

### City of Brookings

### **PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING**

Council Chamber 898 Elk Drive August 28, 2003 7:00 p.m.

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1.	· · / · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·		

- II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
- III. ROLL CALL
- IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES
  - A. Minutes of July 24, 2003
- V. PUBLIC APPEARANCES
- VI. COMMITTEE REPORTS
  - A. Stout Park Tony Parrish
  - B. Chetco Point Park Pat Sherman
  - C. Softball/Soccer Fields Bill Boynton
  - D. Kidtown Dori Blodgett
  - E. Bud Cross Park Daryn Farmer
  - F. Parks Master Plan Bill Boynton
- VII. LIASON REPORTS
  - A. Azalea Park Foundation Nina Canfield
- VIII. STAFF ANNOUNCEMENTS/CONCERNS/FOLLOWUPS
  - A. Financial Report
  - B. City Manager
  - C. Other
- IV. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS
- V. ADJOURNMENT

August 8, 2003

Chairman William Boynton City Hall Brookings, OR 97415

Dear Mr. Boynton:

The proposal to designate Stout Park as a "dog park" infringes on the rights of non-dog owners. Dog owners are currently not excluded from using the park. But what they propose would exclude anyone but them. Some examples of people who would be hurt, and whose civil rights would be denied include:

- a.) children who come there to play ball
- b.) families who come to picnic
- c.) elderly residents of the Chetco Inn and the Curry Good Samaritan Center whose families and/or caregivers use this park to "stroller" the elderly and enable them to see the only "green" they get to see in their otherwise dreary days inside four walls
- d.) the general population who love to walk through the park to meditate, and just enjoy the beauty

The proposal by the dog owners is a selfish move aimed at appropriating public property for their own exclusive use.

If anyone has a valid case to exclude others, it is the non-dog owners. We have to put up with risking walking into the "poop" their dogs leave behind. I therefore make a counterproposal that the City enact a "scoop" law such as many cities have. It requires dog owners who take their dogs outside of their homes to have a "scoop" and a bag, and to use it.

Sincerely,

Joseph John Streda

P. O. Box 7221

Brookings, OR 97415

The Pilot
P. O. Box 700
Brookings, OR 97415

#### Dear Editor:

Many of my friends who own dogs cannot understand why all the fuss about the proposal to create a dog park at Stout Park. My friends are courteous and responsible people who clean up after their pets. Whenever they leave their home with their pet, they take a scoop and a bag, and they naturally assume that all other pet owners are like them.

Not so! I walk, rather than drive around town, and I regularly come across sveral day old remains of "poop" left by some animal. Sometimes it's fresh "poop." And so my attitude, and my opinion are different from those who want a dog park at Stout Park.

I also live in the apartments adjoining the park. And I am like most people. I don't want "poop," urine, flies, other insects, bacteria, and noise in my neighborhood.

Let's face it. Any dog park at Stout Park would be small and confining for the animals. The purposes of a dog park would be fulfilled only in a limited way. Why not have a dog park out in the country? That way the inevita ble "poop." urine, insects, and noise will bother no one. Animals are meant for the country. People for the city. But if they really want it in the city, let them have it in their neighborhood!

While we're on the subject, most progressive cities have "scoop" laws. These require anyone taking their pet out on public property to have in their possession at all times both a scoop and a bag, and to use them when needed. I will suggest this to the city council at their next meeting.

Such laws pose neither restriction, nor hardship on the many courteous and responsible pet owners. They merely make sure that those who are irresponsible and discourteous have to pay a fine. It's no different from any other law. People who don't steal and don't kill do not feel restricted by laws against stealing and killing. And responsible and courteous pet owners should feel the same way about my proposal.

In fact, good people welcome the protection that laws give all of us.

Sincerely,

Joseph John Streda

P. O. Box 7221

Brookings, OR 97415

541-469-4734

Chairman William Boynton City Hall Brookings, OR 97415

Dear Mr. Boynton:

This is a follow-up to the letter I wrote you on August 8, 2003 regarding the proposal to convert Stout Park to a dog park.

I have subsequently spoken to a member of the Tail Waggers Club who informed me that contrary to the report in the newspaper, the club is not seeking to convert the park into a dog park, but only part of it. If this understanding is correct, then I need to re-word my objections.

