

MINUTES
BROOKINGS PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
January 22, 2015

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Patricia Brown called the meeting to order at 7:00pm followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

Present: Commissioners Tom Bozack, Trace Kather, Garth Richey, Don Vilelle and Chair Patricia Brown. Commissioners welcomed new Commissioner Tom Bozack.

Also present: Parks/Tech Services Supervisor Tony Baron and several members of the public.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. Motion made to approve the minutes of October 16, 2014 as written; motion seconded and Commission voted; the motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC APPEARANCES

Tony Parrish provided an update on the Lower Stout Park project, providing their balance sheet and advising that they have changed their plans on the well and will instead install a fountain opposite the bench/picnic table area. Also provided commission with a schedule for the Stout Mountain Railway and details on their upcoming events. He advised the Railway is still recovering from last year's vandalism and said the area continues to be littered with cigarette butts. He would like to see Stout Park smoke free and encouraged commissioners to visit the park and see how much litter is there.

REGULAR AGENDA

A. Azalea Park Foundation – Scott Clapson, liaison for the Azalea Park Foundation presented the Community Garden project proposal. Patt questioned if anyone has shown interest in using the volleyball courts, Tony advised that no one has used the courts for several years and the Port has expressed interest in establishing courts on their property. Don questioned if they had enough participants to keep the garden program running for long term, Scott believes they had enough members to support the project and Tony believes there will be enough collaboration through the Master Gardeners, the Garden Club, and the foundation to sustain it for several years. **Motion made by Garth Richey to recommend to City Council the development of the Azalea Park Community Garden in the location of the sand volleyball courts at Azalea Park; motion seconded and Commission voted; the motion carried unanimously.** Matter forwarded to the City Council.

INFORMATION UPDATES/DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. City Hall, Courtyard Maintenance – Judy Seyle, Garden Club Representative discussed overgrown and inappropriate plants in the courtyard of City Hall and suggested maintenance on some of the plants. The Garden Club has a contract with the City for maintenance of the area and has authority to maintain/remove plants as necessary.

B. Azalea Park, Proposed Frisbee Golf Course – Austin Dunn presented proposal for a Disc Golf Course in Azalea Park advising that the sport attracts visitors to the area, promotes physical activity, would revitalize the park and is a popular tournament event. Ron Cole of Crescent City advised that the disc course in Crescent City is quite popular, a new course has been approved at McVay Rock State Park, and Salmon Run Golf Course is in the stages of approving a course also. He has gone over the proposed course in Azalea Park and thinks it would work. Typically there is no charge to play on a disc golf course, Salmon Run Golf Course will be charging \$5 green fees, but when tournaments are held they could collect participation tournament fees. Tony advised a parking lot on Lundeen Lane is being reviewed. One of the cons of disc golf is bystanders getting

hit by a disc, Mr. Cole advised that with promoting proper disc golfer education, behavior and signage there has been only four instances of people being hit by a disc and only one complaint filed in Crescent City. Don questioned if the disc golf community is known to like alcohol, and was advised that yes they do, and breweries are main sponsors of many tournaments. Disc course maintenance is minimal as disc golfers like fairways to be natural, overgrown vegetation is cleared as needed. Regular park trash collection the only regular maintenance needed. Tony believes more presence in the park might detour some of the vandalism. Shane Stevens, of the Southern Oregon Disc Golf Association advised that the tournament they had this past weekend was very successful and brought many out of area visitors. Ryan LaThorpe of the Southern Oregon Disc Golf Association and owner of In Motion Graphics advised that he has started selling discs and had to reorder several times. Believes disc golf would be a great activity for local students and that other than purchasing discs is free and affordable. Tony encouraged commissioners to forward any questions to him, matter to be continued to next meeting as an agenda item for further commission consideration.

C. Capital Improvement List – Tony provided the 2015-16 FY project list from the parks master plan. Requested Commissioners to prioritize and determine which projects they would like to see accomplished in the next fiscal year and return to him before the next meeting. Advised that Stout Park is experiencing a large amount of vandalism and wondered if they should wait to increase picnic/bench areas in that park. Smoking and litter possibly from students continues to be a problem, and past attempts to make parks non-smoking is not easy to enforce and have not been approved. Unleashed dog park area is still being planned as an Eagle Scout project later this year. Hopes more positive activity in this park may cut down on litter and vandalism.

D. Azalea Park, Native Azaleas – Tony advised he has been in contact with Dick Cavender from Portland and that he is familiar with our region and Azalea Park and he has agreed to assist in formulating a plan to prune and manage the native Azaleas in Azalea Park and Stout Park. He will be visiting the area in mid March when he will be able to do an assessment and help identify the azaleas conditions and develop a plan for their care which the local Master Gardeners would help to formulate and educate work parties in the future on the process of pruning and managing the azaleas.

STAFF REPORTS

Next meeting rescheduled for Thursday, March 19th to coincide with the visit from Dick Cavender on the azaleas.

COMMISSIONER REPORTS/COMMENTS

Commissioner Richey – advised this was his last meeting as he is retiring from the commission and thanked everyone for the work they contribute

Commissioner Bozack – thanked the City for his appointment and is looking forward to his time on the commission. He believes improvements to the parks will only add to the City.

Chair Brown- is encouraged that the Azalea Park Foundation is regrouping and taking on projects.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business before the Commission, the meeting adjourned at 8:31 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Brown, Chair
(Approved at March 19, 2015 meeting)