

**CITY OF COOS BAY**  
**MINUTES OF THE PARKS COMMISSION**

August 14, 2008

**Parks Commission members present:** Chris Coles, Bob Golden, Beverly Meyers, Floyd Vandervelden, Jon Eck, Bill Otton

**Not Present:** Cindi Miller, Patty Scott

**Staff present:** Jim Hossley, Steve Doty, Amy Carlson

**Guests present:** Kristina Nelson – KCBY, Sisi Metz, Debbie Brown – Marshfield High School, Becky Soules, Cricket Soules,

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**APPROVAL OF JULY 10, 2008 MINUTES**

Ms. Coles called the meeting to order at 4:03pm. The July 10, 2008 Parks Commission meeting minutes were unanimously APPROVED.

**PIONEER CEMETERY**

Ms. Becky Soules gave a history of the cemetery and spoke about some of the issues that need to be addressed in a management plan. She has completed a computerized database to replace the historic logbook and then talked about the importance of maintaining the historic documents and records. She addressed other issues such as maintenance, public access, changes and improvements, and the need for ordinances pertaining to the cemetery to be researched. Ms. Soules stated she is looking for input and support from the Parks Commission and asked the commission to take a more active role in managing the cemetery.

Mr. Eck thanked Ms. Soules for all the hard work she has put into improving the cemetery.

**SKATEBOARD PARK UPDATE**

Mr. Doty stated that the first bowl has been completed by the temporary employees, and the second bowl is being formed and should be completed in six to eight weeks. He also said the city has a cost estimate for Phase II.

**JOHN TOPITS PARK UPDATE**

Mr. Doty stated that temporary employees have cleaned up the four miles of trails at John Topits Park, and South Coast Business Employment Corporation (SCBEC) crews have cleaned the briars around the lake. After a question from Mr. Otton, he added that there has not been an update on the proposed dock

Mr. Hossley stated the city is working on getting a grant for the bridge.

**OPTIMIST'S 10<sup>TH</sup> STREET PARK UPDATE**

Mr. Doty said they are bringing in fill around the edge of the park to dress it up. He also stated the Optimists are doing a good job with the park.

## **PARKS COMMISSION MEMBER COMMENTS**

Mr. Doty gave an update that the Boardwalk has been painted and new signs are on order for the pavilions. Signs are being placed in the parks. Mingus Park is closed from 11pm to 5am, and John Topits Park is closed from dusk to dawn. Signs are also being reviewed for the interpretive exhibits and will be replaced this fall. Choshi pond dredging will start this Monday.

Mr. Hossley stated the dog park issue is being presented to the City Council on Tuesday, August 19, 2008.

Mr. Doty stated about 450 yards will be removed.

Mr. Vandervelden is interested and wants more information about the Pioneer Cemetery.

Ms. Meyers stated she is concerned about the maintenance of the cemetery.

Mr. Golden stated he would like to open up the cemetery issue and get more groups involved.

Ms. Cricket Soules stated that as the liaison for the cemetery, she would like some direction.

Mr. Hossley stated the city would like to know what sections of other management plans would be appropriate for the Pioneer Cemetery, so that the city can put together a draft plan.

Ms. Metz said she is a local citizen that lives nearby and she would be willing to help in the effort to preserve the cemetery.

Ms. Cricket Soules proposed the idea that a different civic group sponsor a day each month in order to alleviate the enormous responsibility of one organization doing all the work.

Ms. Coles suggested the commission get some direction from city staff and go from there.

Mr. Doty added that the waterfall at the upper pond was vandalized this morning.

After no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 4:43pm.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Amy Carlson