



Agenda

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING

Council Chamber 898 Elk Drive

December 16, 2004 7:00 p.m.

- I. **CALL TO ORDER**
- II. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**
- III. **ROLL CALL**
- IV. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**
 - A. Minutes of October 28, 2004, regular meeting
 - B. Minutes of December 2, 2004, special meeting
- V. **PUBLIC APPEARANCES**
- VI. **COMMITTEE REPORTS**
 - A. **Stout Park**-Tony Parrish
 - B. **Chetco Point Park**-Pat Sherman
 - C. **Softball/Soccer Fields**-Dave Gordon
 - D. **Kidtown**-Dori Blodgett
 - E. **Bud Cross Park** – Daryn Farmer
- VII. **LIAISON REPORTS**
 - A. Azalea Park Foundation – Pat Sherman
- VIII. **STAFF ANNOUNCEMENTS/CONCERNS/FOLLOWUPS**
 - A. Financial Report
 - B. City Manager
 - C. Other
- IX. **COMMISSIONER COMMENTS**
- X. **ADJOURNMENT**

MINUTES
BROOKINGS PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
City of Brookings 898 Elk Drive, Brookings
October 28, 2004

Call to Order

Chair Boynton called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. followed by the pledge of allegiance led by Tony Parrish.

Roll Call

Commissioners Present: Dave Gordon, April Gothard, Bill Boynton, Dori Blodgett, and Tony Parrish.

Commissioners Absent: Pat Sherman, and Daryn Farmer.

Ex Officio Commissioner: Paul Cleary.

Staff Present: City Manager Leroy Blodgett, and Cathie Mahon, Secretary.

Media: Brian Bullock for *The Pilot*.

There were approximately 10 people in the audience.

Minutes

Commissioner Dave Gordon moved the approval of the minutes from the September 23, 2004, meeting. The Commission voted unanimously to approve the minutes as written.

PUBLIC APPEARANCES

Bankus Park:

Greg Holthoff, Environmental Project Manager for ODOT, distributed a handout of his report on the analysis of Bankus Fountain and its impact on the Downtown Brookings Highway 101 Traffic Solutions Project. He explained while doing an environment assessment study the location of the Bankus Fountain became an issue and has slowed down the process. According to the NEPA (National Environment Policy Act) an Environment Assessment study must be completed according to federal regulations. He stated the purpose of the study is to define traffic problems, assess the impact of solutions, followed by public disclosure and decision-making. NEPA has a multitude of federal environment regulations which all ODOT projects must follow. Part of those regulations is Section 4(f) which states federal transportation projects must "protect publicly owned parks, recreation areas, etc." He outlined the purpose of the Section 4(f) regulation, and how it applies to Bankus Fountain.

Elmer Bankus Fountain is part of the City of the Brookings park system and the City must decide several issues concerning the fountain with a solution that will have minimal impact on the park. The problem is the Fountain will be impacted because it is located on the northeast corner of Highway 101 and Fifth Street, one of the busiest intersections in the city, and one that is part of the Highway 101 project.

Holthoff outlined two of the alternatives for the project.

- Alternative #6 bypassing Railroad would have no impact.
- Both Alternatives 4 and 5 could be modified to avoid the park.

- Alternative 4 could be used to avoid the park but the high cost (\$17 to \$19 million) may not be feasible.
- Alternative 5 could be re-designed to avoid the park. The modifications would greatly affect businesses at 4-corner intersection: Fred Meyer, Taco Bell, KFC, and Washington Mutual Bank. This plan would reduce their frontage parking. Modifications would cost approximately \$1 million.

Holthoff concluded that Alternative 4 has the least harm to Elmer Bankus Fountain, both alternatives could be re-designed to bypass the park, and Alternative 5 may cost the least, but would have expensive impact to the businesses. He stated one option would be to rebuild the fountain in its present location, but farther north of Chetco Avenue. The second option would be to relocate the fountain east of Fifth Street.

He emphasized until Section 4(f) is satisfied, plans cannot be finalized until a decision has been reached whether to rebuild, relocate, or do nothing. Gary posed 4 questions for the Commission:

1. What is the true use and value of the park to the citizenry?
2. How do the citizens feel about moving the park?
3. What is the process of moving the park?
4. Is the city in agreement with the possibility of moving the park?

