

MINUTES
BROOKINGS PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
City of Brookings 898 Elk Drive, Brookings
August 26, 2004

Call to Order

Chair Boynton called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. followed by a tribute to Lorraine Williams. He paid tribute to her years of volunteering on the commission, supporting the parks in our community, and her dedication to fostering and organizing Azalea Park. She was a wonderful, gentle lady, and we were fortunate to have known and worked with her.

Roll Call

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

Ex Officio Commissioner: Paul Cleary.

Staff Present: City Manager Leroy Blodgett, Councilor Frances Johns Kern; Dave Lentz, Parks Foreman-Public Works, and Cathie Mahon, Secretary.

Media: Brian Bullock for *The Pilot*.

Minutes

Commissioner Dave Gordon made a motion to approve the minutes from the June 24, 2004, meeting. The Commission voted unanimously to approve the minutes as written.

PUBLIC APPEARANCES

Azalea Park Ballfield:

Quincy Coons briefly discussed the finalizing of his project of building the stair entrance from Lundeen Lane to the softball fields. He circulated several photos of the project. The Commission thanked Quincy and a thank-you letter will follow to put in his Eagle Scout file.

BMX:

Three teenagers, Dale Hall, Cody Miller, and Tyler Webb, apprised the commission with their concept of a BMX track. Cody Miller, speaking for the group, said they would like to have a cement track rather than dirt, similar to the Skate Park. He said they are frequently kicked out of the skate park, and would like to have their own area. They discussed the concept. The track would have a configuration similar to the skate park, but shaped into a "9", similar to the one in Grants Pass, which was built in 1995.

City Manager Blodgett said he previously visited with the boys in his office. He outlined the various steps beginning with a proposed design and presenting it to the Commission, followed by finding a way to fund it. Chair Boynton asked the boys if they could come up with that concept in time to present it at the next Parks and Rec meeting. They agreed they would be at the next meeting.

Richard Park:

Residents who live around the Richard Street Park were present to voice their concern after hearing the City had discussed selling the park. The park is in the middle of a circle of residential homes. It requires low maintenance with a grassy area and large Fir trees. Mike Dillenburg, 626 Richard Street, spokesperson for the residents stated upfront that all the residents in the neighborhood use the park and are vehemently against the City selling the park, and converting it into two residential lots.

City Manager Blodgett acknowledged the group stating a few months ago the issue arose to sell the park; it is zoned R-2 (Residential), and would result in the sale of two parcels. The idea was to use the money from the sale and upgrade Easy Manor Park and other parks. He add the two parks are within blocks of each other and the question is do we want a lot of little parks? We also have to consider maintenance for the parks. Commissioner Farmer stated it would be nice to have green areas in all neighborhoods. He asked the folks if the park went up for sale, would they be interested in purchasing it as a neighborhood-owned and maintained park.

Several of the Richard Street residents spoke. Carla Dillenburg, 626 Richard Street, stated it is used for a variety of events: weddings, scout meetings, and baseball practice. Joe Gastonguay, 664 Easy Street had some questions about the property: regarding an underground creek and a forty foot easement. He said before the property is sold, these issues should be addressed. Cathy Wooton, 631 Richard Street, stated she does not favor seeing the park being converted into residential. She added the park is used by mothers and their children, and for family picnics.

The discussion concluded with several remarks by Chair Boynton and Blodgett. Boynton said the issue is on the back-burner. Blodgett assured the resident they would be notified when and if the park is offered for sale, and there would be neighborhood meetings before that occurs.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Stout Park: Commissioner Parrish had several items, the primary one being trash cans. He explained the plastic-Rubber Maid cans have several problems: people will not lift the lids to put trash in them, and they become water-logged when it rains. He said trash is an on-going problem along the Oak Street side of the park. It was bad all summer and with school starting, will only become more of a problem. He questioned if 55-barrels could be placed with plastic liners. Parks Supervisor Lentz commented, the bags would be over the allowable 30 pounds for the workers to lift.

