

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

City of Brookings
898 Elk Drive, Brookings, Oregon
July 24, 2003

Call To Order

Chair Boynton called the meeting to order. Commissioner Canfield led the pledge of allegiance.

Roll Call

Commissioners Present: Pat Sherman, Nina Canfield, Dori Blodgett, Bill Boynton, Daryn Farmer and Tony Parrish

Staff Present: City Manager Blodgett; 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 June 26, 2003.

Public Appearances

Tailwaggers Dog Club

Kevin Roeckl, club facilitator, addressed the Commission. He explained club members conducted a survey to find out what people thought about having a dog park in the City. He introduced Cathy Witt, one of the club members involved with the survey. Ms. Witt explained they surveyed dog owners at the *Brookings-Harbor Veterinary Clinic, Town & County Animal Hospital*, residents, and tourists. She entered into the record a petition with over 200 signatures, most residing in the Brookings-Harbor, and Gold Beach, area. Dog owners were questioned on number of dogs, size of dog, and would they use a dog park. The result of the survey showed 50% of the dog owners have small dogs, under 50 pounds; the other 50% have large dogs. Ms. Witt concluded stating most of the participants surveyed were enthusiastic about having a dog park. Mr. Roeckl then reiterated, the response from those who signed the petition was overwhelming. He discussed the result of members visiting several parks since their last appearance before the Commission. Members visited two park areas: *Easy Manor* and *Chetco Point*. They concluded, *Easy Manor Park* would be too small and lacked adequate parking; *Chetco Point Park* was undesirable due to the wind factor, the lack of shade, and it would be difficult finding an area to fence due to the barbeque pit, picnic tables, and horseshoe pits.

Mr. Roeckl continued his presentation by distributing two illustrations of *Stout Park*: one a diagram of the park and the other of a potential area for the dog park. He explained the advantages: shade, accessible parking, and the ground area is flat which would be good for a dog park. He added when researching the web, he found the presence of dogs is a deterrent to vandalism. He proceeded to request approval from the Commission to develop the area at *Stout Park* for a dog park.

Discussion ensued. Dave Lentz, Park Maintenance Supervisor, stated during the rainy season, the park is 60% under water. Commissioner Parrish had concern of the noise factor for the neighbors on the border side of the park. Commissioner Sherman added her concern also about the neighbors might not like the noise created from the dogs, and raise the question of who is going to pay for the fencing.

Ms. Witt responded stating the issue is two-fold: what's safe for the dogs and owners, and what's good for the community. We would like to provide for the seniors an accessible, safe area. We are cognizant about the noise factor, and want to avoid unhappy neighbors as a result of the noise from the dogs barking. She concluded her research by going on-line to research dog parks and found them to be very popular.

Mr. Roeckl questioned the procedure of getting a dog park. He asked what direction do they need to take to get it done. Chair Boynton responded stating at a previous meeting, a directive to contact the city manager was given; since that time, no contact had been made to the City Manager.

City Manager Blodgett responded with several steps to be completed before a final decision could be made. The neighbors must be notified about the proposal, we need to talk with other cities to get their input; find out their regulations, and basically find out what works, and what doesn't work. He concluded, agreeing *Stout Park* is the most under used city park. Dave Lentz agreed, stating the area proposed by the *Tailwagers* has very low volume of use. He added the area is flat; there is plenty of parking, and bathroom facilities are nearby.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Stout Park: Commissioner Parrish raised the idea of having an open house at the park, adding the park has some amazing older trees. He asked about getting one of the new trashcans, similar to the new ones on Chetco Avenue, and getting a sign at the entrance. He suggested replacing about twenty yards of the poor soil and rocks from the park frontage, putting in some good soil, then planting flowers and bushes. He further suggested naming the planting project *Bruins Garden*, and perhaps encourage some of the high school students to participate.

Commissioner Parrish discussed a second project, the beautification of Oak Street. He said some of the businesses have kept their area clean and planted flowers, while others have not taken the initiative to beautify their store frontage areas. He suggested the removal of a large limb on one of the trees overhanging Oak Street. He will investigate the various aspects of the removal.

Chetco Park: Commissioner Sherman commented on the dog park issue, agreeing *Chetco Point* is too windy, but thought using an area at *Stout Park* was a good idea. She inquired on an update on the park improvements. City Manager Blodgett explained the existing entrance can currently be used but changes are still on the drawing board for development at the park. We are still hoping for grant money to fund the improvements: a new pathway, fencing, and improved parking.