City Manager Blodgett commented he was in favor of keeping the park. He related a little history stating the Bankus family deeded the property to the city to be used for streets or parks. He stated there was nothing in the deed that specified a fountain must be in the park.

Chair Boynton read a memo from Dave Lentz, Parks and Recreation Supervisor. He stated the fountain has several leaks and is in dire need of serious repair. Lentz suggested removing the fountain and rebuilding it farther north of the park utilizing the old rock.

Holthoff discussed the steps required before he can finalize his report. He said if a decision can be made, with a letter addressing the decision, he would be able to release the assessment report within the required 40 day time limit mandated in the regulations. He also emphasized he was not asking for a decision immediately, but to have the Commission move forward in a timely manner to resolve the problem.

Discussion ensued. Ideas were discussed ranging from whether to remove the fountain, move the fountain back from the roadway, or relocate it across the street along the north side of Chetco Avenue as this property is part of the Bankus property deeded to the city. Chair Boynton stated he thought revamping the fountain was a good idea and while redesigning it, do it in a fashion that would satisfy the required perimeters. City Manager Blodgett stated his real concern was the fact the land belongs to the city and is defined a park. If we are going to change the existing configuration of the park, research needs to be done to find out if there are any Bankus heirs who might want to have some input and any citizens who might have a vested interest in it.

Blodgett concluded the city could declare Bankus Park no longer a park, which would satisfy the land needed for both Alternative #4 and #5. If it is removed from the park system, that would take care of Section 4(f) which would take care of the issue of "avoidance" with the transportation project.

Commissioner Gordon moved the Commission consider removing or relocating all or a portion of Bankus Fountain from the park, to allow modification to the Fifth Street and Chetco Avenue intersection, and to have staff research and bring information to the Commission regarding the Bankus deed, and to schedule a public hearing to receive public input. The motion was unanimously approved.

Commissioner Dori Blodgett made a motion to have the public meeting on December 2, 2004, at 7:00 p.m., followed by a regular meeting on December 16, 2004. The motion was unanimously approved.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Stout Park: Commissioner Parrish circulated photographs to explain his concern about spraying at the park. He added there is a continual litter problem from Chetco and Oak streets to the schools.

City Manager Blodgett circulated several trash container examples for the commission to discuss and review what type would best fit at Stout Park. It was decided the *Upscale* 38-gallon Waste Container was the best choice. It was decided to order 6 containers. Blodgett explained the Stout fund is required to have \$15,000 in its account; there is currently approximately \$19,000. The money for the containers will come from the Stout Trust Fund.

Chetco Point Park:

Chair Boynton read a report from Commissioner Pat Sherman regarding possible student art, science, and leadership groups from the schools participating in the Waste Water Treatment Plant project to decorate the bare walls. She is working with Ed Wait, Economic and Urban Development Director, who is putting together a packet of information on the park.

Bud Cross Park and Softball Fields:

Commissioner Gordon had no report.

Kidtown: Commissioner Dori Blodgett reported the park continues to look wonderful. When she recently drove by the park, she noticed the swings were being worked on by Park and Recreation personnel.

Easy Manor Park: Commissioner Gothard reported she is attempting to think about some ideas for raising money for the park upgrades. One thought is to have an open house as an opportunity to get public opinion for what they would like to see happen at the park.

Azalea Park Fountain:

The annual meeting will be held November 11. The Foundation would like the Commission to formulate a master plan for the park.

STAFF ANOUNCEMENTS/CONCERNS/FOLLOW-UP

Financial Report: No Discussion.

City Managers Report

City Manager Blodgett mentioned the new ban on commercial burning. The City is required to abide the ban which presents the problem of what the City should do with their brush. An alternative is purchasing a chipper.

Chair Boynton mentioned two commissioners terms will expire in February 2005.

With no further business before the Commission, Commissioner Gordon moved the meeting be adjourned at 9:08 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Cathie Mahon
Recording Secretary

Approved by the Parks and Recreation Commission

DECEMBER 16, 2004 date)

MINUTES
BROOKINGS PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
City of Brookings 898 Elk Drive, Brookings
December 2, 2004

Call to Order

Chair Boynton called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. followed by the pledge of allegiance led by Paul Cleary.

