

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

Call To Order

Chair Boynton called the meeting to order and asked Councilor Mickelson to lead the pledge of allegiance.

Roll Call

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

Commissioners Absent: Nina Canfield.

Staff Present: Councilor Johns Kern; Leo Lightle, Community Development; Dave Lentz, Parks Foreman-Public Works; and Community Development Secretary, Cathie Mahon.

Minutes

A motion was made, it was seconded and carried, to approve the minutes for October 23, 2003, as written.

PUBLIC APPEARANCES

Dave Lentz, Parks Foreman, discussed the proposal of a BMX track at Bud Cross Park in an area parallel to the Skate Park. He highlighted an outline where the track could be, followed by a discussion of the necessity of forming a committee, a group of volunteers to organize a work-party to form up the initial track, and volunteers to maintain it. He used a diagram to illustrate positioning of *whoops*, berms placed within the track where kids jump over when racing through the track. Other facets of the proposal are: a fence between the skate park and the BMX track, and a sign with user regulations. The track would be geared toward 10 and 11 year olds. Dave said he had been influential in constructing a BMX track at his former job. He explained that races could be scheduled, and possibly in the future could be scheduled as a good way to raise money from entrance fees; it would depend on the popularity and response from the track participants.

Discussion ensued and Dave Lentz answered questions from the Commission. He approximated that a group of 10 volunteers could get the project done. The issue of fencing was discussed. He will check to see what happened to the fence donated by the Library which would cut down on the costs of the project.

Chair Boynton concluded the discussion by reminding the commissioners helmet regulations went into effect January 1, 2004. Skate boarders, and bicycle users under the age of 16 must wear helmets while participating in either activity; a fine of \$25.00 can be issued to those not wearing helmets.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Stout Park: Commissioner Parrish reported the wind and rain storms have contributed to a lot of debris, mostly branches, around the park. An excavator is still available to work on the front area with the intention of planting grass and flowers.

Chetco Park: Director Lightle updated the Commission on the new pathway. He reported the new entrance and fencing will be completed by the end of the week. He remarked on the beautiful viewpoints along the path plus areas along the path will be designated for benches and picnic tables. Commissioner Sherman stated she will organize a wild flower designation outing throughout the park sometime in April or May.

Bud Cross Park and Softball Fields:

Commissioner Gordon reported he toured the fields with Dave Lentz. He stated the fields look good. Dave Lentz reported almost every day from mid-February until November is scheduled for some sport; there will be heavy use with Little League, soccer, and baseball teams. Commissioner Farmer reported 44 teams are slated to play this season; if you consider the amount of participants, and their families, our town has a lot of visitors attending these events or participating. He added we have had to turn away teams, even those from Brookings, because of the lack of fields available. Commissioner Farmer stated if we had a field with lights for night games, more teams could play. Director Lightle concluded the discussion by stating perhaps he could look into getting a grant to fund field lights.

Kidtown: Commissioner Dori Blodgett reported Kidtown is very wet due to all the rain. Chair Boynton stated putting bark around Kidtown is a 2004 goal.

Azalea Park Foundation: Commissioner Canfield was absent. Commissioner Sherman reported they have not had any meetings lately but as the weather clears up, more projects will be scheduled.

STAFF ANOUNCEMENTS/CONCERNS/FOLLOW-UP

Financial Report: No discussion (the December financial statement were included in the packet).

Election:

Commissioner Sherman made a motion; it was moved, carried and unanimously approved to have Bill Boynton continue as chairman and Dori Blodgett as vice-chair for the 2004 term.

Commissioner and Staff Comments:

Dave Lentz, Parks Supervisor, reported he mowed all the fields today and they look really green and in good shape.

Commissioner Farmer stated he's enthused about the BMX track. There are a lot of kids in town looking for things to do, and the BMX track is another step toward finding an activity for the kids. He concluded he will present the BMX project to *The Rotary Club* with the suggestion to work with the City and the Parks & Recreation Commission.

Commissioner Dori Blodgett discussed the Summer Recreational Program. Pam Callaway, who organized the program for the last two years, will no longer be available because she is moving. A key person is being sought to direct the program, along with volunteer assistants. The program will revert back to a June and July schedule. It is a City program, but with the increase in costs for supplies, alternate funding may be necessary. Discussion ensued on perhaps involving BHYA (Brookings-Harbor Youth Association) and asking for some financial assistance.

Commissioner Gordon stated he is active in BHYA and welcomes ideas for the youth association. He added the Summer program is a wonderful benefit to the community and he will ask BHYA if they want to financially participate in the program.

Councilor Johns Kern thanked Dave Lentz for his presentation of the BMX track and agreed with the others that it is a great idea.

Director Lightle expressed his appreciation for all the many wonderful volunteers in our community. He stated he remembers how Azalea Park was over-grown, and the clean-up by volunteers to make it what today is a beautiful, well-maintained park.

Chair Boynton directed kudos to Dave Lentz, Parks Supervisor, for a great job maintaining our parks.

With no further business to come before the Commission, the meeting was adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Cathie Mahon,
Recording Secretary

Approved by the Parks and Recreation Commission

02/26/04 (date)