- a.) Dog parks necessarily result in dog poop and dog urine, along with a level of noise.
- b.) As a resident of the apartments adjoining the park, I feel the dog proposal is violating my rights to live in peace.
- c.) Dogs cannot be expected to confine their pooping and urinating to the fenced off portion of the park. This creates an unsanitary situation for families using the park for picnics, or simply for children playing.
- d.) Dog owners are like every other group in society. They have an established "track record." Theirs is evident in the poop remains that we find all over town. Any dog park should be located, therefore, away from residential areas. For the City to do otherwise is to put the sanitation and peace of our citizens in a lower priority than the preferences of dog owners.
- e.) Because of these considerations, many cities have leash and scoop laws. The City of Brookings, unfortunately, has only a leash law. A "scoop" law basically requires that whenever a dog owner takes their dog(s) out of their home, they must have a scoop and a bag in their possession at all times, and to use it when needed.
- f.) Aside from the fact that poop is unsanitary and filthy, it is also a hazard that puts especially our seniors at risk of slipping on it. This is worsened by the fact that the wet pavement much of the year makes the poop all that much slicker. The hills in our city increase the risk of falls that much more. The City will better understand what I am saying if someone sues the City for failing to protect them by not having enacted a "scoop" law.
- e.) If the City creates a dog park, I respectfully request that it be located away from residential areas. If such a park is located out in the country, the dogs would have much more room to get the exercise they want, and the purposes of the park would be much better fulfilled.

Joseph/John Streda

P. O. Box 7221

Brookings, OR 97415

CINDY BARTER Valuring Our Ourrent Chresis meeting for Monley Wets Center of the most heated discussions Was the possibility of Stout "Wogkun". White most of us being animal loyer togice "its & good thing" but stat In that pertiberlar area. Its Not just the Concerno of the gallery, for instance; Moise a traffice files problems Hoggile disagreemento" distraction for art admirer of possible Sales, etc., etc.. There are many others as concerned. whele Nesceroling this delemen it camp to My attention that there is an apt. unit, Pacific Court, Celet of the elderly tenets windows open ducitly onto the park. V, he tenets Share our Concurs to a note Edith //c Cool aving only bean a resiHow their disturbs the people who live around a love the farb, Recording to these same ( long time tresidents this hasbeen an on-going debates AND there are more suitable Sites to Make the dog sun a reality Jugned! Felican Bay Marley art Conter Members



City of Brookings Parks and Recreation Commission Brookings, Oregon

August 16, 2003

Re: Dog Park in Stout Park

As a resident of Brookings I have some concerns I would like to have you consider with regard to the above subject.

I personally like dogs - I was born on a farm in Ohio - dogs were not only a joy to have around, but a necessity. My married life when we were raising our two sons always included a dog. Never during this time did we fail to furnish a place where our dog could exercise, but never on anyone else's property.

In Brookings I now rent an apartment which has a 4'x4' sliding window in my bedroom which faces the west side of Stout Park. There are five apartments in this wing of the building, all of which have an opening window or door facing the park. In my bedroom, I have made a small sitting room in the corner facing the park where I spend a lot of time, reading my newspapers, sewing, crocheting, working crossword puzzles because of the natural light and the beauty of the park itself with those beautiful old trees. I have never known the history of Stout Park, and I am glad Mr. Keusink wrote his column in the Pilot to bring attention to Mrs. Stout and her love and care for this park while she was alive.

True - as Mr. Lentz mentioned at the Council Meeting - there is much standing water in the park during our winter storms. Lots of birds - robins and sea birds especially are out there fluttering and fighting in the lake.

Mr. Kevin Roeckl stated that Stout Park is a "<u>little-used</u> park in a good location for a dog park because it is centrally located and level, making it easy for senior citizens to get to it and walk around." The level part is located in the center/south part and is an area that mothers bring their small children to play on the grass (presently because of not much rain the grass is not very green). There is a bench at this entrance from Pine Street and limited parking on the street. There are elderly people who come to that park section because it has a sidewalk, a bench that they can use and parking is nearby.

