

**COOS BAY
PARKS COMMISSION MINUTES
MARCH 18, 2021**

The minutes of the proceedings of a regular meeting of the Parks Commission of the City of Coos Bay, Coos County, Oregon, held at 4:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers, 500 Central Avenue, Coos Bay, Oregon.

Roll Call

Those present were City Staff, Randy Dixon, Operations Administrator; Kelli Burnette; Commissioners CoCo Sutton and Bill Davis. Attending remotely by teleconference were Commissioners Ariann Lyons, Carmen Matthews, Sam Crawley, and Bev Meyers. Also present, attending in person, were guests Tristen Reasor and Christal Kralicek.

Approval of the February 18, 2021 Meeting Minutes

Chair Lyons called for a motion to approve the Minutes.

Commissioner Crawley moved and Commissioner Davis seconded the motion to approve the February 18, 2021, minutes as presented. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

Citizen Input

Christal Kralicek, Coos Bay, Resident, came forward and stated she is at the meeting to present as part of the Coos Bay Skatepark Association.

Coos Bay Skatepark Association

Tristen Reasor, 91516 Dolezal Lane, Coos Bay, Resident, came forward to present information on the Coos Bay Skatepark Association. Mr. Reasor provided background information as to how he was part of the original crew that built the skatepark, his volunteer hours repairing damage and to ensuring the park is being used correctly. Mr. Reasor stated he was asked by the Parks Department to evaluate the park to see what other repairs needed to be made and if he could fix them. Mr. Reasor stated he has determined the extent of the repairs exceed what a volunteer committee could accomplish so the Coos Bay Skatepark Association was formed and he hopes to work with the City to maintain and repair the skatepark and hopefully expand the skatepark once the repairs have been made.

Chair Lyons thanked Mr. Reasor for his efforts, for organizing an association, and stated she believes the skatepark is a valuable asset to the City.

Mr. Reasor further discussed bringing the park up to standards, the fact that it is designed for pro users, and would like offer more to the local users and youth. Mr. Reasor stated there are two or three different groups that come from out of town to use the skatepark and suggested possibly expanding the skatepark into the tennis court area.

Staff Member Dixon commented on the parks master plan and explained expansion of the skatepark would need to be discussed as part of the master plan and that the Commission and Staff are currently looking into developing a clover ballfield at other locations, which could include a BMX track, and when that comes to fruition, public input would be sought. Mr. Reasor asked to be part of that process.

Commissioner Davis asked if the damage to the skate park was limited to the vandalism. Mr. Reasor stated he believes the foundation has settled over the years, causing cracks in the concrete and shifting as well as the weight of the cradle piece. Mr. Reasor stated the park has held together exceptionally well except for the flat bank on the backside which caused the structural cracks in the foundation that needs to be demolished and replaced. Commissioner Davis asked about a cost estimate. Mr. Reasor commented that he is not a contractor but believes it would be tens of thousands of dollars and that if it is not fixed in the next five years, it will fail and continue to settle.

Commissioner Davis asked if they had any fundraiser ideas. Mr. Reasor commented they have been working more on establishing the organization, that fundraising would have to be done online at this point in time, but that they have established a Go Fund Me account to raise funds for the filing fees to establish the organization, which was successful, and they intend to conduct fundraisers, but they haven't advertised because they wanted to get approval from the City first. Mr. Reasor indicated they have 144 Facebook followers without really promoting the organization, that there is definitely good support for the organization and expansion of the skatepark.

Staff Member Dixon stated they think the organization is a good idea.

Christal Kralicek, local skateboard business owner, came forward and stated that people are really wanting their kids to get outside, get some exercise and bond, and a skatepark is a good way for kids to build relationships, get exercise and bond with each other. Ms. Kralicek also stated there has been an increase in skateboard sales by 2,000 percent, that people want to skateboard and a safe, healthy place for kids to come, as well as tourists, professional skateboarders and people that pass through town is needed. Ms. Kralicek stated she has even had someone offer to come and sign autographs for a fundraiser and things like that to help support this movement.

Staff Member Dixon commented he likes the idea of their 501c non-profit organization, supports the idea of bringing events to town, having others come into the community bringing tourism dollars, and that this could be a great relationship to move forward looking at the use of the facility - what the use should be based on design and what it could be in the future. Staff Member Dixon stated when the Parks Commission and Council look at the master plan, staff would come to the Skatepark Association to help and assist the City in the development of the skatepark.

Mr. Reasor discussed the rules of the skatepark, which does not allow bikes and scooters because the final design of the park was not designed to withstand them. Mr. Reasor further stated the use of bikes and scooters in the park is part of the reason the park is in the state that it is in, which is the main reason he is at the park every day as a volunteer to make sure the rules are followed. Mr. Reasor further stated it is extremely easy for someone to damage the rest of the coating and make it unsafe. Mr. Reasor stated he has spoken to Park Department staff who have indicated that if the park is deemed unsafe, it will have to be closed until funds can be put towards repairing it. Mr. Reasor stated he has been down there almost daily since October and will continue until we can get the remaining 185 lineal feet repaired, that he has the knowledge to fix it, and as soon as the budget comes in he will volunteer and come in and fix it.

Staff Member Dixon briefly discussed funding and the fact that the City has 200 acres throughout its park system and that the City is far behind the benchmark standard in regard to funds available to maintain those 200 acres, but Staff tries to raise that bar every year and has done well. Staff Member Dixon stated when the Commission updates the master plan, the association can come in with some good input, that he is very interested in the association's interest in the facility, and

commented that the Parks Commission has been looking at different locations for a ballfield that would incorporate a BMX trail location, which means there are options and it would be good to have the Skatepark Association in those discussions. Staff Member Dixon further commented on the upcoming Mingus Park renovations. Staff Member Dixon thanked Mr. Reasor and Ms. Kralicek for coming in and stated the City would be in touch.

