

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES
City of Brookings
898 Elk Drive, Brookings, Oregon
June 27, 2002 7:00 p.m.

Call To Order

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

Roll Call

Commissioners Present: Nina Canfield, Dori Blodgett, Lorraine Williams, Bill Boynton, and Pat Sherman.

Commissioners Absent: Tony Parrish, and Paul Prevenas

Councilor Liaison Present: Councilor Frances Johns Kern.

Ex Officio Commission Present: Lisa Nowlin.

Staff Present: City Manager Leroy Blodgett, Special Projects Assistant Jeremy McVeety, Community Development Secretary Cathie Mahon, and Dave Lentz, Park Maintenance.

Minutes

Correction: Chairman Boynton noted that Frances (Johns) Kern was listed as present but in fact was absent because she was on her honeymoon. All the members expressed congratulations on her marriage. The minutes were approved 5-0, with the correction noted.

Chairman Boynton welcomed the CPW (Community Planning Workshop)group.

Public Appearances

CPW guest presenters: Bob Parker; Director of CPW; Jennifer Brost, Project Manager; and Research Associates: Jennifer Curkendall, Heather Goodson, and Gary Leikness.

Jennifer Brost explained the CPW presentation would be an overview of their project; the methodology used for the study; park classifications, inventory; and future needs; a Capital Improvement Program; Fund Strategies; and the Parks Master Plan findings.

Heather Goodson outlined the project stating a survey was mailed to 1200 Brookings-Harbor residents to obtain demographics of the area; input on the usage of recreational facilities; and exercise activities. The survey analysis mirrored the public input for: a swimming pool for year-round use, a community/recreation center, and improvements for facilities, specifically bathrooms.

Ms. Goodson stated that the group appreciated the assistance from Jeremy, pointing out he conducted an inventory of the current park facilities and amenities in the city, the county, the state, and school owned parks. They were able to use the data from Jeremy's inventory to evaluate the current park system and what is needed in the future.

Ms. Goodson concluded CPW's focus was to establish the needs of the communities, pointing out that Brookings is expected to double in size by 2020; evaluate the current activities and amenities of the park system; analyze future needs; and establish goals and actions.

Gary Leikness, research associate, expanded on the results from the survey and an analysis from one of the questions asked: "if you had \$100 to spend, how would you spend it?" The responses were: 35% for "maintenance/improvements to existing facilities", 27% for a new community center, and additional parks and trails. Respondents were asked, "what kind of exercise activities do you participate in?" Of the 10 most popular activities, walking and nature enjoyment were the top two activities, followed by exercise (aerobics, etc), watching sports, dog walking, festivals and fishing.

Gary addressed the public input from the survey and identified the concerns. Identified items for *Stout Park, Bud Cross Park, Easy Manor Chetco Point and Azalea Park* were: upgrading and increase restroom facilities, more picnic areas, better parking areas, increased trails, and maintenance.

Jennifer Curkendall, research associate, outlined 9 *goals and actions* the team established. Highlighted points were: establish a capital improvement program (CIP), repair vandalism, improve public safety, adequate parking, build a new indoor pool and community center, ensure adequate access to parks, secure long term funding, and insuring the parks in Brookings and incorporating additional ones.

Jennifer explained there is currently 55 acres of parkland. She discussed the formula of 10 acres per 1,000 citizens, and for additional parks to be added within the area would result in a figure of between \$50,000 and \$250,000 per acre. The Capital Improvement Program (CIP) was discussed. Looking at the projected improvements to existing parks in Brookings, spanning 5 years, the total could be a low of \$600,000, with a \$1.2 million high. A chart was discussed with the *acquisition park standards and level of service* between 2000 and 2020.

Jennifer concluded by discussing *funding strategies*. The funding options are: donations, grants, partnerships, Systems Development Charge (SDC), establishing a *Park and Recreation District*, and mandatory dedications. She summarized that the residents want a community center and indoor pool, and capital improvements for the next 20 years will cost between \$600,000 and \$1.2 million.

Chair Boynton thanked the team, commending them on an "outstanding" job. He also directed the commission members to re-read the report and if they had any questions or thoughts, to forward them to Jeremy.

A short discussion ensued. Commissioner Sherman discussed Chetco Point Park, stating she noticed some unusual and rare plants recently at the park. She contacted Jennifer Proust, who verified there are some endangered species in the park. The question was raised about identifying them; after further discussion with CPW, it was decided that the variety of plants be identified and included in the report.

Further discussion ensued. Commissioner Canfield made a motion that the CPW report be submitted to City Council as part of the comprehensive plan or become a land use document (LUCD). All members agreed with the motion and voted unanimously.

