

MINUTES
BROOKINGS PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
City of Brookings 898 Elk Drive, Brookings
April 22, 2004

Call to Order

Chair Boynton called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. The pledge of allegiance was led by Councilor Johns-Kern.

Roll Call

Commissioners Present: Dave Gordon, Pat Sherman, Dori Blodgett, April Gothard, Bill Boynton, and Tony Parrish. Daryn Farmer arrived after the meeting had started and had to leave before the end.

Staff Present: Councilor Frances Johns Kern; Dave Lentz, Parks Foreman-Public Works; Jeanne Nelson, Pool Director; and Cathie Mahon, Secretary.

Chair Boynton welcomed newly appointed Commissioner Gothard, and asked her to tell the board a little about herself. Commissioner Gothard said her family moved here from Sacramento ten years ago, and she is manager of the Brookings Clinic on Alder Street. She stated she has been involved with several volunteer groups and is currently a member of the "Brookings-Harbor Leadership" class, and her interest in the community prompted her to apply for the commission.

Minutes

Commissioner Gordon moved, a second followed, and the Commission voted unanimously to approve the minutes for the March 25, 2004, Parks and Recreation Commission meeting.

PUBLIC APPEARANCES

Jeremy McVeety, a fan and player of Frisbee golf, gave a PowerPoint presentation of areas around Azalea Park, specifically the area under consideration for the course. He presented slides of different areas in the park and then inserted a basket icon to illustrate what a typical green would look like. He also addressed concerns about vegetation removal stating no shrubs or trees would be removed except berry bushes, ivy, poison oak, etc., and brush would be cleared around each hole.

Doug Baldwin stated he has been involved in setting up several DiscGolf courses throughout Oregon and would volunteer his assistance and experience.

Commissioner Sherman had several points of concern; one being maintenance. Her concern was who would be responsible to maintain the course once it was constructed. She discussed the situation of the park across from the triangle park, by Dot Martin bridge on Highway 101. A group from the Chamber of Commerce Leadership program planted and maintained the park for two years, then wanted to give it to the City because they had no one to continue maintaining it. Her second concern was a question of who will decide the layout of the course and who will do the work. Another question was who would be liable for any injuries should a disc hit someone. Another point was the presence of Poison Oak in the area. Her last concern was "is it something the community wants?"

Commissioner Farmer's able to address some of the concerns. He said the physical work would be done by members of the Brookings-Harbor Leadership group in conjunction with financial support from the Rotary Club. He addressed the liability concern and said it would be the same as playing baseball.

Dave Lentz, Parks Foreman, addressed some of the issues pointing out the course would be away from the main picnic area. He said once the clearing of Ivy, holly, and berry bushes, etc. is done, it would be general maintenance of tree limbs, and growth of bushes overlapping into the course.

Chair Boynton concluded that nothing is definite, it is still in the early discussion mode, and until we get input from the Azalea Foundation and the community in general, nothing can or will be decided. Their input and comments will be pivotal in the final decision. It was decided to meet at the new Azalea Park parking lot off of North Bank Road on Thursday evening, April 29th at 6:00 p.m. and have the Pilot inform and invite those interested.

Doug Baldwin said he has walked through Azalea Park to get an idea of the best areas for tee-offs, and offered to help set-up the course plus organize a Frisbee Golf club. He expressed his opinion that a small 9-hole course would be a mistake versus an 18 hole course.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Stout Park: Commissioner Parrish discussed the Myrtle and Madrone trees encroaching into the power lines. He said the next time Coos-Curry Electric trims them, perhaps we should consider taking them out; it would let more light into the park. The bushes on the Oak Street side need to be trimmed. It was agreed the Azaleas and tall trees are assets to the park. He concluded a work party needs to be organized to do some of the trim work. Also discussed was the lack of maintenance to the landscaping of the triangle area with bench donated by the Art.

Chetco Park: Commissioner Sherman reported the wild flower tour of the park was well attended, approximately 25 people. She mentioned the Chocolate Lilies are in bloom.

Bud Cross Park and Softball Fields:

Commissioner Gordon reported the fields look good. He noticed fencing needs some repair and wood replaced behind the backstop at the Azalea Park field. There was a game going on when he visited and took the opportunity to ask some of the players what they thought of the fields. All responded they were happy with them.

Kidtown: Commissioner Dori Blodgett commented on the new bark and oiling of the playground equipment expressing "never seen anything more beautiful!" She was ecstatic and directed kudos to Public Works for all the work that went into removing the old chips, spreading the new bark, and oiling the wood.

Dave Lentz, Parks Foreman-Public Works, discussed the project. He explained during removal of the old fabric, they found two types which was capturing moisture resulting in breaking down the bark. The new fabric will permeate moisture through and has a better backing. When the old bark was removed, a better grade of wood fiber chips was put in; it is expected to last well over 10 years. Lentz concluded it was a huge project with every Public Works worker working on it for 3 ½ days.

Azalea Park Foundation Commissioner Sherman reported volunteers have been weeding the flower beds plus replacing railroad ties, all in anticipation of beautifying the park for the Azalea Festival. Chair Boynton added the parking lots will be re-sealed and black top put around the Snackshack before the Festival.

Chair Boynton reported he asked Chief Wallace for an update on vandalism in the park. Chief Wallace said since the lights were installed around the park last year, vandalism has dramatically decreased.

STAFF ANOUNCEMENTS/CONCERNS/FOLLOW-UP

Financial Report: Chair Boynton commented we are doing well financially.

Commissioner and Staff Comments:

Community Planning Workshop:

Chair Boynton announced the University of Oregon Community Planning Workshop has been approached to conduct a study of the best method to proceed with a new city pool, possibly a recreational facility with it. He added the CPW produced our Parks Master Plan. Commissioner Gordon commented the one thing missing in Brookings is a YMCA.

SUMMER RECREATION PROGRAM:

Commissioner Dori Blodgett reported on the summer youth program. Cathy Hafterson, administrative secretary to the Kalmiopsis principal, will direct the program. She will be assisted by Chris McKay, principal of Kalmiopsis Elementary School. She will appear at the next meeting to introduce herself and talk about the program goals. The program starts in June, after the school year, and will possibly run until the first week of August. Commissioner Blodgett spoke to Chris McKay about the lunch program available to the children during the summer program. Ms. McKay has arranged to have the kitchen open to provide reduced price lunches along with classes on nutrition. Blodgett concluded she is enthusiastic about the partnership of the city and school. Also mentioned was the possibility of raising fees but not enough to deter children from participating.

POOL:

Jeanne Nelson, Director of the Swimming Pool, discussed the new fee schedule. She reported after researching what other pools charge, talking with Paul Hughes, Director of Finance, and City Manager Blodgett, a new fee schedule was prepared raising fees 10%. Fees have not been raised since 1995. The day rate will go from \$1.75 to \$2.00 for Brookings residents and from \$2.00 to \$2.25 for out of district participants.

Commissioner Dori Blodgett moved, a second was made by Commissioner Gordon, to approve the new fee schedule. The motion was unanimously approved.

With no further business before the Commission, Commissioner Gordon moved the meeting be adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Cathie Mahon, Recording Secretary
Approved by the Parks and Recreation Commission

05/27/04 (date)