

MINUTES
BROOKINGS PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
May 28, 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, Don Vilelle and Chair Patricia Brown

Absent: Commissioner Trace Kather

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. Motion made to approve the minutes of March 19, 2015 as written; motion seconded and Commission voted; the motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC APPEARANCES

A. Dane Tipman – BH School District employee and Azalea Park Foundation volunteer appeared on behalf of the school district and presented a letter from the HS Vice Principal discussing the issue of student activity in Stout Park and their efforts to discourage inappropriate behavior during school hours. They have stepped up their efforts to monitor the problem and plan to continue those efforts to have students act appropriate and respectfully and discourage inappropriate behavior in Stout Park and hope to continue partnering with the City in efforts to maintain Stout Park. Don asked if the school has considered a closed campus and he was advised they have been discussing that option and are reviewing costs. He was aware of the upcoming agenda item to ban smoking in parks and thought school district staff would not oppose that measure. Tony advised that he has noticed a change at Stout Park since the school district began monitoring the area and he's not seen as many kids in the morning, during school or lunch hour and there are less kids congregating afterschool; believes the efforts the school district has taken have made a huge difference.

REGULAR AGENDA

A. Prohibit Smoking in Parks - Tony reviewed current smoking regulations and presented proposal to prohibit smoking in parks. He thought a ban prohibiting smoking in all park areas would be easier to enforce and that most people would adhere to the rule if it was posted. Committee discussed that state parks, rest areas and public areas already ban smoking. Audience member of 17160 Ocean Park Court, Brookings, advised that he sees juveniles loitering in the parks looking for cigarette butts and that activity would be curtailed. An all out ban would eliminate determining where smoking is allowed and if person smoking is of age before approaching. **Motion made to approve proposed BMC revisions prohibiting smoking in all City parks; motion seconded and Commission voted; the motion carried unanimously.** Matter forwarded to City Council.

B. Tree Removal – Lundeen Lane – Azalea Park- Tony reviewed Coos Curry Electrics Coop (CCEC) request to remove 37 fir trees along Lundeen Lane at Azalea Park. Trees are endangering electrical lines and could cause essential damage if they come down during a storm and hit the transmission lines. CCEC willing to pay tree removal costs and timber could be sold for profit which could be used to invest in planting lower growing trees. Commission asked about possibility of thinning out the trees; Tony believed as their root system is so shallow would only weaken the trees and make them more susceptible to coming down in a storm. Commission questioned the public's perception of tree removal in the park which is not

favorable. Candice Michel, 1253 Rowland Lane, Brookings - thought the public's reactions could be mitigated with public notification of the issue and informing them of the problem, so the matter does not turn into a social media complaint campaign which recently happened when some trees in town were taken down. Tony advised that the public is informed and invited to all public meetings; projects and details are publicized well in advance and citizens should make an effort to voice their opinions and concerns before projects are in process. Chris Eckerson, 521 Fir Street, Brookings – spoke saying he is one of the people who posted a comment on social media and that online forums are not going to slow down and it is a place where public officials can see public reaction. Don questioned if trees were thinned out by removing the oldest, weakest, or tallest trees if the roots would improve, Tony did not know. Don thought removal of 37 trees was overkill but thought the safety aspect was the most important. Pat mentioned this same problem occurred a few years ago at Stout Park when trees had to be removed because they had grown into the transmission lines and agreed that again the safety factor was more important to pursue before expensive damage was done. **Motion made by Tom Bozack to recommend to City Council removal of the trees in accordance to the recommendations of Coos Curry Electric; motion seconded and Commission voted; the motion carried unanimously.** Matter forwarded to the City Council.

INFORMATION UPDATES/DISCUSSION ITEMS

- A. Disk Golf Course – Azalea Park** – Austin Dunn provided update and progress report on the Disk golf course, first nine holes will be completed around mid- July. Volunteers have been clearing ground and an Eagle Scout will be installing the baskets. The back nine holes are being excavated and trails are being brush cut, graded and groomed. Have already seen increased activity in the park, including dog walkers and regular walkers using the area which discourages some of the negative activities that occur. Austin advised they have only thinned out some myrtle trees and taken out invasive holly, berry bushes and dangerous alder trees.
- B. Azalea Park – Native Azalea Work Plan** – Tony reviewed Dick Cavendar's letter reviewing Azalea Park. Still working out a plan with Azalea Park Foundation, Master Gardeners, City of Brookings and volunteers to pursue his recommendations. First step may just be pruning and thinning of the azaleas, at this time no fir trees are planned to be removed. Tom recommended when time comes to remove trees to consider time of year for birds nesting.
- C. Recreational Programming – Youth Flag Football League** – Tony been approached to conduct a recreational youth flag football program through the City for boys and girls, 6-14 years during the summer. Jay Jost, 17160 Ocean Park, Brookings, advised he has previously been involved in a flag football league and would like to encourage this type of structured summer activity for kids. Different options to begin establishing a league are available by joining up with an already established NFL youth organization or the City initiating and recruiting sponsors. Flag football season occurs in the summer preparing kids for the fall tackle season league conducted by Curry Youth Football. Initial start up costs would be equipment expenses of @\$2000 which could be paid for by participation fees. Tony would like commission to pursue possibility of establishing more Park and Rec program activities like this and believes it would benefit the community. Drew Farmer, High School Football coach believes the idea would be very well received by parents and would be a great alternative to tackle football for kids. Matter continued for next agenda. *CARTER*

STAFF REPORTS

- A.** Tony advised he has been awarded a grant from West Family Foundation of \$7500 for Azalea Park Ballfields backstops and dugouts, which is one element of the Azalea Park ballfield reconfiguration project. Total project costs are @\$32,000, and hoping to have enough capital improvement funds next year to proceed with the reconfiguration. He is also presenting another Oregon Parks & Rec grant for other elements of the reconfiguration next week in Salem.

- B. Rhodys at Bankus Park – advised that some of the rhodys have grown thick and large encroaching use of the bench, blocking visibility and encouraging unwanted behavior that can go unseen by the Police Dept; thinning/removal needed. Commissioners to look over the area and let Don know what they think and he will thin out.
- C. Gerry Livingston has been hired as new Pool Director. Pool is scheduled to open for summer in the next week. Also a new pool heater was installed this week.

COMMISSIONER REPORTS/COMMENTS


Commissioner Bozack – curious about what caused the pathway to subside at Chetco Point, Tony advised it was probably combination of compaction, settling and rain.

Commissioner Vilelle – advised Azalea Park Foundation is reorganizing its board and moving forward. He advised that as of May 7th the Azalea Park Foundation had not taken a position on the pruning of the azaleas in Azalea Park.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business before the Commission, the meeting adjourned at 8:06 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

 ~~with~~ with correction

Patricia Brown, Chair
(Approved at July 23, 2015 meeting)