I don't know when Mr. Roeckl observed this park but summertime does not find many young people in there. They are involved in the sports available in Brookings - Little League, swimming, skateboarding, or vacationing away from Brookings. Possibly some of them are working. However, when school is in session there is activity in the park. Groups of them come in with their whiffle balls and bats, footballs, soccer balls and use this center section to practice and have fun.

City of Brookings Parks and Recreation Commission Brookings, Oregon

### RE: Dog Park in Stout Park

I presume that parking would be a big issue in this area. When school is in session, the Presbyterian parking lot is loaded with cars bringing the children to the Azalea Middle School at 8.00 A.M. and then picking them up at 3.00 P.M. There are at least six large buses going into the Azalea School at this same time morning and afternoon.

Are there any zoning laws that could be applied to help the people who do not want a "DOG PARK" within the confines of Stout Park?

The school district has just spent a considerable amount of money to upgrade and add new buildings at the Azalea Middle School and the High School. Considering the proximity of these students and the surrounding area which contains two churches, the art center on Pine Street, the property owners in the area and the tenants who occupy these homes and apartment buildings - does a "dog park" in any stretch of the imagination seem to be compatible with the occupants of the immediate area?

It is obvious that all dog owners do not clean up after their dogs or obey the leash law. Witness the beaches! My family has almost stopped going to the beach because of the people who fail to carry a plastic bag and scoop to leave a clean beach after a "dog exercise."

The few people who exercise their dogs in Stout Park now (although the number has reduced considerably lately) usually take their dogs to the wooded area on the east side of the park. The condition of that section of Stout Park is anyone's guess. There are others who use the park with no thought of the "scoop courtesy" so the people who come to pick the apples and the plums which have been growing on the fruit trees that Mrs. Stout planted have to watch where they step, as do the young people who play ball. Further, how do you protect the trees that dogs insist upon "watering." Even the owners seem helpless to prevent that inherent habit of a dog. The beautiful deer who come in Stout Park to eat the apples and plums when they drop from the trees probably would stay clear of Stout Park forever.

To quote an excerpt from Mr. Keusink's column in the Pilot after this proposal was brought before the City Council: "Aren't there distinctive areas in the City of Brookings <u>bare</u> of houses, fruit trees, tall trees and brush that are harmful to animals, that can be designated as such areas?".

I sincerely suggest that the Parks and Recreation Commissioners <u>and</u> the Brookings City Council deny this proposal when the final decision is made.

Thank you.

522 Pacific Ave., PO Box 813,

Brookings, OR 97415

541-469-9754

PO Box 7264 Brookings August 17, 03

City of Brookings
Parks and Recreation Commissioners

Re: Stout Park.

**Dear Sirs** 

As a resident living close to the lovely, peaceful Stout Park I must express my concerns regarding the suggestion to make it a "dog park".

What would make it a dog park? Would the law be changed to make it a "no leash" park? Would a fenced run be built? Why the need for a dog park? Can't any park, roadside, beach, etc. be used to exercise dogs?

Maybe the Tailwaggers' members are dedicated to picking up after their dogs, as I have always done, but be honest, it is human nature for many owners to not give a damn and some seniors are physically unable to bend low enough to scoop the poop.

Stout Park is already used as a dog toilet. Today I walked in the park. I don't know the last time the park received maintenance but a short distance inside the park entrance on Oak, opposite Fir Street, I found an area on both sides of a path with a lot of dog mess and it smelt awful walking past. What would it be like if you advertise its use for all dogs in the area <u>and</u> visitors?

In one area of the park there are apartment windows very close to the park boundary. It is lovely to view the park from these windows, and to watch the birds and the deer visit. Surely it is as Mrs. Stout and many residents would wish it to be or do you need a petition to prove otherwise?

Please make a just decision and keep the park "as is" (free of dog mess would be even better).

Sincerely,

I. Ralph (Mrs.)

3. Rolpl

96 Park Avenue Brookings, OR 97415

City Hall 898 Elk Drive Brookings, OR 97415

August 19, 2003

Dear City Officials:

We live at Jerstad Manor and we are concerned about the proposed dog park in Stout Park. We enjoy the park nearly daily, either walking through the park or sitting there and enjoying the lovely and peaceful surroundings.