Bob Parker, Director of CPW, stated it was a pleasure working with the commission, it was a great learning experience, and was delighted to have the report adopted as a policy statement.

The CPW team wanted to thank Jeremy for his work and input on the project. They presented him with a thank-you card and University of Oregon t-shirt.

Committee Reports

Stout Park: No report

Chetco Point Park: Commissioner Canfield stated she was very happy with the placement of the Porta-Potty.

Softball/Soccer Fields: No report.

Kidtown: Commission Dori Blodgett reported a “clean-up” day has been organized to have for a group of children rake and pick-up cigarette butts and debris. The tentative date is the morning of July 20th. The children will be provided with plastic rakes.

Skate Park: City Manager Blodgett reported he recently met with an individual who has offered to contribute money for the paving area around the restrooms. Chairman Boynton added he is pleased with the park; it is looking good, and has noticed the kids are walking on the sidewalks versus skateboarding on them.

Liaison Reports

Azalea Park: City Manager Blodgett proposed an on-site meeting at the park with the commission and city staff to discuss layout and placement (the restrooms and snack shack) within the park. The meeting was set for July 10th, at 6:30 p.m. in front of the band shell. Commissioner Williams suggested inviting the Rotary Club, Elmo Williams, Dick Keusink, and Public Works Supervisor Dennis Barlow.

Azalea Park Foundation: Commissioner Williams reported over 20 volunteers turned out for a successful work party. Rhododendrons were trimmed up.

Staff Announcements/Concerns/Follow-ups

Financial Report: No discussion as it was included in the packet.

Parks & Fields Use Calendar Update: none

Other-Azalea Park: City Manager Blodgett reported on the park overlooking the Port by the bridge (Doc Martin Bridge) maintained by the student of the Leadership Program. The

Leadership class contracted with ODOT (Oregon Department of Transportation) for a sign and to maintain the landscaping. He explained he was apprized the students no longer cared to continue with the agreement, and wanted to turn over the maintenance of the plants and mowing to the city. Leroy responded that the City could not be responsible for maintaining another park area. Public Works has two (2) employees to maintain all of the City parks; we don't have the time or employees to add to their workload.

Other-Swimming Pool Issue:

City Manager Blodgett stated he recently met with Councilor Frances (Johns) Kern to discuss the swimming pool issue; money is the basic issue. Land cost could be close to \$400,000; between 2 and 2.5 million dollars would be needed for building the facility. The issue is not simply acquiring the land, or raising building funds. The important factor to consider is "maintenance" of a swimming pool facility.

City Manager Blodgett illustrated several examples to validate his point. The *City of Dallas* built an eight (8) million dollar swimming pool facility five years ago. Today they are faced with the question of having the money for *maintenance*, funding for daily operating costs. Mendocino County did all the right things: they did a feasibility study. They figured they needed 8.5 million dollars for the land and to build the facility. What they failed to figure in was the operating costs. Crescent City is looking at other resources to fund their pool. The City of North Bend has operating costs of \$200,000. They have had to use \$60,000 from the school fund.

Discussion of *operations* continued. If you access operation costs at \$75,000, or \$300,000 annually, over a 20 year period, it would amount to \$6,000,000. And if there's a deficit, can you ask the taxpayer's to pay for that deficit? Having a swimming pool may be the desire of the residents, but the real challenge is raising the money for all three factors. Case in point: the Brookings swimming pool is budgeted at \$73,000 yet it is anticipated to have a \$40,000 deficit.

City Manager Blodgett stated "pools don't make money and they don't break even." He concluded having a swimming pool may be the number one desire of the public/the community, but the real challenge is to get a long term funding mechanism to pay for all three facets: the land, the pool, and especially the operating costs for the facility. It makes more sense to build a community center because staffing is half the cost.

Commissioner comments:

Discussion ensued. Commissioner Dori Blodgett suggested the public may need to be educated on the financial aspects of having a swimming pool, that perhaps *The Pilot* could be the vehicle to cover all the issues involved, and include examples and problems other cities have experience. Commissioner Williams posed that perhaps we could work in conjunction with an entity like a YWCA. City Manager Blodgett responded that it take a large population to support a pool.

Chairman Boynton concluded the discussion by stating that the Board continue thinking about the question of raising revenue, keeping in mind the problems discussed at the City of Dallas, and Mendocino County.

There being no further business the Commission adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Cathie Mahon
Recording Secretary

Approved by the Parks and Recreation Commission

07/25/02 (date)