Roll Call

Commissioners Present: Dave Gordon, April Gothard, Bill Boynton, Dori Blodgett, Tony Parrish, and Pat Sherman.

Commissioners Absent: Daryn Farmer.

Ex Officio Commissioner: Paul Cleary.

Staff Present: City Manager Leroy Blodgett, Parks Supervisor Dave Lentz, Councilor Frances Johns Kern, and Cathie Mahon, Secretary.

Media: Brian Bullock for *The Pilot*.

There were approximately 5 people in the audience.

PUBLIC APPEARANCES

Bankus Park:

Chair Boynton stated the purpose of the meeting was to decide the future of Bankus Park. At the October 28, 2004 meeting, a representative from ODOT, explained to the commission that when a study was done to define traffic problems at the intersection of Highway 101 and Fifth, Bankus Park became an issue. One of the regulations states when a Federal Transportation project is being prepared, an Environment Assessment is conducted and during the process the issue of Section 4(f) was raised. It states federal transportation projects must protect publicly owned parks, recreation areas, etc., and this applies to Bankus Park. Several traffic designs were presented at the meeting, outlining the impact on Bankus Park. He pointed out, before the Commission can make a decision regarding the park, public input was very important and necessary.

City Manager Blodgett stated the issue for the commission to decide is how important is the park and whether to allow any encroachment, and if so, how much. Bankus Park is in the parks system and a problem for ODOT because of Section 4(f), there cannot be any encroachment into the park unless the City allows it. ODOT cannot continue with their Environment Assessment report until a decision is rendered.

Handouts for Alternative 4 and 5 were distributed to the Commission, which outline the ODOT proposals at the Highway 101 and Fifth Street intersection. He used slides to illustrate the two configurations, and pointed out how each design would affect Bankus Park. Blodgett summarized the two designs. The original design for Alternative 4, a couplet, is a narrower design and takes out a piece of the park. Alternative 5, a non-couplet, is an 8-lane highway, and affects Taco Bell, A&W, the drive-thru for Washington Bank, and some of Fred Meyers parking.

Blodgett reported he could not find a lot of history on the donation of the land to the City. There is a restriction noted in the deed, stating the land can only be used for landscaping or streets. He introduced Mr. Don Horton, who built the fountain under Mr. Bankus' supervision. He stated he and his brother, worked with Elmer Bankus for three years before beginning construction. An architect from Portland made several trips to Brookings to confer with them about the design. Mr. Horton stated Elmer was a great guy and had such an interest in the fountain, he took them on many trips up the Chetco River to his property to pick out the right stones for the fountain. In 1973 the fountain was completed. Mr. Horton concluded he would not be in favor of having it changed from its current spot, plus it would be a huge undertaking.

Chair Boynton stated when ODOT was at the recent meeting, it seemed like there was a good chance they (ODOT) would pay to rebuild the fountain. But nothing can be done until a decision is made on how to satisfy Section 4(f).

City Manager Blodgett stated the city will have to fix the leak regardless of the decision. He addressed the Commission reiterating, the issue is not whether there is a couplet or not, it is will you allow encroachment into the park.

Discussion ensued. Suggestions from audience participants were considered such as moving the fountain and using the original stones. Don Nuss, a member of the Stakeholders Committee, encouraged the Commission to make a decision so that ODOT can finish their environment study and move forward. Sue Ross addressed the Commission expressing how much the fountain means to long-time residents, and her family uses it as a meeting place, especially during the Azalea Fest. Commissioner Parrish stated he wanted to make certain ODOT pays for an architect to draw up streetscape and landscaping plans.

City Manager Blodgett stated if the commission decides this park is a significant asset to this community, then ODOT has to come up with an alternative to avoid the park. The modified alternative 5 shows there are ways for them to do that, but it affects the businesses at the Chetco and Fifth Street intersection. Blodgett concluded if the city decided to declare Bankus Park no longer a park, this would satisfy the land needed for both Alternative 4 and 5.

