

CITY OF COOS BAY
JOINT CITY COUNCIL / URA WORK SESSION
Agenda Staff Report

MEETING DATE May 9, 2017	AGENDA ITEM NUMBER
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TO: Mayor Benetti and City Councilors

FROM: Jim Hossley, Public Works and Community Development Director



THROUGH: Rodger Craddock, City Manager *pac*

ISSUE: Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua and Siuslaw Indians Request to Reestablish the Wapato Plant at Empire Lakes in John Topits Park

SUMMARY:

The Confederated Tribes of the Coos, Lower Umpqua and Siuslaw Indians' Culture and Natural Resources Department is actively working to revitalize the population of traditional food staples, such as wapato, within the waterways of their aboriginal territory. The Tribes presented a request to plant the wapato plant at Empire Lakes in John Topits Park to the Coos Bay Parks Commission. Their hope is to bring back wapato patches for cultural, educational, and environmental use. The Parks Commission supported the Tribes' request.

ACTION REQUESTED:

None, staff will assist the Tribes as needed in locating educational signage.

BACKGROUND:

The Confederated Tribes of the Coos, Lower Umpqua and Siuslaw Indians' Culture and Natural Resources Department is actively working to revitalize the population of traditional food staples, such as wapato, within the waterways of their aboriginal territory. The southern boundary of our combined claimed territory is just north of Bandon at Whiskey Run to just north of Heceta Head at 10-Mile Creek, east all the way to the mountain range. Wapato (aka Indian potato) *Sagittaria latifolia* is an aquatic plant that their ancestors harvested regularly as a food staple. They tended to wapato patches to promote growth and sustainability for hundreds of generations. Today, wapato is hard to find in our waterways, but it is not gone. For a number of years the Tribes have cultivated a few small patches and have a good source to draw from for transplanting, but not enough to consume regularly.

The Confederated Tribes of the Coos, Lower Umpqua and Siuslaw Indians' Culture and Natural Resources Department presented to the Parks Commission a request to plant the Wapato plant along the Empire Lakes in John Topits Park. The Tribe is interested in providing details and history about wapato and its use by the Tribes through the use of outdoor interpretive signs for educational purposes. This will expand the interpretive education offered at the park. The Tribes hope is that this sets up the prospect of more culturally significant plants that have a cultural

history here, to be highlighted in other parks/areas in the future.

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS:

None for the City

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CITY OF COOS BAY
PARKS COMMISSION MINUTES OF
February 16, 2017

Members Present: Chair, Christine Coles, Ariann Lyons, Bev Meyers,
Bill Otton, Ralph Mohr and Shaun Gibbs

Members Absent: Patty Scott

Staff Present: Operations Administrator, Randy Dixon and Pam Patton

Guests Present: Mark Petrie, Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua and Siuslaw
Indians Cultural Department with John Schaefer, also Confederated Tribes
Tribal Biology

Location: City Hall Conference Room
** Meeting held at 4pm to 5pm

1. CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL / APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Christine spoke with the guests and had them introduce themselves.

Mr. Petrie and John Schaefer gave a power point presentation on one of their traditional foods, Wapato. It is annual starchy tuber that grows underground with 12 inch runners that has an arrow shape tip. It is also thought of as an Indian potato or duck potato as the water fowl love it. It is semi-aquatic, very prolific. It is an attractive plant that grows along shallow edges of creeks and lakes. Wapato dies back in the winter and you will only find the tubers when the leaves are gone. They would like to bring it back to our area and see it develop in sustainability and to remain productive.

It was thought that the Siuslaw National Forestry notified them of a small patch of Wapato was found in an unnamed small lake at mile post 202 outside of Florence. Their aboriginal lands are north of Bandon at Whiskey Run, Cut Creek, Umpqua's Brandy Bar and just north of Heceta Head at 10-Mile Creek and then east to the mountain range.

They would like to revitalize the population of traditional food staples, such as Wapato to the waterways of their territory. They'd like to recommend Empire Lakes to try and establish a patch of Wapato. The commission also thought areas like the Englewood dike area and the Millicoma. Mark and John thought Mingus Park Lake might be a challenge because of the water fowl.

Randy would like to concentrate on one location and see how it does and time to understand its nature before venturing into other areas. He felt Empire Lakes to be a great location.

The Confederated Tribes invited the City of Coos Bay to partner in a collaborative effort to enhance the public's cultural experience and to expand the interpretive education offered at lake parks. Outdoor interpretive signs for educational purposes etc. providing details and history about Wapato and its use by the tribes.

Randy thanked them and thought we could enter into a MOU between the City and Confederated Tribes. Within the MOU, language can be included to address issues i.e., protecting the shorelines, as that was a concern. Timing to take our recommendation to the work session and to Council for approval would be at least a month or two turnaround time.

47 **MOTION:** Ralph motioned for the Parks' Commission to approve and make the
48 recommendation to take it before the city council to bring back the Wapato.

49 **DISCUSSION:**

50 **SECOND:** Bill

51 **VOTE:** Ayes. Vote was unanimous and motion carried.

