

CITY OF COOS BAY
MINUTES OF THE PARKS COMMISSION

February 10, 2011

Parks Commission members present: Beverly Meyers, Patty Scott, Jon Eck, Chris Coles, Nathan Clausen

Not Present: Cindi Miller, Floyd Vandervelden, Bill Otton

Staff present: Randy Dixon, Amy Carlson

Guests present: Crystal Shoji, Mike Vaughn, Cricket Soules

APPROVAL OF October 19, 2010 MINUTES

Ms. Coles called the meeting to order at 4:06 pm. The October 19, 2010 Parks Commission meeting minutes were unanimously APPROVED.

CONSIDERATION OF REQUEST TO LEASE PARK PROPERTY AT BARHAM TERRACE

Ms. Coles stated that she feels the adjacent property owner has been more than patient and the Parks Commission needs to make a decision.

Mr. Dixon explained the city would lease just enough right of way for the adjacent property owners to take care of the retaining wall to protect their property.

MOTION - Jon Eck - To lease a portion of the right of way at Barham Terrace to adjacent property owner.

VOTE - Unanimous

CONSIDERATION OF ACCEPTING A LAND DONATION FOR PARK PURPOSES – LAND AT NORTHWEST CORNER OF PARK AVENUE AND 3RD STREET

Mr. Dixon explained that a group of stake holders would like to give property to the city with some stipulations, including no skateboard park. They have a master plan for the property, and would like a tennis court. One of the issues that needs to be considered before accepting the donation is costs associated with maintenance. Mr. Dixon expressed the desire to have all issues and conditions clearly defined before accepting the donation. Mr. Eck stated he is open to accepting the donation, as long as it is compatible with the goals of the city. Mr. Vaughan expressed concern about an increase in parking demand and the lack of tennis courts in the area. Mr. Vaughan stated he has concerns that unused tennis courts become a magnet for undesirable occupants; he proposes this parcel become part of a walking/jogging trail with stretching stations. Mr. Dixon would like a master plan to inter-link these open spaces. He stated he would like a directive to identify issues to coordinate with vision of city.

SOCC REQUEST TO RECOGNIZE STUDENT WORK ON TRAILS AT JOHN TOPITS PARK

Ms. Scott stated Southwestern Oregon Community College (SWOCC) turns 50 this year. During the process of writing a book about the first 50 years of the school, it was discovered that the forestry students in the 1970's are the ones that installed the first trails into the Empire Lakes area. She would like any information the city has regarding the creation of Empire Lakes Park, which is now John Topits Park. She thought it would be a good idea for the city to recognize the contribution of the SWOCC students during the 50 year celebration this year. There will be a kick-off ceremony that the mayor will speak at in May, then a big event in October as well.

FORD FOUNDATION PROJECT

Ms. Coles gave a report on the leadership project sponsored by the Ford Family Foundation completed in November 2010. The project was finished with the following placed at John Topits Park: 1 large sign at the main entrance, 2 small interpretive signs, 3 doggie stations, trail markers to address safety issues, and 2 benches with memorial plaques. There was also a bench and a doggie station placed at Eastside Park. Mayor Shoji asked Ms. Coles to present this report at the city council meeting.

PUBLIC SPACE

Ms. Coles stated that the city is demolishing 2 buildings on the same block: the Lockhart building on the corner of 3rd Street and Central Avenue and the fire station on the corner of 4th Street and Anderson Avenue. There has been a lot of discussion in the community on what to do with the empty lots. There will be a work session on February 24, 2011 and any input or ideas from the parks commission would be welcome.

Mr. Vaughan proposed a meandering path through the Lockhart property and public space on the fire station property. He stated that another proposal is to return the property back to the tax roles for revenue purposes.

GRANT REQUESTS

Mr. Dixon attended an Oregon State Parks work session for grants. The bridge at John Topits Park is a project that would fit with the grant, which is a 50% match. For this project, the city needs to do a site survey to qualify what does and does not meet ADA standards. He would like to develop a master plan for John Topits Park to support this grant.

Ms. Coles would like the plan to also address standards for memorial plaques, so they do not make the park look like a cemetery.

Approval for Mr. Dixon to go forward with a master plan for John Topits Park was unanimous.

CHOSHI GARDEN WORK REPORT

Mr. Dixon reported that the group from Marshfield High School has been very active in clearing and building trails at Mingus Park. He wants some standards to be developed for protection of users and longevity of the trails. Ms. Meyers said she is thrilled about the work the group has been doing and it looks fantastic.

FYE 2012 BUDGET

Mr. Dixon stated the city is in the process of budget review for next year. He has requested renovation/repair funds for Mingus Park pool, tennis courts, and the skateboard park.

Mr. Eck stated he would like to put additional money in the budget for the bridge at Empire Lakes, which has almost \$100,000 at this time.

PARKS COMMISSION MEMBER COMMENTS

Mr. Clausen commented that he would like to talk about a Frisbee golf course and vandalism at Choshi Garden at the next meeting.

After no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 5:10 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Amy Carlson