Even the dog owners who live here and have signed below are opposed to dogs being off leash anywhere in the park. They feel it will create problems for the city and for those who want to enjoy the park. We already have dog droppings left in the park so we have to be careful where we walk. And this is when dogs are kept on the leash. We think the problems will be worse if Stout Park is a designated dog park.

We urge you to reject this proposal to make a dog park in Stout Park.

Thank you for your coonsideration of our concerns.

Sincerely,

Saron R. Powers Apt. 103 Marche M. Nas 210

1315 Joyce mattook # 108 Betty Sungeon" 211

Novely ("Lee # 110 Cillian yount # 10

Jeanne L. Albert # 213

Roy Knoyer # 208

Frances Herming # 109

Patoy Simonson 204

Lela & Sutherland # 203

# Summer Recreation Program 2003 Final Report to Parks and Recreation Department Board of Supervisors Auaust 15, 2003

Thank you all so much for allowing me to participate in the lives of your children this summer. I truly believe that the finest young people in our world are right here in our town. They are bright, honest, fair with each other and themselves, helpful, kind, and generous hearted. They give me so much of themselves and they teach me so much. It has been my pleasure to meet new youngsters and welcome returning faces back to Summer Rec.

This year our facility at Azalea Middle School was wonderful. We had plenty of room, outside and in, and the whole staff, from Mike Dillenberg on to the custodians were simply awesome in helping us every way they could. We utilized the football field, track, playground area and 5 rooms. One room was devoted to games - from foosball tables to Yahtzee, and all the children could move from the Art Room to the Game Room to the Play area with ease, which made for wonderful freedom to participate in every thing they wished to every day.

Vanessa Keys and Carrie Hargrove joined me as leaders and proved their devotion to the children of our town. They led games, taught Art and Craft Activities, led songs, hikes, and - listened. The children quickly found out that Carrie and Vanessa liked to hear their stories of what summer was unfolding for them, and that these two ladies were really ready to encourage them and praise them.

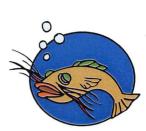
Whitney Keys was our Summer Intern, and like her mother, Vanessa, showed great patience with the youngsters, and a supportive, attentive manner. She surely has played more card games, Monopoly and Yahtzee than any other teen I

know this summer, and still has a ready smile. I enjoyed working with her, she is always eager to do whatever task she is given, and has learned a lot from her summer work.

We spent \$300.00 on Leggos. I mention this because we usually only spend THAT kind of money on beads....
BUT...this summer we had 3 times the number of young men join us, and Leggo Land was their absolute favorite. A lot of negotiating over highly desired parts and components led to some solid friendships and a lot of laughter. They made up rules about fair play, erased those rules, made more, chucked some of those and talked a lot of sharing and partnering on projects. I would do it again without a moments hesitation.

The Kids Games at the Fair, sponsored by Summer Recreation as we did last year, was again a lot of fun at the Curry County Fair on Family Day. Watermelon Eating Contests, Tug of War, and Sack Races served children from Brookings-Harbor, Gold Beach, Port Orford, and as far away as Seattle and Long Beach. 50 children participated. Rays donated the melons and the Fair Board donated some of the prizes. Entries into the County Fair from our area accounted for 42% of all children's entries, into Hobby Crafts, Creative Arts, Needlework, Floral, 4-H, and other Departments. Our Summer Recreation Kids brought home over 200 ribbons, including Best of Show in Creative Art and Best of Show in Floral.

Todays' PARTY IN THE PARK at Azalea Park included a Dance Recital, a Play, and games, as well as a Build Your Sandwich Picnic. 112 children and parents participated and had a wonderful time. Now summer is over for us, our time together spent well. Lots of happy memories will remain with these children for all their lives of the friends they made, and the new fun things they did and learned and shared. I am proud of our City for making this possible for our kids - I know that all the children here are important to you. Pam Callaway, Summer Recreation Director



CITY MANAGER TT.

## **MEMO**

TO:

Parks and Recreation Commissioners

Councilor Kern

Leroy Blodgett, Leo Lightle, John Cowan, Dave Lentz,

Randy Mitchem

FROM:

Cathie Mahon, Community Development Secretary (469-2163, ext. 203)

DATE:

August 20, 2003

RE:

Parks and Recreation Agenda for August 28, 2003, meeting

Please Note several items included in this packet.

