to abate and removal some of the English ivy in Mingus Park. This would take place on Saturday, June 7, 2008 from 9am to 12pm. The concentration would be to remove ivy growing on the trees, but they would also remove the ground covering ivy that is smothering native plants. Removed plants will be disposed of by city crews.

JOHN TOPITS PARKS DISCUSSION

Mr. Hossley shared that Mr. Topits is willing to donate money for some projects at Topits Park.

Mr. Topits would like to improve the map of the trail system, put signs at all the entrances of the park, and get a new map of the park printed. Mr. Topits is also concerned about erosion in the area across from Lakeshore Drive, and he is willing to pay for fencing to keep people from bypassing the path in order to control erosion and limit dumping. Mr. Hossley also noted that last year Mr. Topits donated money for new benches in the park, which have since been installed.

Ms. Coles said she thinks it sounds great. Other members of the commission agreed. Mr. Vandervelden stated that he would like members of the Parks Commission to pick out areas of the park to walk through each week and then note any issues or maintenance that needs to be taken care of. Ms. Coles noted that they had talked about doing that and maybe having meetings at the parks when the weather is good at the last meeting, and she thinks it would be beneficial.

PARKS COMMISSION MEMBER COMMENTS

Mr. Golden stated he would like to see some criteria for possible sites for the dog park.

Mr. Doty would like to make the next meeting on May 15th, and noted that this would put the meeting on Thursdays rather than Tuesdays so Patti can attend.

Mr. Golden thanked the audience members for attending and sharing their thoughts and ideas

After no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 4:44.

Respectfully Submitted,
Amy Carlson