

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING
August 23, 2001

Roll Call

Commissioners Present: Nina Canfield, Dori Frost, Craig Mickelson, Lorraine Williams, Nancy Shute and Russ Fritz chair.

Commissioners Absent: Paul Prevenas

Staff: City Manager, Leroy Blodgett, Community Development Director, Leo Lightle

Minutes: Minutes for June meeting were m/s/a with one correction. Frank Parker should read Floyd Parker.

Chair Russ Fritz recognized the award and recognition of Mayor Bob Hagbom and offered congratulations.

Appearances:

Lee Rogers: Did not attend. She asked Commissioner Frost to relate to the commissioners her appreciation for the efforts in behalf of Kid Town and to express her satisfaction with the progress in that area.

Jan Norwood: P.O. Box 1396 885 Marina Heights Mrs. Norwood offered a presentation on wonder and expressed an interest in a community center and an 'All Purpose Center' for the city and discussed the programs already in place throughout the community and the lack of available meeting and gathering room available. The commissioners appreciated Ms. Norwood's interest and continued efforts in this area.

Julie Jordan: P.O. Box 466 96465 Coverdell Rd. #25 Ms. Jordan was invited by the commissioners to give an update on the progress with the volleyball pits. Ms. Jordan cited weather problems and stated the digging of holes for the poles would begin 8/24. Discussion and suggestion from City Planner Blodgett to install sleeves to allow the poles to be removed easily for repair and maintenance Ms. Jordan related the poles had a 10 year weather proof guarantee Leo Lightle supported the recommendation of the placement of sleeves in the pole holes. Chair Fritz will personally look into the situation and follow up on the sleeves. Jordan asked for more time as a result of the sleeve issue but would complete the digging of the pole holes and fill them with sand temporarily until the sleeve issue could be investigated.

Nancy Shute invited Don Mitchell, of Flora Pacifica, 423 Buena Vista Rd. to speak to the commissioners on the evidence of disease, 'Sudden Oak Death,' recently found in Brookings areas. Mr. Mitchell explained the issues and information received with the commissioners and related his concerns. City Manager Blodgett will investigate and research necessary steps of action to be taken by the city in this matter and will keep the commissioners informed.

Tony Ardana: 810 Midland Way Mr. Ardana representing the Brookings Harbor Youth Association stated a request for land donation for the purpose of building a youth center. Chair Fritz asked City Manager Blodgett if there were parcels of land available. Blodgett felt there would be community support for a center if the association had a written business plan with operational structure and long range support for staffing, insurance and funding.

Kid Town: Commissioner Frost reported the progress in establishing a volunteer network for Kid Town and a site inspection by commissioners were reported. City Manager Blodgett will look into fibar and also newer types of materials for the ground cover. City will look into cutting away exposed fabric.

Stout Park: Commissioner Shute reported the grounds are improving and there are exposed screws exposed on the bench near the street.

Chetco Point: Commissioner Mickelson reported a work party scheduled and the foliage had grown well this year. Chair Fritz reported a walk through and the grass is looking great.

Softball/Soccer Fields: Nothing new.

9-4-01
pc: CAD Leo Lightle,
PW Dennis Barlow, P & R Chair

Continued

Parks Master Plan: Staff Leo Lightle requested a written master plan to show the community. This may be a good tool in answering requests for new buildings and other comments from the community. Blodgett recommended to the commission to include individual park's needs in the master plan. Azalea Park was mentioned and Commissioner Mickelson recommended one for Bud Cross as well.

Skate Park: Councilor Johns reported Buzz Hansen is working on donations of lumber and Rick Dentino is looking into rebar costs. Work will continue in refining materials lists, mapping the property, and planning work schedules. Blodgett recommended considering a dead-end and/or culdesac for 2nd street with a curb cut to Hassett to redirect traffic.

SAY: Councilor Frances Johns reported an upcoming SAY meeting for Tuesday, Sept. 28 at 7 p.m. All are welcome. Discussion is continuing on the plan to cover the existing pool or to re-build the pool entirely.

Azalea Park: Councilor Williams reported a Saturday work party is scheduled and there were problems with graffiti in the gazebo and on the rock and walls. Spray painting is immediate solution and possible sand blasting would be needed for the rock. Restroom proposition is on hold and the Rotary may coordinate a future building plan.

Staff Announcements:

Leroy Blogett discussed the upcoming volunteer picnic and expressed appreciation for Sharon Riden's efforts in the planning.

Commissioner Comments:

Canfield: Reported on the State Parks Master Plan Meeting. Canfield asked City Manager Blodgett about local ordinances for dog defecation. Blodgett will review and report back. Discussion on signs and baggies for collection and fines will continue.

There was a m/s/p to adjourn.

Respectfully submitted,



Dori Frost, Commission Member

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Memo

To: PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION – Nina Canfield, Paul Prevenas, Lorraine Williams, Nancy Lee Shute, Dori Frost, Criag Mickelson

From: Russ Fritz, Parks and Recreation Commission Chair

CC: STAFF: Community Development Director Leo Lightle, City Manager Leroy Blodgett, Public Works Supervisor Dennis Barlow, Public Works/Parks & Rec: Dave Lentz & Randy Mitchem; and

Councilor Frances Johns-Council Liaison

MEDIA: Curry Coastal Pilot – ATTN: Jeff St. Peter; and KURY

Date: 8/16/2001

Re: Next Parks & Rec Comm. Mtg – August 23rd @ 7:00 p.m.

