

MINUTES  
BROOKINGS PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION  
City of Brookings 898 Elk Drive, Brookings  
May 27, 2004

**Call to Order**

Chair Boynton called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and welcomed our new *student ex officio*, Paul Cleary. Paul introduced himself as a Brookings-Harbor sophomore student. He stated he was interested in participating in a volunteer community service position. After his introduction he led the pledge of allegiance.

**Roll Call**

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

*Commissioners Absent:* Dori Blodgett and Daryn Farmer.

*Staff Present:* Councilor Frances Johns Kern; Dave Lentz, Parks Foreman-Public Works; Ed Wait, Economic and Urban Director, and Cathie Mahon, Secretary.

*Media:* Don Allison for *The Pilot*.

There were approximately 25 members of the public present.

**Minutes**

After the minutes were amended, Commissioner Sherman moved, a second followed, and the Commission voted unanimously to approve the minutes for the April 22, 2004, Parks and Recreation Commission meeting as amended.

**PUBLIC APPEARANCES**

***Summer Recreation Program:***

Cathy Hafterson introduced herself as the supervisor for the Summer Recreation Program. She stated it has been an interesting journey since agreeing to oversee the project but is currently experiencing the problem of finding volunteers. Volunteers from last year's program are not available to return this year, so she recruited her daughter to help.

Hafterson circulated a *draft* copy of the 2004 schedule for events, and activities. She explained the program is geared to children in grades first through sixth, classes will be held Monday through Thursday, and run from June 21<sup>st</sup> to the first week of August. Fridays are reserved for staff meetings and to organize for the next week. Arts and crafts plus conversational German, and Chess will be offered, and a tour of the Chetco River Coast Guard Station. Registration is June 7<sup>th</sup> and the 8<sup>th</sup> at K-school.

She stressed again volunteers are needed to oversee arts and crafts classes, and assist with tours and sports events. Volunteer requirements are simply someone who is enthusiastic, energetic, and likes being with children.

Discussion ensued. Commissioner Gordon questioned how Hafterson was advertising for volunteers. She responded the program was discussed during a spot on the radio and will be discussed again on KURY on June 7<sup>th</sup>. Commissioner Parrish suggested putting the notice on the City events calendar on the Channel 4 television site.

### ***Tennis:***

Jack Hawkins, tennis pro, who began offering tennis lessons in the spring at Bud Cross Park for junior high and high school girls, stated the courts are adequate at this time, but there are some factors not conducive to a good environment and concentration for the game; loud music, the courts are often used as a basketball court, and trash scattered on the courts. He explained with the positive response from the community to tennis, a new location, away from the distracting elements, could be something for the commission to consider. He circulated a plot plan of Stout Park and an illustration of three tennis courts. He asked the Commission to consider the proposal of three tennis courts in Stout Park for the Brookings Harbor Community Tennis Association. Additionally he discussed year-around tennis would be available with a "bubble" cover for the courts. In the summer the bubble would not be needed, it would be placed over the courts during the usual rainy months, November through April. He stated he was of the opinion that the courts would be unobtrusive to the park, there would be minimal noise, and the environment factor would be positive. Hawkins added he had two possible sources for funding of the court cover.

Hawkins concluded stating to have a successful tennis program needs a tennis director and year-round courts. He introduced tennis professional Stuart Hutchinson, to the commission, who has expressed interest in taking the reins from Hawkins and moving forward with the program.

Commissioner Sherman questioned Hawkins if restrooms would be included in the plan. Hawkins responded they would, plus a small building to house equipment such as the ball machine. Commissioner Gordon complimented Hawkins on contributing his time and effort in getting involved with the game of tennis. He expressed a long range goal might be to get some of the young boys involved with tennis.

Hawkins thanked the Commission for listening to his proposal. Chair Boynton advised Hawkins that nothing could directly be done until the proposal was discussed with City Manager Blodgett. Director Wait affirmed, stating provisions in the agreement for the use of Stout Park would have to be researched.

Chair Boynton stated this is one of the issues that could be studied when the University of Oregon Community Planning Workshop conducts a study for a recreational facility. Perhaps it could be a combined swimming pool and tennis court recreational center.

### ***Frisbee Golf:***

Jeremy McVeety, a key promoter of Disc Golf, thanked the commissioners for attending the tour of Azalea Park. He stated he was not ready to present a formal layout of the course.