Commissioner Sherman moved that we allow ODOT to move the fountain 20 feet in the same area. Discussion ensued about relocating the fountain and reclaiming part of Ray's parking lot. Commissioner Sherman then amended the motion:" that there is no significant impact to the Bankus Park as long as the fountain is reconstructed and designed in the same area at the expense of ODOT. The commission approved the motion by a vote of 5-1 (Commissioners Gordon, Gothard, Dori Blodgett, Sherman and Boynton voted in the affirmative; Commissioner Parrish voted no).

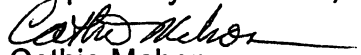
Commissioner Gothard questioned who would decide where the foundation would be. Blodgett stated he would include in his letter that the commission will approve the design, location, and construction of the fountain.

Blodgett stated staff would draft a letter to ODOT on the Commissions decision to permit encroachment to the park as long as there would be no significant impact to

the park and the fountain be rebuilt in the same area with the same design as it currently is. When they do their 4(f) report, they have to tell the federal government that they are impacting Bankus Park but the city has said there will not be a significant impact as long as certain things happen such as rebuilding the foundation.

With no further business before the Commission, the Chair moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:40 p. m.

Respectfully submitted,



Cathie Mahon

Recording Secretary

Approved by the Parks and Recreation Commission

December 16, 2004 date

Elmo Williams
1249 Iris Street
Brookings, OR 97415

November 30, 2004

Chairman, Park & Recreation Committee
City of Brookings
898 Elk Drive
Brookings, OR 97415

Please read the following letter to the members of your committee so they will be fully informed regarding the Chapel I plan to build and make a gift of it to the City of Brookings.

1. I'm making an application for a grant in the name of the Azalea Park Foundation: (1) with the Ford Foundation; (2) with the Collins Foundation. (Please note that the Collins Foundation has already given a grant for construction of the toilets near the band shell). A condition of any grant is that the applicant must always be prepared to match the size of the fund granted. This I'm prepared to do. Regardless – I'm going ahead with the building of the chapel.
2. Architects – Maurice Jennings and David McKie of Fayetteville, Arkansas.
3. Brookings Building Contractor – Paul Viale.
4. Construction start date – April, 2005.

Step-by-step procedure:

1. Clean out remaining blackberry vines with a backhoe to eliminate roots.
2. Cut down the large leaning tan oak that is diseased and in danger of falling.
3. Grade the area which will probably mean terracing. In that event, a low masonry wall to contain one level area may be necessary.
4. Contract for French style 4 inch drains in a number of places.

5. Put a rolled curb in place along the lower edge of the road leading to the band shell area to assure that drainage from the parking lot runs down the road instead of flooding the chapel area.
6. Start planting white bark birch trees – rhododendron, camellias and azaleas so they can start to grow during the coming rainy season.
7. Prepare a small roadway for trucks when construction starts. The road will be removed when the chapel is completed.
8. Clean out pathway area leading from the parking lot to the paved road used to reach the chapel.
9. The first stage plans from the architects is due by March 1st. These plans will be used to prepare a budget. I'll give you a copy.
10. Once a budget is in place, money will be deposited in a special account in a local bank. My two daughters will be the signators with me to assure that all bills will be paid.
11. When construction of the chapel is complete, I will start the landscaping that will be compatible with the rest of the park. There will be a garden surrounding the building itself.

What follows completion:

1. Security against vandalism has top priority. Toward that end, the chapel will be equipped with video cameras and an alarm system.
2. The chapel will be locked each evening and unlocked each morning.
3. An attendant will be inside the chapel during the hours it is open. This person will hand out pamphlets and empty the contribution box. He or she will log each day's take.
4. The road barricade near North Bank Road will be removed to make access to the ball field parking lot for those visiting the chapel. That barricade will be moved to another location where it will be more useful.
5. I'm discussing the possibility of building a small house for a night watchman in a location where he can watch the chapel and the band shell.
6. The toilets near the band shell need to be available for visitors to the chapel.

Chairman, Parks & Recreation

November 30, 2004

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7. The chapel is not affiliated with any church. It will be available for everyone in need of a quiet sanctuary.

Sincerely,

Elmo Williams

EW:dt