Current Downtown Library Location – Future Open Space

Chair Lyons commented she wanted to get the Commission thinking about what the current library location could be used for once the library is relocated. The Commission and Staff discussed Blossom Creek along Bennet Ave., daylighting, bioswales, alleviating some of the hydraulic cracking, pond expansion and greenspace. It was discussed there is a lot of funding available for greenspace, maybe even DEQ dollars, and getting support from the Army Corps of Engineers.

The Commission discussed a vision for connecting parks through pathways and that Curtis Avenue is on the horizon to be rebuilt.

Ballpark/Parking Lot at Old Armory Location

Chair Lyons asked if there were any updates or ideas regarding the possibilities for the Armory. Staff Member Dixon stated he has not had additional contact with the National Guard, but he will follow up and give the Commission an update. Staff Member Dixon commented that this location would be good for a ballpark or any activity, because you already have a park and access into it, and that bringing activities to the Empire area may also run out negative activity.

Staff and the Commission discussed the relocation of the library and the fact that the exact location of the library in the parcel has not been determined.

Staff and the Commission discussed the benefits of doing a full master plan for Empire Lakes so all elements at that location can be reviewed at the same time and that Council was up against deadline and had to make a quick decision about the location for the new library.

Staff Member Dixon stated he doesn't think it is a bad idea, but thinks the library needs to be in the front, closer to Newmark for visibility and accessibility, and discussed a ballpark needing lights, etc. Staff Member Dixon further stated the Commission should have some input on the library going into the park and provide some visioning through a master plan.

Staff and the Commission discussed the needs of all City Departments being considered when making a master plan, such as when looking at property the city already owns and the possibility of other structures needing to be relocated in the future that might impact park planning in greenspaces. It was noted that there have been discussions about an emergency shelter/community facility being placed at the exiting library location, the fact that Council has been discussing community assets and needs, and the fact that the Commission should begin working on the master plan as soon as possible keeping all community assets and needs in mind.

The Commission discussed the benefits of joint meetings with Council and other boards and commissions for better collaboration so that we are not acting completely independent and unaware of each committees' actions. Commissioner Matthews moved that the Commission try to do more joint meetings.

Chair Lyons asked for any additional comments regarding the ballfield, library, old Armory, or Empire Lakes.

Commission Matthews asked if there were any updates on the bridge project. Staff Member Dixon reminded the Commission of the problems Staff and the Commission encountered regarding environmental issues, the lake being too short for the bulkhead tie in, issues with column locations for the bridge, and the other option of an open box culvert for water passage and a hard surface on the top. Staff Member Dixon stated he provided the Commission with pictures of an open culvert option, explained how it would be installed, and uses, and the fact the Commission wanted to complete that project as part of the master plan. Staff Member Dixon further commented that incorporating it into a master plan for Empire Lakes seems like the much better option in light of the current activities, new library and ballfields.

Commissioner Closing Comments

Staff Member Dixon advised the Commission of a Travel Oregon Grant that is available for COVID relief as it relates to recreational activities. Staff Member Dixon report the dollars are small but he will be applying for a \$100,000 grant to resurface the lower and upper parking lots at Empire Lakes, which would consist of new asphalt and new striping.

Staff Member Dixon also reported that the City will be applying for a COVID relief program in which the City Manager intends to use some of the funds for rehabilitating the Mingus Park Pool.

Staff Member Dixon stated the projects would be advertised for bid.

Staff Member Dixon advised the Commission that ZCS has provided a rendering of what the Mingus Park Rehabilitation would look like, free of charge, and showed the renderings to the Commission. Staff Member Dixon stated Staff will use these renderings to promote the project. Staff Member Dixon stated there will be two grants to complete the project, State Parks and ODFW.

Commissioner Crawley commented the renderings looked great and asked if the City was still getting the beam from the university. Staff Member Dixon stated yes, that the City is in the process of scheduling a 40-foot truck to recover all of those structural beams. Staff Member Dixon stated the picnic pavilions and the restrooms at the pavilion shown in the Mingus Park Rehabilitation renderings will be constructed from those beams.

Chair Lyons commented she would like to see more swings at the park, otherwise she thinks the renderings look great and the rehabilitation will greatly enhance the park and Choshi Gardens.

Commissioner Matthews stated the chains in the climbing area at Mingus Park are in bad shape and need repaired as soon as possible. Staff Member Dixon stated he will put in a work order and get them repaired.

Commissioner Matthews advised the basketball hoop near the skatepark still has not been repaired. Staff Member Dixon stated he will follow up and apologized for the delay.

Chair Lyons stated there are a lot of exciting things happening in our parks and is looking forward to the next few months and the beginning of our master plan planning process - overall for the parks as well as the master plan for Empire Lakes and the other part of Mingus Park. Chair Lyons thanked everyone for being part of the Parks Commission.

166 **Adjourn**

167 There being no further business to come before the Parks Commission, by consensus of the Parks
168 Commission, Chair Lyons adjourned the meeting at 5:01 p.m.

169 **APPROVED BY THE PARKS COMMISSION ON THE 15th DAY OF APRIL 2021.**

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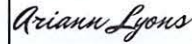
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Attest:


Kelli Burnette, Staff



Ariann Lyons, Chair

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