Lorraine Williams, representing the Azalea Park Foundation, addressed some concerns expressed by the Azalea Park Foundation regarding Disc Golf at Azalea Park. Some of the issues were:

- How much land would be required for the course?
- Who would be responsible for supervision and maintenance?
- What would the environmental impact on the park be?
- How much money will it cost? "Dreams are cheap" but concrete work is costly and clearing the brush would take a lot of manpower.
- Safety-who would be responsible if a disc hits someone?

Lorraine Williams continued with the reminder there are some valuable old bushes and trees in the park, a lot of man hours were used to preserve the plants and maintain the park, and until all the issues are discussed, questions answered, and a formal plan submitted, a decision should be on hold.

McVeety responded he will take those comments into consideration as he goes forward with the project. Chair Boynton stated until a formal lay-out of the project is presented to the commission along with a detail plan of the finances involved with the project, the commission will place the project on hold. Commissioner Sherman stated after the tour, she had some questions. She thinks the community seems divided on the project. Then there is the issue of clearing the berry bushes which is a huge project. She expressed some concern about hikers in the park and the infringement of the course on the hikers. She concluded stating it is a bad use for the park.

McVeety responded that it is a perfect spot for Disc Golf, adding hikers and players of Disc Golf can co-exist. Commissioner Gordon stated he would like to see the proposal, he's willing to listen and look at the plan. Commissioner Gothard stated there is a lack of education on Disc Golf, perhaps the right information would educate people on the game and understand the concept.

Chair Boynton asked if McVay Park had been considered. McVeety agreed stating he would research McVay to see if there is enough area for an 18-hole course. Commissioner Gordon suggested McVeety look at the possibility of alternative locations. Elmo Williams stated his concern was one of safety; a Frisbee could fly out into traffic on the North Bank, which is often a busy road. Wait concluded the discussion stating all the options will be weighed and reviewed to see if Disc Golf is a compatible sport to have at the park. Lorraine Williams said she might play once the course is in place.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

*Stout Park:* Commissioner Parrish reported the trees were trimmed along Oak Street resulting in more light in the park. Commissioner Sherman suggested a "work party" and asked if one was scheduled. Parrish responded he would be very interested in a clean-up party. He reported the existing trash cans are inadequate because they are falling apart. He asked if there was some way to get replacements, larger ones if possible. Chair Boynton asked Wait if he would ask City Manager Blodgett about obtaining 2 new trash cans for the park. Parks Foreman, Dave Lenz stated Western Tree Service was contacted to take care of any broken limbs that might fall in a windstorm.

*Chetco Park:* Commissioner Sherman stated she was pleased that we got the grant to go ahead with the Chetco Point Project. (Note: Ed Wait, Economic & Urban Development Director applied for a \$50,000 *Coastal Resources Management Improvement Grant* in March). Wait stated he received notification of the funds approval and the contract will follow. He added, matching funds (\$50,000) were included in the budget. He anticipates in the next couple months someone will be brought in to design the project. He said he was pleased that it is the first time the City has applied for this grant, and a lot of hard work went into obtaining it.

### ***Bud Cross Park and Softball Fields:***

Commissioner Gordon reported he visited the fields and talked to some of the players, who thought the fields were in good shape.

*Kidtown:* Chair Boynton reported he has driven to the park several times and it always has someone playing on the equipment; it is a highly used park.

*Easy Manor Park:* Commissioner Gothard reported the bathrooms are in very bad shape but the park has great potential.

*Pool:* The 2004 pool fee schedule was circulated to the commissioners. Commissioner Gothard reported the pool needs Lifeguards. She explained a guard must have a Red Cross certification, Jeanne conducts the required classes, and 30 hours of training are required. Commissioner Gordon said he would take the request to the next Brookings-Harbor Youth group meeting. Wait suggested maybe the Eagle Scouts could be contacted as a project to earn a badge.

**STAFF ANNOUNCEMENTS/CONCERNS/FOLLOW-UP**

*Financial Report:* No discussion.

*Commissioner and Staff Comments:*

Commissioner Parrish stated he is trying to find the number of the person who was interested in organizing tournaments at the volleyball court. The court is ready for use, but no one seems to be in charge.

With no further business before the Commission, Commissioner Sherman moved the meeting be adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Cathie Mahon  
Recording Secretary

Approved by the Parks and Recreation Commission

May 27, 2004 (date)