Parrish reported he would like to thin-out the maple tress to allow more light to reach the azaleas. He concluded stating he would like to explore having exercise stations placed within the park.

Chetco Park: Commissioner Sherman reported she is working with Ed Wait, Economic and Development Director, to decide where to use the grant money received to upgrade the park, and make it handicapped accessible. They have had brainstorming sessions and will be including input from the Public Works department. She contacted Chris Nichols to see if they could find students interested in doing a mural on the waste water sewer plant. It would be an arts and science project. She

concluded stating she received several calls inquiring about the status of the tennis courts at Stout Park.

Bud Cross Park and Softball Fields:

Commissioner Gordon reported the fields look good, and the grass green. He extended kudos to Quincy Coons for the stair project at Azalea Park.

Kidtown: Commissioner Dori Blodgett reported the park continues to look wonderful. She extended appreciation to the City crews (Public Works) for all their work in keeping the park looking beautiful. A Renaissance Fair was held at the park and was a huge success.

Easy Manor Park: Commissioner Gothard reported people are using the park but it is in dire need of repair.

Pool: Gothard reported attendance has been down due to the cooler weather. She reported talking with Beth, one of the workers at the pool, who told her private swimming classes were filled so quickly there was a concern more instructors might be needed.

City Manager Blodgett discussed repairs for the pool. He reported, Emerald Pools of Eugene, was the only company to bid with a quote of \$98,000 to resurface the pool. Emerald Pool happens to be the company that built the pool and are a reputable company. A few other repairs are needed.

City Managers Report

Azalea Park Chapel:

City Manager Blodgett discussed the non-denominational chapel Elmo Williams wants to erect in honor of his wife, Lorraine. Copies of the 3-page statement from Elmo were circulated. It would be a place where citizens and visitors could find solitude and relaxation in a beautiful environment. Illustrations of the building Elmo has in mind were circulated. Williams has been in contact with Fay Jones, the architect who designed a similar structure at Eureka Springs, Arkansas. Wood and glass would be used for the building, measuring sixty feet long, and twenty-five feet high.

In his report, Elmo Williams felt there would be no better place to have the sanctuary, than Azalea Park. The sanctuary would be a place for special events like weddings, family reunions and civic functions in addition to a place for quiet reflection. The thought is to place the building in an area in the park, off Constitution Way, which would have minimal impact on the Park. An area of blackberries, poison oak, etc. would have to be cleared, but no trees removed for the building.

Also in his letter, Williams stated the chapel would be built at no cost to the city. Revenues collected for special events, and a collection box would offset the maintenance. Blodgett said Williams suggested building a groundskeeper residence in the park which would deter vandalism and maintain the grounds and buildings. Williams ended his letter offering to bring plans to the Commission for their review and to City Council for their approval.

The Commission gave its unanimous approval for Elmo Williams to pursue the project and thanked Blodgett for his presentation.

Blodgett reported a "Keep Brookings Clean-up" is scheduled for Saturday, October 2, 2004. He reported on the "Slam'n Salmon Ocean Derby" to be held over the Labor Day weekend. He said last year was the creation of the event and 155 fishermen participated. This year 250 participants are expected coming from Texas, Utah, Idaho, California and Washington. He explained the event is organized with the Chamber of Commerce and the Wild River Salmon Festival Association. He added the association is non-profit so any remaining funds are sent to the fishery.

STAFF ANOUNCEMENTS/CONCERNS/FOLLOW-UP

Financial Report: No discussion.

Commissioner and Staff Comments:

Blodgett reminded the commissioners about the City Picnic for employees and volunteers, Saturday, August 28, 2004.

With no further business before the Commission, Commissioner Gordon moved the meeting be adjourned at 8:23p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Cathie Mahon
Recording Secretary

Approved by the Parks and Recreation Commission

09/24/05 (date)