- 1. We received many letters from residents who live near Stout Park about the consideration of Stout Park as a dog park:
  - Mr. Streda submitted two letters addressed to the Commission, plus one from a letter sent to *The Pilot*.
  - Manley Arts Center and Pelican Bay Arts Center members
  - Mrs. McCool mailed a 2-page letter
  - 17 residents from Jerstad Manor signed a letter in opposition
  - Mrs. Ralph
- 2. Pam Calloway submitted a report from the 2003 Summer Recreation Program
- 3. We have a new member--Mr. Dave Gordon

See you next week!!!!!



### **MEMO**

TO:

City Council

Parks and Recreational Commission

Leroy Blodgett, City Manager

Leo Lightle, Director of Community Development

Public Works: John Cowan, Dave Lentz,

FROM:

Cathie Mahon, Community Development Secretary (469-2163, ext. 203)

DATE:

August 28, 2003

RE:

Parks and Recreation

The attached letters were received after mailing the Parks & Recreational packet, and at Ms. Norwood's request, are being forwarded to City Council and Public Works-Parks personnel.

- 1. A letter from Jan Norwood regarding Harris Beach State Park
- 2. A letter from Michael Carrier, Director of the *State of Oregon-Park and Recreation Department.*

To: Brookings City Council
Brookings Parks and Recreation Council
Brookings Parks and Recreation Department
City Officials and Staff

Re: Harris Beach State Park

Attached is a letter I received this past week from Michael Carrier, Director of the Oregon Park and Recreation Department in Salem. I was the person who helped spearhead the "No Day Use Fee at Harris Beach" campaign earlier this summer. Besides the public hearing in Gold Beach in mid-July, literally hundreds of local residents supported the "No Fee" proposal in their meeting attendance, E-Mails to the State office in Salem, letters to that office, and letters, phone calls and E-Mails to our State and Federal elected officials. Even our County Commissioners became involved in trying to convince the State Park Dept. that Harris Beach should not become a part of the "Day Use Fee" system. As a result of our efforts to take Harris Beach out of the system, the State has instead chosen to remove Cape Blanco and Sunset Bay, but to keep Harris Beach on the fee list.

Our arguments for no fee revolve around two issues:

- (1) As the first major park tourists from the South encounter on their way up the Coast, why should we turn them away at the gate, thus turning away much-needed tourist dollars from the Brockings-Harbor area?
- (2) Many of our local residents moved to our community to use that park, to walk its beaches, to enjoy its sunsets, and to encourage family members who visit our area to stay within the park boundaries. Why should they now be penalized for that?

Now I understand that the City of Brookings receives a bed tax from the State for its campers at Harris Beach, and I imagine in a summer such as this one, the amount is sizeable. However, our tour group, The Hospitality Tours of Brookings, has been told on more than one occasion over the years by various Park Directors, that besides Honeyman State Park just south of Florence, Harris Beach is one of the biggest year-round money-makers within the State Park System. Therefore any additional fees generated here will go to pay for parks that are not nearly as popular as ours. Besides the fees, private concessionaires are also being considered to generate even more revenue.

What does it take to manage Harris Beach? I also know from previous tours within the Harris Beach/South County area, that during the winter, the park is managed by its local Director, Denise, the office manager paid for year-round, Angela Kohlhoff, who, in the months from October-April, does all or nearly all of the ground maintenance, trail clearing, lawn mowing, and washroom cleaning from the Winchuck River Wayside to Cape Sebastian. In the summer months, part-time help are called in to man the kiosk at the campgrounds, and to maintain the park system throughout the South County.

I also know that behind the main office building at Harris Beach is a work yard where all kinds of new equipment is stored, from choppers to tree trimmers. Much of that equipment was purchased shortly after former Park Director Don Higgins left our area.

Also at Harris Beach are a number of YURTS which are rented out months in advance, in addition to a group camping area, a host site, and a large camping area with ampitheater inside "C" loop. The ampitheater is used for summer evening programs, I believe 4-5 nights per week through Labor Day. The Park also has a Junior Ranger program in the summer, and Angela Kohlhoff, as most of you know, has single-handedly helped to generate enthusiasm among our students for the natural beauty Harris Beach has to offer.