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53 The Parks' Commission thanked them both for bringing their very informative presentation and
54 we look forward to working together.

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56 2. NEW BUSINESS

- 57 • Theft of a headstone from Marshfield Pioneer Cemetery -

58 Randy spoke briefly about the headstone. It was quickly posted on the city's Facebook page.
59 There were 11,000 hits. The City is offering a small reward for information and the return of
60 the headstone without questions asked. The commission discussed cameras to deter theft and
61 vandalism. An independent camera system is estimated to be around \$20,000. It was mentioned
62 that perhaps we could approach Marshfield High school and the use of their mounted cameras
63 on some of their buildings. Randy will begin looking at getting it into the budget. When the
64 fence panels are installed along with the gate, the gate will be locked after hours.

- 65 • Skateboard Park -

66 Libby, the owner of the "Time Bomb" would like to partner with the City to assist in raising
67 funds necessary to expand and enhance our skateboard park. In the Parks Master Plan, the
68 plan is to move the basketball courts and tennis courts allowing the expansion and accessibility.
69 Randy will establish a budget to allow donations to be deposited here at the City.

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71 **MOTION:** Christine motioned to move forward on the expansion and fundraising for the
72 Skateboard Park.

73 **DISCUSSION:**

74 **SECOND:** Shaun

75 **VOTE:** Ayes. Vote was unanimous and motion carried.

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77 3. OLD BUSINESS -

- 78 • Christine asked for a motion to approve the January 12th minutes.

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80 **MOTION:** Ariann motioned to accept January's minutes as written

81 **DISCUSSION:**

82 **SECOND:** Christine

83 **VOTE:** Ayes. Vote was unanimous and motion carried.

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- 85 • The Old Wireless property -

86 Pump Station 20 has been decommissioned. Sewer main that serviced the 1485 Old Wireless
87 address has been capped. Hazard mitigation has been completed. The house will be used for
88 training in the Learn to Burn program.

89 Randy met with ODF&W and they are more than excited to get involved and mentioned they
90 do an acquisition for five (5) acres west of Old Wireless. The Libby dike to be decommissioned
91 to allow it to flood. And from there, working down towards the city waterfront. Funding will
92 be 100 percent if we establish a recreational fishing component. The state park's Rails to Trails
93 could be available at 80 to 90 percent towards the various stages of the project.

- 94 • S 10th St Park – MHS Key Club –
95 The proposed improvements of the S 10th St Park was taken to the Council's work session.
96 Randy will be drafting up a budget to allow the club to be actively involved with fundraising.
97 Randy will also address the drainage and elevation.
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99 **4. COMMISSIONERS CLOSING COMMENTS –**

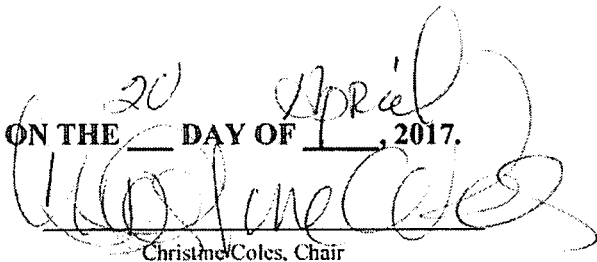
- 100 • Ralph reported the Mingus Pool vacuum. It hadn't been vacuumed in three weeks. Ralph gave
101 a contact, Elmer Kliewer, who would be willing to do the vacuuming allowing to free up the
102 Park's department to address other immediate projects.
- 103 • Christine reported that she is continually seeing smoking in Mingus Park. Skateboard Park
104 continues to have bikes and scooters. Felt that there is an absence of enforcement. She thought
105 perhaps it would be good to do a presentation at the middle schools regarding the city's assets
106 i.e., skateboard park. Hopefully, by taking it to the schools, it will be building some ownership.
- 107 • Randy mentioned another spot with People at Noon. Concentrate on educating the public.
108 There is a need for educating the community and that will require setting dollars aside (budget).
- 109 • Bev reported continual vandalism at Choshi Gardens. Very frustrating and it needs a solution.
110 Bev also asked if Randy had any dates on the pond dredging. Randy said that they are going
111 for the nationwide permit for dredging. Unfortunately, it is an 18-month process.
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113 **5. ADJOURNMENT –**

114 **There being no further business to come before the Parks Commission, by**
115 **consensus of the Parks Commission, Christine adjourned the meeting at 4:50 p.m.**
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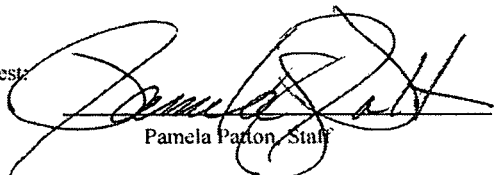
117 Respectfully Submitted,
118 Pamela Patton,
119 Public Works
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121 **APPROVED BY THE PARKS COMMISSION ON THE 20 DAY OF April, 2017.**


Christine Coles, Chair

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Attest:


Pamela Patton, Staff

