

MINUTES
BROOKINGS PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
September 25, 2014

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Patricia Brown called the meeting to order at 7:02pm followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

Present: Commissioners Garth Richey, Don Vilelle and Chair Patricia Brown. Commissioner Kather arrived at @7:15

Also present: Parks/Tech Services Supervisor Tony Baron, Mayor Ron Hedenskog, Public Work Director Loree Pryce and several members of the public

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. Motion made to approve the minutes of July 24, 2014 as written; motion seconded and Commission voted; the motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC APPEARANCES

Mayor Ron Hedenskog – thanked the Commissioners for volunteering and for their work on the Parks and Recreation Commission. He advised that he and City staff have been collaborating with the non-profit organization, Friends of Brookings-Harbor Aquatic Center (FBHAC) that is trying to build a community recreation center with a pool and gymnasium to research the possibility of establishing the recreational facility with them in Brookings. He and staff have visited different facilities along the coast and in Grants Pass that are run and maintained by different entities including City run, Park District managed and in cooperation with the YMCA. He advised grants are available to assist in the process of planning/building a facility. He would like to request the support of the Parks and Recreation Commission to develop such a community recreation center with the assistance of City staff and FBHAC and proposed that the next meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission be a joint meeting with the FBHAC and staff. Commission agreed to scheduling the meeting in October.

Public Works Director Loree Pryce also appeared to request the support of the Parks and Recreation Commission in the development of a community recreational facility.

REGULAR AGENDA

A. A Carousel in Azalea Park – Tony Baron introduced Bud Halliday and Marion Roberts, who have formed a non-profit group that has expressed interest in locating a Carousel in Azalea Park near KidTown. They are asking for use of the land in Azalea Park in the form of a lease and would maintain the facility and area. The carousel will have to be enclosed to protect it and the suggested area is to the left of KidTown restrooms. They will be conducting fundraising to raise funds to purchase a used carousel at first and will replace the horses with hand carved sea creatures as time goes by to create a sea themed carousel with local area history backboards. They plan to charge to ride \$1.50 to the carousel and believe the costs would cover the maintenance. They do not know the exact cost of a carousel yet and enclosure yet. Bud Halliday advised that they will advertise the carousel and believes it will become a tourist attraction and improve the economy to the area. Connie Hunter of Brookings believes developing a cultural asset such as the carousel will bring tourism and money to the community. **Motion made by Garth Richey to recommend the suggested area of Azalea Park location to the City Council, motion seconded by Commission Vilelle and Commission voted; the motion carried unanimously.** Matter forwarded to the City Council.

B. Memorial Benches in Azalea Park – Tony Baron presented proposal to install two granite memorial benches in Azalea Park from Meg and Mike Claflin near the Capella, dedicated in memory to William and Maggie Graham. Commissioners questioned if benches in Azalea Park were subject to vandalism, Tony Baron advised that yes, but granite benches may not be as prone to vandalism. **Motion made by Garth Richey to approve the benches as proposed in the bench proposal, motion seconded by Commission Vilelle and Commission voted; the motion carried unanimously.**

INFORMATION UPDATES/DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. INTRODUCE RARE PARTICIPANT - Tony Baron introduced Austin Dunn, the 2014-15 RARE (Resource Assistance for Rural Environment) employee. He will be assisting the Public Works department for the next eleven months with several projects. He is currently developing a work plan for the native azaleas in Azalea Park with a map location for each azalea and their current condition/appearance to create a long term management plan for the azaleas. So far he has mapped approximately 500 azaleas. Austin advised he is also working on a project of connecting walking trails in the City such as Mill Beach to Chetco Point and Tanbark.

Linda Bozack of Brookings spoke that she liked the idea of trail connectivity and wondered if public access would be available at Rainbow Rock to make an accessible beach trail. The current one is used by surfers and not maintained. Commissioners questioned if the area was in the city limits, they were advised it is, but that it is probably ODOT right of way and further research would have to be done if a possible agreement could be worked out with ODOT.

STAFF UPDATES

A. November 20th meeting date has been changed to October 16th, which will be a co-meeting with the FBHAC to discuss the collaboration of the community recreational facility.

COMMISSIONER REPORTS/COMMENTS

Commissioner Vilelle – asked where the rocks were that had been placed at Boulder Park (Alder Street) and why the boulders were moved after the Commission had voted to keep them there. Tony Baron advised they had been relocated to Azalea Park as new sidewalks, curbs and gutters are being installed on Alder Street on one side. The rocks originally had been placed there to stop cars from parking in the right of way and the area is not officially a park, but some consider it a pocket park. Since being placed staff has discovered the rocks are breaking up and the smaller rocks cause problems when mowing the area.

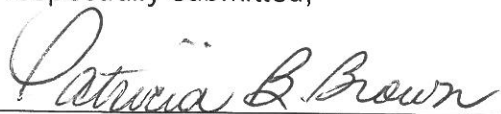
Commissioner Richey – pleased that there is an effort being made to possibly expand the pool and create a recreational facility.

Chair Brown – agreed that a recreational facility would be a great benefit to community for children since the recent closing of the bowling alley.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business before the Commission, the meeting adjourned at 7:50 pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Patricia Brown, Chair

(approved at October 16, 2014 meeting)