The reason why I am explaining all of this to you is because a suggestion was made to me recently about the City of Brookings perhaps taking over Harris Beach State Park, much as it did ll years ago with Azalea Park. Only instead of inheriting a boondoggle with overgrown blackberry bushes and aging azalea trees, Harris Beach is a vibrant, popular, well-maintained and profitable park and campground. Add Angela and Denise to the City payroll, and certainly the park would continue to shine for years to come. Add a few extra City Park and Recreation Dept. workers, and certainly the area would become our finest area attraction. It might even fit the needs of our local Chamber of Commerce.

Michael Carrier has said the day use fees will not go into effect for at least another year, which gives the City of Brookings plenty of time to look into the problems and benefits of perhaps eventually incorporating the Park into our metropolitan planning, but at least, hopefully, I have given you all something to think about and discuss over the ensuing months.

Sincerely,

Jan Morwood

fan Rowood

P.O. Box 1396 Brookings, Oregon 97415

(541) 469-4909

P.S. The State Parlex depends solveyor for a detry finds. They sould close any facts at any time.

k and Recreation Department

1115 Commercial St. NE Salem, OR 97301-1002 (503) 378-6305 FAX (503) 378-6447 www.oregonstateparks.org

August 18, 2003

Janet Youngs-Norwood P.O. Box 1396, 885 Marina Heights Road Brookings, OR 97415



Dear Ms. Youngs-Norwood:

Governor Kulongoski asked me to reply to your concerns about our proposed day-use fee expansion at Harris Beach and other south coast parks.

You addressed a couple of matters that involve the issue of equity in the way we charge park user fees. Day-use area visitors at 26 parks, plus campers using about 50 campgrounds, now shoulder the financial burden of maintaining day-use visitor facilities in 173 state parks. Following a legislatively directed study of the overall equality of our fees, we had to question requiring passes for the use of restrooms, trails, and picnic areas in one location while park visitors elsewhere, like Harris Beach, are using similar facilities for free.

You might be interested to learn we have recommended that the Oregon Parks and Recreation Commission consider modifying our proposal to require day-use passes only between 9 a.m.- 4 p.m. This approach would allow frequent local Harris Beach park users free beach access during the daylight hours when the pass requirement is now lightly enforced.

We also have recommended that Cape Blanco and Sunset Bay state parks be removed from the expansion list and that no new fees take effect until October 1, 2004.

As for discounts, you can purchase a 12-month pass for \$20 rather than \$25 during April and December. Anyone who takes advantage of these special discount periods pays only \$1.67 per month to park a vehicle in any of our 26 day-use fee parks.

The discount price for the 12-month pass, like the other discounts we offer, is an across-the-board, non-discriminatory rate break that benefits all customers. To make up for revenue lost by discounting fees paid by specific groups, such as senior citizens, we would likely have to raise our overall camping and day-use fee rates. That would penalize everyone, especially people facing economic hardships who do not fit into a special population segment.

I appreciate the opportunity to respond to your questions. Please let me know if your have others.

Sincerely,

Michael Carrier

Director

Cc: Governor Ted Kulongoski

## Azalea Park Foundation

P.O. Box 6876, Brookings, Oregon 97415

August 24, 2003

The Parks and Recreation Commission Brookings, Oregon

Dear Good Friends,

The Azalea Park volunteers wish to thank you for the donation of \$5,000 with which to replace the tools and supplies that were lost in the destruction of our former tool shed.

The new structure is infinitely better for our needs and situated so that we hope vandals will not succeed in destroying it. They have already smashed our exterior light fixture.

We also discovered yesterday that graffiti has defaced the benches nearest the stage as well as the gazebo. That was a blow after seventeen of us volunteers had spent four hours that morning making the garden, the walks and the driveways beautiful for the Volunteer Appreciation Picnic.

Even though the vandals are eventually caught it is discouraging to constantly have to repair and repaint and replace the damage.

Our volunteers are valiant but some have moved away, some are ill and many of us find it more and more difficult to do the labor required. Yet we are determined to carry on with the hope that other good people will join us. We ask your help in keeping Azalea Park the lovely place it now is.

Sincerely, Larraine Williams