

CITY OF COOS BAY
PARKS COMMISSION MINUTES OF
October 15, 2015

Members Present: Chair, Christine Coles; Ariann Lyons; Carmen Matthews;
Bev Meyers and Ralph Mohr
Members Absent: Bill Otton; Patty Scott and Tom Leahy
Staff Present: Randy Dixon, Jim Hossley, Pam Patton
Guests Present: Mike Gray, ODF&W and Captain Chris Chapanar
Location: City Hall Conference Room
Coos Bay City Hall – 500 Central Avenue

CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL / APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chair Christine Coles called the meeting to order at 12:00pm.

NEW BUSINESS –

Today's guests were introduced by Randy. Mike Gray, a wildlife biologist with ODF&W and Captain Chris Chapanar. Randy briefly covered the topic of information to be covered.

Mike Gray mentioned to the group that about the time the salmon began to run, they started receiving calls about mid-August, regarding the signage posted on the Boardwalk concerning casting and fishing gear, "slip bobber fishing only." Angler regulations are governed by ODF&W and are able to be enforced by Oregon State Police and the County Sheriff. We, as a municipality, cannot regulate fishing but have the authority to limit where people fish at the Boardwalk.

Mike gave some background regarding the success in the salmon runs we're seeing today. ODF&W began holding over "smolts" at Blossom Gulch to acclimate and then they would be released. We are now seeing adult salmon returning. By doing such practices, it can create other issues.

ODF&W are frequently being called with this type of concern and Mike mentioned that this being more of a discussion/informative meeting and not a presentation but by addressing issues as a behavioral campaign has been favorable and have found by taking an educational/courtesy approach to be most successful.

Since the Parks Master Plan adoption, the City Boardwalk was included as an asset and under that concept; this is the perfect time to redefine fishing locations and development specific to need. As a committee is being put together, it is a staff recommendation to invite Mike Gray to become a member of this committee. Mike acknowledged that they would be happy to do that.

Captain Chapanar shared with the board that city police are having a difficult time trying to deal with the many issues arising on the docks with the many anglers at the Boardwalk. Chris gave some insight into the difficulties trying to enforce the issue of trespassing, property damage etc. They cannot enforce them unless a crime has been committed and/or witnessed and there is a city ordinance in place. They can however enforce criminal mischief and damage to a vessel, if the dollar amount of the damage exceeds a certain range. They're objective is not to stop the recreation but to address problems as they arise.

49 A suggested option is to proceed with the Parks Master Plan and identify the need to build a
50 fishing pier as a possible solution. Remind anglers to be courteous and that there are
51 consequences and can be liable for damages. Encourage fishing south of the tide gate but the
52 angler's perception of where the fish is will always be "at the tide gate" and they will try to
53 maneuver themselves in front of the tide gate or back on the boardwalk.

54 Randy suggested taking a proactive approach with design giving "teeth" to enforcement through
55 City ordinances, Parks Master Plan and not subjecting the boat owner to potential damage but
56 allowing the recreational fishermen to continue. Perhaps, the placement of security gates down
57 to the moored boats. Mostly the southern entrance as the north would be public access. Mike
58 with ODF&W mentioned they had a Restoration and Enhancement (R&E) opportunity funded
59 through a surcharge on a fishing license. Funding can be on a match basis. The Charleston
60 office can assist with the application as well as letters of support.

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62 **OLD BUSINESS/UPDATES –**

63 Mingus Park Hours: The commission would like to make a recommendation to the Council to
64 close the park at dusk. Having a curfew helps give teeth for enforcement. It was asked of
65 Captain Chapanar about enforcing city ordinances regarding the skateboard park, stage, dogs off
66 leash and smoking. Captain Chapanar explained that it is on a "per call basis" but due to
67 resources, it becomes low priority.

68 **Approve Minutes of August 20th and September 10th** Christine called for a motion to accept.

69 **MOTION:** Carmen motioned to accept the minutes of August 20th

70 **DISCUSSION:** none

71 **SECOND:** Ralph

72 **VOTE:** Ayes were unanimous. Motion approved

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74 **MOTION:** Ralph motioned to accept the minutes of September 10th

75 **DISCUSSION:** none

76 **SECOND:** Carmen

77 **VOTE:** Ayes were unanimous. Motion approved

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79 **COMMISSIONERS CLOSING COMMENTS –**

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81 **ADJOURNMENT**

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83 **There being no further business to come before the Parks Commission, by**
84 **consensus of the Parks Commission, Chair adjourned the meeting at 1:20pm.**

85

86 Respectfully Submitted,

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88 Pamela Patton,

89 Public Works Department

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91 **APPROVED BY THE PARKS COMMISSION ON THE** 10th **DAY OF** December **, 2015**

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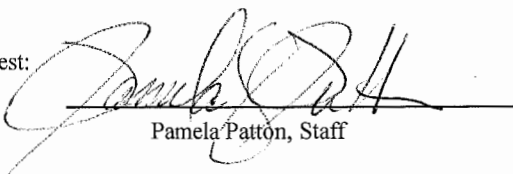
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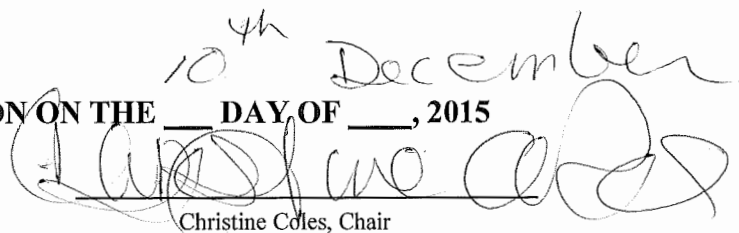
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Attest:


Pamela Patton, Staff


Christine Coles, Chair