

1 CITY OF COOS BAY
2 PARKS COMMISSION MINUTES OF
3 October 16, 2014
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5 **Commissioners Present:** Chair, Christine Coles; Ariann Lyons, Bill Otton, Patty Scott
6 And Jennifer Stephens
7 **Commissioner Absent:** Carmen Matthews; Bev Meyers
8 **Staff Present:** Randy Dixon, Operations Administrator, Pam Patton
9 **Guests Present:** Cricket Soules, Marshfield Pioneer Cemetery. Cricket was not
10 present at the time the meeting opened.
11 **Location:** City Hall Conference Room
12 Coos Bay City Hall – 500 Central Avenue
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16 **CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL / APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

17 Chair, Christine Coles, called the meeting to order at 4:00pm.

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19 No Citizen Input / Public Comment taken at this time

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21 **UNFINISHED BUSINESS** – Ongoing discussion regarding the geese located in Mingus Park

22 A long and involved discussion pursued. In past discussions, it was requested to add bird feeders
23 as a means of being proactive in the health of the waterfowl. Also suggested was the use of
24 signage to educate the public regarding feeding, as well as looking at the park and city
25 regulations to prohibit feeding.

26 Randy informed the commissioners that over the last 7 months, the city has taken 10 to 15 calls
27 from various people in the community regarding the geese and how aggressive they've become.
28 One call was that of a 7yr old being bitten in the face located dangerously close to his eye.

29 Randy reiterated that the geese were not wild waterfowl but considered domestic because the
30 park has become their destination, as the public have discarded them as unwanted pets. The
31 regulation of waterfowl in the park is not the responsibility of the city nor is it for the ODF&W.

32 Randy cited evidence of past experiences from other municipalities. The City of Bend had been
33 dealing with a geese population in the thousands. They had 3 law suits around \$10 million each
34 within an 18 month time period. One was a child who fell gravely ill, which resulted in
35 emergency medical intervention due to contamination from fecal matter. Without further
36 alternatives, Bend eventually approached ODFW, State and the public for their help. They first
37 tried relocation to the Klamath area resulting in the waterfowl beating the caravan home. The
38 only next option was extermination. ODF&W stepped in by placing the geese on a kill rotation
39 over a period of four months.

40 The commissioner's would like to see the geese removed from the park. They would like to
41 leave the existing ducks. Christine asked for a motion.

42 **Motion:** Jennifer motioned to have the geese removed with regulations in place for
43 allowed waterfowl.

44 **Second:** Bill

45 **Vote:** Ayes were unanimous. Motion carried.
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50 **NEW BUSINESS –**
51 Mingus Park Amenities
52 Randy referenced 5.4 Multi-Use Park Development Guidelines from the Parks Master Plan.
53 Also on display was a map of Mingus Park with identifiers of existing amenities. Because of the
54 upgrades and additions, he thought it best to ‘phase in’ improvements. He also suggested
55 classifications and/or groupings to meet priorities and in deciding the grants that would be
56 applicable to the upgrades.

57 Dredging the lake would be a project of its own with the use of an ODF&W grant is anticipated.
58 The Sports Complex would also be considered an independent project.

59 Existing issues: Drainage / Failed Infrastructure re: sewer and water / Irrigation / Fountain.
60 Infrastructure would be included in Phase 1. This would involve raising grade in areas with poor
61 drainage i.e. southeast corner near playground.

62 Building would address not only existing but also any new structures i.e. restrooms, utilities,
63 sheltered picnic area, pavilion and the amphitheater/stage area which has major electrical issues,
64 as well as layout. This classification will be considered in Phase 1.

65 Randy asked the commission, from the list presented if they had any additions.

66 • The commission would like to see handicap play equipment made available in the
67 playground and the addition of Adult ADA Fitness Equipment.

68 • A volleyball court was requested and preferably over the tennis court. Re-design the
69 layout of existing tennis court/basketball hoops and horseshoe pits. Try to incorporate
70 into a more useable space.

71 • Also needed would be an addition of a protection barrier from the nearby softball field.

