

MINUTES  
PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION  
JUNE 7, 1979

Chairman Ellis Watkins called the meeting to order at 7:34 p.m.

Present: Chairman Ellis Watkins, John DeJarnett, Terry Phillips, Joyce Weaver, Bonny Litty, Clay Cox, Steve Buckley, City Manager Frank Freeman, Secretary Rhonda Fitzpatrick, Council Representative Ray Lockman, Park Attendant Jack Shimman, Elmer Lee Coordinator for Parks.

Also present: Rick Starry, Bill and Kay Lathrop, Pauline Olsen, Thelma Canet.

Visitors were Officers of the Community Center Optimists, with a new name changed to Azalea Center Optimists, and Rick Starry spoke for them on the subject of forming a new Parks and Recreation Taxing District for the purpose of acquiring the Azalea State Park and for the specific purpose of gaining a location for a Community Center. He presented a letter from the Oregon State Parks office in Salem which indicated that they would be willing to deed the Azalea Park complete to a responsible civic body for Parks and Recreation purposes. The bulk of the discussion was centered on the possibilities of administration, diversion of activities to be included, taxation, incorporation, forming a new Parks District and presenting it to the voters. The conclusion was that the Parks Commission would write a letter to Rick Starry requesting that he investigate the matter, and that the concept would have our endorsement. This was moved by Clay Cox, seconded by Terry Phillips, voted and passed, such a letter be written to give the matter official sanction for Rick Starry's action.

Progress report on Phase V and VI of the new restroom and ball field was given by Elmer Lee, assigned as coordinator for these Parks projects. Elmer is to meet John Thorp and set grade and location stakes, and Don Horton will move on with the Restroom project. Final work will be done on the last project of Phase VI and the bill prepared and sent into Salem.

There was a discussion about the complaints about the new Tennis Court lights being left on, and the alternatives, such as metered or pay lights, and the only solution is to educate the public that it is inexpensive, and much cheaper, to leave the lights burning as set by the timer, than to have them easily turned off and on again.

It was reported by the Chairman that the County Commission Budget Committee had eliminated the \$25,000 matching fund money for the Parks Department. It will be necessary to write a letter requesting that that fund be restored to the Budget, in time for the June 26 meeting of the Commission Budget hearing.

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Report by Terry Phillips on the condition of the tennis courts, a call to Medford to get the contractor to correct the matter, and Frank Freeman will write a letter asking them to fulfill their contract.

Steve Buckley reported that the tennis tournament will be held 2nd week in July.

John DeJarnatt passed out copies of the swimming pool schedule, and reviewed the status of staffing and scheduling. He has just completed a Life Saving class in connection with training new life-guards.

The Chairman spoke of the Stout Park, urged the members to visit with Mrs. Stout, and tour the Park, and gave a brief review of the terms of the agreement the City signed with Mrs. Stout on accepting the Park.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

This meeting was recorded on tape and is on file in the Recorder's office.

ATTEST:

Priscilla A. Pruitt  
Secretary

Ellis H. Walker  
Chairman