

MINUTES
PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION

CITY OF BROOKINGS
898 Elk Drive, Brookings
March 31, 2005

I. Call To Order

Chair Farmer called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. followed by the pledge of allegiance.

II. Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mayor Pat Sherman

III. Roll Call

Commissioners Present: Daryn Farmer, Hayley Farr, April Gothard, Frances Hartmann, Tony Parrish, Kathy Russo Viola, and Jan Willms, Secretary.

Staff Present: Public Works Supervisor John Cowan, and Jan Krick, Interim Recording Secretary.

Media Present: Brian Bullock, *Curry Coastal Pilot*.

There were two members of the public in the audience.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. Minutes of February 24, 2005 were approved as written; Commissioner Willms stated that the date of the Oregon Beach Cleanup was Saturday, March 19th not the 23rd.

B. Minutes of March 16, 2005 were approved with one correction: (Page 4 of 5) Commissioner Parrish asked that "...he liked the idea of an art facility" be changed to "...he liked that idea of a facility for the arts." The motion to approve the minutes for the two meetings was made by Commissioner Willms and seconded by Commissioner Hartmann.

V. PUBLIC APPEARANCES

John Cowan, board member of *Nature's Coastal Holiday*, approached the podium to report on the success of the 2004 season. The event boasted 12,000 visitors from twenty-four states and eight countries. The best evening was Christmas Eve, when 1,283 were in attendance. Cowan recommended that the Commission consider his recommendation to spend \$6000-\$8000 of proceeds from the event to install underground electrical system in Azalea Park that would run inconspicuously in the ground around the flower beds. Additionally, underground power for lights could be installed from the lower park to the bandshell area to make that area safely illuminated which would draw larger crowds. Commissioner Willms asked how disruptive the installation would be to existing flora. Cowan indicated that the area would be backhoed, but not trenched, so that minimal damage would occur, adding that lights will benefit other park activities, such as weddings and concerts.

Commissioner Viola expressed concern regarding vandalism; Cowan said the system would be inconspicuous and have a locking system. Tree roots would not be damaged. Commissioners agreed that this falls into the area of maintenance, and not a new project. A motion was made by Commissioner Gothard and seconded, to approve *Nature's Coastal Holiday's* expenditure of funds of \$6000 to \$8000 for power pedestals and underground conduit for lights and power at Azalea Park. The motion carried unanimously.

Craig Mickelson of 738 Third Street, Brookings addressed the Commission regarding the Salmon Run Golf Course summer junior golfers program. Mickelson announced that the program's goal is to increase their commitment to young golfers this year. The program will begin June 18 and be offered every Saturday for eight weeks, excluding the July 4 weekend, ending August 18, at a cost per student of \$25, with scholarships available based on need. Classes will run all day and children will be grouped according to age and ability to handle equipment. Instructors will volunteer and clubs will be provided. Mickelson requested the Commission to allow the instruction to be included in the City's Summer Recreation program. Concern was expressed by Parrish that other golfers would not want the course tied up on Saturdays this way and suggested other days for the youth program. Mickelson responded that the group will primarily use the driving range. The motion was made by Commissioner Farr to include Junior Golf in the Summer Recreation Program. The motion carried by a 6-1 vote (Parrish voted against the motion).

VI. STAFF ANNOUNCEMENTS/CONCERNS/FOLLOWUPS

City Manager Leroy Blodgett was unable to attend and there was no discussion on this agenda item.

VII. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Commissioner April Gothard commented on the pursuit of the plan for a community center, encouraging the Commission to invite the public into the process, to include leaving the final 45 minutes of meetings open for community input. Chair Farmer said that appointing a separate subcommittee doesn't make sense; agreeing that meetings regarding a community center should be open to the public. Commissioner Farr wondered if the Commission would then meet twice a month. Commissioner Viola suggested that one meeting per month be devoted strictly to the community center. Farmer asked if a piece of property had been identified for the community center; Mayor Sherman said that the City is looking for an appropriate site. Discussion of various sites ensued. Farmer added that the theater group will create additional revenue for the project. Gothard encouraged the Commission to study the *Gresham Plan*. Farr and Farmer suggested dividing the preliminary tasks among smaller groups within the commission. Farmer will talk to Representative Wayne Krieger regarding the Visitors' Center as a possible site. Gothard mentioned that the commission already has a list of interested volunteers; Farmer indicated that trips to Gresham and Florence to visit other centers is in order; Viola will visit Gresham. Farr suggested a fundraiser for travel to community centers, and for funds to invite those key persons here. The need for a step by step plan was discussed; it was suggested to contact Pauline Olsen and Elmo Williams, instrumental in planning the Chetco Public Library, for their help. It was agreed that a trip in mid-May was in

order to see community centers in Gresham and Florence. Gothard suggested adding a regular item to the agenda devoted to progress on the community center. Farr suggested a subcommittee meeting meet before the next regular Parks and Recreation Commission meeting on April 28th. Mayor Sherman reminded the commission that a notice must be publicized before a subcommittee meets or a trip is taken. Farr proposed a subcommittee meeting for April 19th; she will talk with the City's administrative secretary about scheduling the chambers and advise commissioners.

Commissioner Farmer asked Dave Lentz, Parks and Recreation Foreman, for an update on the BMS track; Lentz replied that the issue is inactive at this time.

Commissioner Parrish announced that he has joined the Lions Club as a liaison with the commission.

VII. Adjournment

Having no further business, the Parks and Recreation Commission adjourned at 8:02 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Jan Krick
Interim Recording Secretary

Approved by the Parks and Recreation Commission

April 28, 2005