Kidtown: Commissioner Dori Blodgett had no report.

Bud Cross Park: Commissioner Farmer reported when he drove past the ball fields after the *Little League Tournament*, he found they had cleaned up and the fields were in good shape. He commented the maintenance was excellent.

Softball: City Manager Blodgett said the *Little League Tournament* was well attended, a real success.

Parks Master Plan: Commissioner Boynton commented hopefully with some infusion of funds, some plans can be implemented in the future.

Azalea Park Foundation: Commissioner Canfield reported they are pleased with the completion of the new tool shed, and have the installation of the workbench and tools left to complete the project. The trailer, currently being used to store tools, will be moved.

STAFF ANOUNCEMENTS/CONCERNS/FOLLOW-UP

City Manager Blodgett:

Azalea Park:

City Manager Blodgett reported Bill Youngman had contacted him. Mr. Youngman was instrumental in requesting a volleyball court on a site at the park. Mr. Youngman approached the City because when the group made arrangements to provide sand for the courts, they realized they were \$800.00 short. City Manager Blodgett explained when Mr. Youngman began the project, it was understood they would be responsible for total development of the courts. Since that time, several years, Public Works has flattened the area, installed the poles for the nets, and worked on the drainage. He concluded stating the City has provided a great deal of time and money; it is now time for the volleyball group to raise the money. His suggestion to raise money was to coordinate a tournament.

Tool List:

City Manager Blodgett distributed a tool list submitted by Elmo Williams. Many tools were lost in the fire last year; those were on the list in addition to a chipper and other tool items. He referred to the motion at the last meeting to use provide funds for replacement tools. We thought the figure would be approximately \$3,000. In reviewing the 5-page tool list submitted, the figure would be closer to \$10,000. Many of the items on the list were not lost in the fire, but requested as additions to the foundation.

Discussion ensued. It was suggested ordering out of a catalog might save money. Parks Maintenance Foreman Lentz added the list reflects the expansion of projects and all the tools will not be stored in the tool shed. He said they would like to have a wood chipper, to have when they trim trees. City Manager Blodgett suggested the Commission cut the \$10,000 in half and give the foundation \$5,000.

Commissioner Dori Blodgett made the motion, it was seconded, and unanimously passed to give the Azalea Foundation \$5,000 for replacement of tools.

Cameras:

City Manager Blodgett discussed cameras for *Azalea Park* with Lt. Bishop. It was suggested to have 4 cameras placed throughout the park, have the tapes recording any activity; the tapes would be available to the police for a record of any criminal activity. The research resulted in a \$10,500 figure for the cameras.

Discussion ensued. Chair Boynton expressed perhaps more lighting is the key to curb criminal activity. Commissioner Farmer expressed the point if there's no restitution for damage, having cameras to catch the violators is pointless. City Manager Blodgett remarked the cameras would help catch the perpetrators faster. He posed to the Commission if they want to proceed with purchasing cameras. Commissioner Sherman remarked if the cameras are a deterrent, how about getting fake cameras. Chair Boynton stated with the current rate of success by the Police Department, perhaps we don't need to spend the money. Commissioner Canfield suggested getting the lighting in, and see if that helps. City Manager Blodgett concluded stating a better use for \$10,000 would be upgrading the restrooms in the park.

City Picnic:

City Manager extended an invitation to the Commission for the annual city picnic, scheduled for Saturday, August 23, 2003.

Other:

Dave Lentz, Park Maintenance Foreman, updated the Commission on the *Snackshack*. The *Snackshack* is currently not available for other groups to use but the Rotary Club is discussing charging a nominal fee for the use of the facility. He also said the *Snackshack* continues to do a great business during the concerts on Sunday.

Commissioner Canfield asked for an update on enforcement of helmets. City Manager responded, stating the law goes into effect in January, 2004. He informed the Commission that the city has free helmets. He explained if a kid cannot afford a helmet, we give them one. He displayed the type available to the bike riders, and skate park users.

Commissioner Parrish expressed his concern about new fees at *Harris State Park*. Discussion ensued. It was pointed out that Brookings residents can purchase an annual sticker for \$20.00 from the Oregon Department of Parks. It was pointed out there is a long process still involved in these fees becoming reality.

With no further business to come before the Commission, the meeting was adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Cathie Mahon,
Recording Secretary

Approved by the Parks and Recreation Commission

08/28/03 (date)