72 • Because of the increased activities offered, additional restrooms were asked to be
73 provided.

74 • A correction was needed re dog area. The area would be a “leashed dog area.”

75 • The commission would like to see the addition of two (2) fishing piers with one location
76 close to parking to accommodate the ADA and seniors.

77 A motion was asked to accept the additions to and amenities as listed.

78 Motioned: Ariann motioned to accept existing list and to include the items discussed.

79 Second: Patty

80 Vote: Ayes were unanimous. Motion carried

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82 **CITIZEN INPUT –**

83 Cricket Soules representing the Marshfield Pioneer Cemetery was late in arriving and the Chair
84 recognized her before the commissioner’s closing comments.

85 Cricket came before the commission to request the cemetery be licensed by the Oregon Mortuary
86 and Cemetery Board (OMCB). The cemetery had been recently contacted by the Salem State
87 Hospital that cremains had been located and was a relative of a Civil War Veteran buried in the
88 cemetery. After contacting a relative, the cremains had been received with a small ceremony and
89 his cremains were laid to rest.

90

91 By being a non-licensed cemetery, this was actually an illegal burial. Cricket requested that it be
92 presented to the Council to have the Marshfield Pioneer Cemetery licensed by the OMCB. She
93 submitted to Randy the necessary paperwork. There would be a fee of \$100 and \$50 for a
94 principal to be listed for contact. The license is a 2yr renewal with no fees unless a change of
95 principal. Randy would have to meet with Nate, the city attorney.

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97 **COMMISSIONERS CLOSING COMMENTS –**

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99 Christine asked Randy when the updates to the Parks Master Plan would go out for public input.
100 It was decided it would be sometime after the regular December meeting.

101 Randy briefly updated the commission regarding the Empire Boat ramp incident. Mr.
102 Buchanan requested to remove a sunken vessel by means of the boat ramp. This was a 75 ton
103 vessel. He obtained legal advice and pursued removing against the City and Oregon State
104 Marine Board's decisions, as the ramp would not handle the weight without damage. Oregon
105 State Marine Board will take the lead in this case which could become a legal matter.

106 Signage at the Boardwalk placed prohibiting spinreel fishing within 100 feet of the docks. Also,
107 regarding the speed of boats in the channel causing wakes that were damaging the moored boats,
108 it had been determined that regulation would fall under the jurisdiction of the Coos County
109 Sheriff's Department.

110 Christine stated that the Pacific Cove Humane Shelter had gone before the Planning Commission
111 and requested that the property on Vine be re-zoned C-2, which was granted. They have been
112 approved and will move forward with the process.

113 Before adjournment, Pam asked for a motion to approve the minutes of September 18, 2014.
114 Jennifer Stephens asked for a correction to Line 91. The name should be corrected to read
115 Jennifer Groth.

116 Motioned: Christine motioned to accept as corrected

117 Seconded: Arianne

118 Vote: Aye, Unanimous. Minutes approved as read with correction.

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120 **ADJOURNMENT**

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122 **There being no further business to come before the Parks Commission, by**
123 **consensus of the Parks Commission, Chair adjourned the meeting at 5:00 pm.**

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125 Respectfully Submitted,

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127 Pamela Patton,

128 Public Works and Development

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130 **APPROVED BY THE PARKS COMMISSION ON THE ³⁰ DAY OF ^{April}, 2015.**

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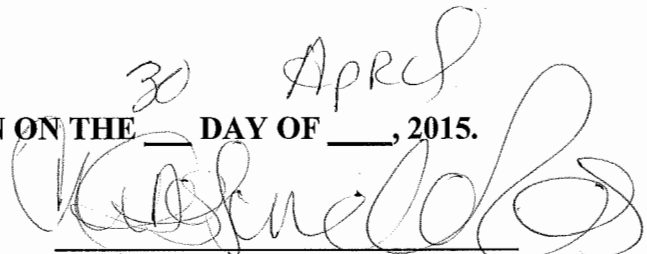
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Attest:



Pamela Patton, Staff



Christine Coles, Chair