

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES
City of Brookings
898 Elk Drive, Brookings, Oregon
August 28, 2003

Call To Order

Chair Boynton called the meeting to order. Chair Boynton introduced and welcome Dave Gordon as a new Commissioner, and asked him to lead the pledge of allegiance.

Roll Call

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

Staff Present: City Manager Blodgett, Councilor Frances John, 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 July 26, 2003.

Public Appearances

Joseph Strada, a resident of *Pacific Court* apartment complex, appeared before the Commission to discuss his views on the proposed dog park at Stout Park. He stated his viewpoint is to leave the park as *status quo*, not to add more noise and more dog deposits, that are already left on the ground. He explained noise and odor from a dog park would impact several apartment complexes; *Pacific Court*, and *Jerstad Manor*, adjoining the park. He concluded with the suggestion the city consider adopting "scoop laws", an ordinance that would fine dog owners who do not have scoops in their possession to clean up after their dogs. He added the existing city leash laws should be enforced.

Discussion ensued. Commissioner Parrish responded suggesting a section of the park be dedicated a dog park and be limited for training dogs, then if there are any complaints, to discontinue it. Commissioner Canfield stated she thought *Easy Manor Park* should still be considered. Commissioner Farmer expressed his viewpoint that a dog park should not be in any neighborhood. City Manager Blodgett entered the discussion stating he had spoken to officials from the *Oregon State Parks Department* concerning the use of a section at *McVay Park* for a dog park. They were supportive of the idea, if the dog owners maintained the area for training dogs. Commissioner Sherman stated dedicating any city park as a dog park would be a mistake, adding in her opinion *McVay Park* would be perfect. She further suggested the dog owners charge a use fee to offset costs for items like fencing. Dave Lentz, Parks Foreman, said he agreed with the commissioner's comments. Commissioner Dori Blodgett stated the parks are "people parks". Chair Boynton concluded the discussion that parks are for people to enjoy and should stay "people parks".

Chair Boynton thanked Mr. Estrada for appearing before the commission. He also referenced letters from several neighbors, 17 residents from *Jerstad Manor* who signed a petition, and a *Pelican Bay Arts Center* representative, all stating they were not in favor of a dog park at *Stout Park*.

The commissioners asked City Manager Blodgett to send the *Tailwaggers* a letter explaining the Commission's decision, and to reiterate the suggestion of using *McVay Park* for their use.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Stout Park: Commissioner Parrish gave an update of the park clean-up; it was weeded, and a lot of dead debris removed. He stated he is still interested in getting some high school students involved to assist in maintaining the park. Commissioner Sherman explained she contacted both the high school and middle school. The middle school principal expressed more enthusiasm than the high school and thought getting the students involved was a good idea. She stated with the number one problem being trash it would be nice to establish a group of students working as Litter Patrol. Commissioner Parrish concluded, another project is to have an open house at the park.

Chetco Park: Commissioner Sherman reported the trails are open and in good shape. Commissioner Farmer explained he had a person interested in constructing a solid wooden fence blocking off the treatment plant and building steps down to the beach area, in exchange for a small piece of property. City Manager requested he contact him to iron out the details.

Kidtown: Commissioner Dori Blodgett reported the park needs work in the future. She added the City Picnic was fun and had a great time.

Bud Cross Park and Softball Fields: Commissioner Farmer reported not a whole lot is going on. There are patches of dead grass which will green-up when the rainy season comes. Currently soccer teams are using the fields.

Kudos were noted by several commissioners for the work done at Bud Cross Park by Marty Wiggins. Mr. Wiggins was recognized at the City Volunteer Picnic as "Volunteer of the Year". He volunteered his time in the upkeep of the fields at Bud Cross; he painted the restrooms, maintained the fields by watering them, and cleaning up after games.

Parks Master Plan: City Manager Blodgett discussed the new city website where surveys will be periodically available for citizen input. Chair Boynton mentioned the current survey is asking the question: would you be willing to add \$1.00 per \$1,000 to the tax rolls for the purpose of a new swimming pool?

Azalea Park Foundation: Commissioner Canfield reported they are pleased with the new tool shed but are leery about vandalism, and asked about lighting with the hope of deterring vandals. City Manager Blodgett responded, the poles have been installed but final lighting is not completed. Parks Maintenance Foreman Lentz said Coos-Curry Electric had installed the lights, they were defective, returned to the manufacturer, and new ones are expected soon.

STAFF ANOUNCEMENTS/CONCERNS/FOLLOW-UP

City Manager Blodgett:

Financial Report: City Manager Blodgett briefly discussed the financial statements. Commissioner Parrish asked for an explanation on the *Stout Park* fund. City Manager Blodgett explained the fund is set-up to have a constant \$15,000 reserve; over and above that amount can be spent for the park maintenance like spraying for weeds, fertilizer, plants, and fixing the sprinklers.

Commissioner Canfield asked about plans to repair the restrooms at *Azalea Park* using the *Longstreet* funds. City Manager Blodgett replied plans are still in the works.

City Picnic:

City Manager reported the Volunteer and Employee Annual Picnic was well attended. He added as previously mentioned, Marty Wiggins was awarded the *Volunteer of the Year* and John Cowan of Public Works was *Employee of the Year*.

City Manager Blodgett encouraged everyone to check out the new city website. It has information regarding city events, ordinances and development codes can be searched for, which can be downloaded and printed out; and participation in a current survey. He added a good response was received to the first survey regarding the new trash cans on Chetco Avenue. Also on the website is the current newsletter (*City Happenings*).

City Manager Blodgett informed the Commission about the first annual *Wild Rivers Salmon Festival* scheduled over Labor Day. He explained it was a consorted effort with the Port of Brookings-Harbor, the Chamber of Commerce, and the City. Prizes will be awarded for the largest fish \$1,000, \$750 for the second largest, and \$250 for the third. A barbeque will be held at the end of the Festival.

Other:

Commissioner Parrish announced an open house at *Stout Park* on Saturday, September 20, from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m.

Commissioner Dori Blodgett discussed the holiday festival, *Kris Kringle Festival*, which is an effort to prompt business owners to decorate. The idea originated from Elmo Williams who thought the city should be decorated for the holidays. The scheduled dates are December 12, 13, and 14th. It is anticipated the Senior Center, shopping centers, and businesses will participate. The *Christmas Story* will be read at the library, and *The Nutcracker* will be performed in Harbor.

Commissioner Dori Blodgett referenced the Summer Recreation Report by Pam Calloway as being a successful program for children. She added the summer reading program at the library was well attended.

Commissioner Sherman discussed trash clean-up days; future dates will be announced.

Councilor Frances reported she went to an open house of the new school buildings, and encouraged the commissioners to visit them.

City Manager Blodgett discussed the increase in building. He stated in prior years we had between 26 and 28 new single-family houses under construction. Brookings has experienced an enormous increase in building activity in the last two years. There were numerous subdivisions; 6 last year and 9 so far this year, for a total of 142 new lots.

Dave Lentz, Parks Maintenance Foreman, reported a new sign was installed at the Skate Park. He explained the old sign was posted near the restrooms; the new one is right next to the skating entrance with a Plexiglas cover over each sign face to prevent damage. He added he witnessed 10 skaters reading it.

With no further business to come before the Commission, the meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Cathie Mahon

Cathie Mahon,
Recording Secretary

Approved by the Parks and Recreation Commission

OCTOBER 23, 2003 (date)