

MINUTES
BROOKINGS PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
March 19, 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.

Also present: Parks/Tech Services Supervisor Tony Baron and Austin Dunn, RARE employee.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. Motion made to approve the minutes of January 22, 2015 as written; motion seconded and Commission voted; the motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC APPEARANCES

A. Azalea Park, Native Azaleas – Visiting Azalea Specialist Dick Cavender presented information on the condition of the native azaleas (*occidentale*) in Azalea Park. He has studied *occidentale* for over forty years, and never seen something like what we have in the wild. In the wild, *occidentale* are typically cleared out every fifty or so years by forest fires or choked out by the competing vegetation (underbrush). Plants in portions of the park are dying off due to lack of sunlight penetrating through the stands of large fir trees which would have typically been cleared by forest fires. He encouraged pruning old growth from the plants as they only experience two to three inches of growth per year where new growth would experience twelve to eighteen inches per year and produce more flowers if sunlight were available. His visit was very informative and generated interest from the community, paving the way for a collaborative effort between the City, Master Gardeners and the Azalea Park Foundation to develop and implement a plan for management of the native azaleas. He also suggested educating the public to engage their support of the pruning.

REGULAR AGENDA

A. Disk Golf Course – Azalea Park - Tony and Austin Dunn presented the 9 hole disk golf course proposal and maps of the area. Course is mapped out to avoid old growth azaleas and other park activities with safety in mind. Tony advised they hope to develop course trails and new walking paths to allow people more access to the park, which he believes is underutilized. Parks has also purchased a new park utility vehicle to allow access to remote park areas that tend to become dumping areas to keep the park clean and safe. Austin advised that the Salmon Run disc golf course is progressing and believes there is an enough interest in the sport for three courses in the area. Course will open up forest, let light on the azaleas, which is good for them and engage people to use the park, which would detour homeless camps. Course will be set up in three phases and a committee will be established to manage course details. Courses typically do draw people drinking alcohol but can make course alcohol free. As no alcohol is allowed in the park tournament events would have to apply for a park use permit which could allow alcohol if approved. **Motion made by Don Vilelle to recommend to City Council the development of proposed disk golf course in Azalea Park; motion seconded and Commission voted; the motion carried unanimously.** Matter forwarded to the City Council.

B. Parks Capital Improvement List FY 15-16 - Tony provided the top ten 2015-16 FY CIP List as determined by the Parks and Recreation Commissioners. **Motion made by Tom Bozack to recommend to City Council the 2015-16 Parks Capital Improvement Plan; motion seconded and Commission voted; the motion carried unanimously.**

INFORMATION UPDATES/DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Prohibit Smoking in Parks - Tony reviewed the City municipal code and areas where smoking is prohibited. Resident, Tony Parrish previously requested that Stout Park be made smoke free to discourage kids from hanging out there and to alleviate the litter and possibly some of the vandalism in Stout Park. Resident Shirley Hyatt, spoke and advised that she lives near Stout Park and it is a place for kids to hang out before, during and after school and smoking/litter is a problem, along with behavior and language that the neighbors do not think is appropriate. Enforcement by the police is difficult and unknown if "No Smoking" signs would make any difference. Tony advised that he has reached out to the school district to ask them to help with keeping the kids out of the park during school hours. Don Vilelle thought a closed campus might help keep kids on the school grounds. Tony advised that he will write up language for possible revisions to the BMC and invite school officials to the next meeting to discuss further.

STAFF REPORTS

Tony advised that CCEC has requested that some trees on Lundeen Lane be cut down to prohibit damage to the nearby transmission lines during winter storms. Could sell the timber and replant with appropriate size trees. Tony will bring request to future meeting for commission approval. He also suggested selected azaleas be removed that will not improve due to their location and no sunlight.

COMMISSIONER REPORTS/COMMENTS

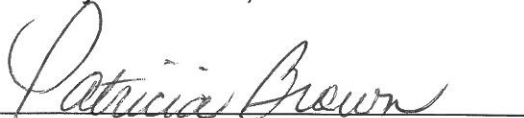
Commissioner Bozack – thanked Dick Cavender for coming down and providing information on the park azaleas.

Chair Vilelle – advised he continues to hear positive comments about Chetco Point.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business before the Commission, the meeting adjourned at 8:05 pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Patricia Brown, Chair

(Approved at May 28, 2015 meeting)