The Parks and Recreation Commission will be meeting next week, August 23, 2001, at 7:00 p.m., in the Council Chambers at City Hall for their regular commission meeting. Enclosed by mail or personal delivery by Sharon, is our agenda, minutes from July, and a letter from Jan Norwood regarding a proposal for a Discovery Center in Azalea Park. Please be prepared on discussing this issue for a decision at the meeting. Julie Jordan will be present to give us an update on the volleyball courts, as well as Lee Rogers regarding Kidtown. And, we will have our usual superb staff present to assist us with information. Also, please be certain you have called Sharon with your RSVP on attending the Volunteer/Employees Picnic set for August 25th, ASAP!

If you find you will be unable to attend the meeting, PLEASE contact me (469-0244) or Sharon Ridens at City Hall – 469-2163, ext 204! Thanks so much and hope you are having a terrific summer. See you on Thursday - Russ

A PROPOSAL FOR A DISCOVERY CENTER FOR ADULTS AND YOUTH

IN AZALEA PARK

By Jan Norwood, former Director KIDZART
Co-Director Hospitality Tours

Back in the summer of 1993, soon after my husband and I moved to the Brookings area, I had the opportunity to observe the Banana Belt Youth Association, run by a woman named Clair. Unfortunately, the organization was short-lived, but from the parents and kids involved, an idea for an afternoon after-school weekly Discovery program for kids of all ages was born. Begun strictly on a trial basis, offering ideas, education and inspiration to low income and at risk youth from the ages of 3-18, with the insistence their parents must also be involved in the program, KIDZART took off with 18 amazingly successful months.

On a shoestring budget of just over \$200 for the entire duration of the group, and working in conjunction with local businesses, we were able to accomplish amazing results. Our drop-out students found themselves voluntarily putting in extra classroom time at alternative schools in the area. We saw 3 home schools arise from the project. Now, years later, we have seen most of our at risk teens graduate not only from high school but also from college. The key to the success of the program as seen in the eyes of the parents, and kids, was the excitement and inspiration we provided all of them every week throughout the year. From visits to llama ranches and dairy farms to tours of places like our local clothing stores and post office, from art and craft projects involving parents and kids at Mory's to Art walls featuring the work of kids at Judy's Corner Frame Shop, Mory's, and several businesses in town, every week was an adventure. We even brought together older teens into a remodeling project at one of the grandparent's homes.

KIDZART ultimately won a State award for ideas for better government in 1996. And, amazingly, as long as it existed here in Brookings, we had no acts of violence or vandalism on our streets, by any of the kids involved.

I, of course, went on to create the Hospitality Tours for adults, in 1995, and that project has been on-going and successful ever since. The adult program is much like the one created for the children, and inspiration, education, and adventure are the keys to bringing in tourists from all over the world and locals who come every week, rain or shine, winter or summer. Most of our programs as most of you know, even in dreary winter months, are standing room only. Even today, after nearly 6 years and 275 tours.

Watching the recent lecture on rocks and minerals offered at the Chetco Library during the hectic weekend of the Driftwood Festival, told me people in this community are hungry for knowledge and inspiration. Brenda, assistant librarian, counted over 100 people attending, far too many for the largest meeting room at the Chetco Library. She told me the next Adult lecture will probably require advance reservations in order to accommodate everyone wanting to attend. But she really needs a bigger room.

Dori Frost, children's librarian, also needs more room to hold her increasing numbers of youth involved in her many afterschool and weekend projects. She, too, brings standing-room-only crowds of parents and children ages 3-18.

Ever since I began KIDZART, the idea of forming a Discovery Center has been perking in my mind. Most community residents and business leaders are looking for something like a youth center than is far more than just a baby sitting service for latch-key kids. They, too, want something to inspire adults and kids beyond the schoolyard, after school hours with more offered than school curriculums. This would not be a college or a school, but a place for vocational training, creativity, and perhaps one-shot classes like drum-making, or the dozens of other great courses taught each summer by Michele Kalina. In fact, Michelle's

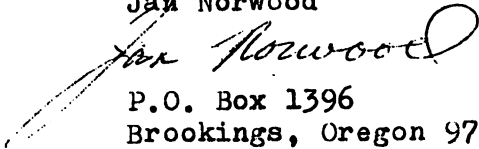
summer program would be a natural to use the space of this new building. Now especially that our schools will be remodeled, mostly during the summer months.

And, it is my understanding that in many classes there are waiting lists, so some kids can't just sign up for everything they want to do.

On Friday, April 13, I walked Azalea Park with Elmo Williams, discussing the idea of a center with him. He was most enthusiastic about it, as was Bill Farrell, former organizer of the annual Mayor's contest to earn money for our Youth Center. Both Dori and Brenda at the Library recognize the need for more room for their pet projects. Our organization, Hospitality Tours, has unlimited access for names of people with every conceivable talent under the sun, many who would no doubt love to volunteer their expertise to inspire an adult or child.

So, how do we go about getting this project off the ground and how soon can we see it come to fruition? In our group, there is no such thing as "No", and we try to turn every "What if?" into a "Why Not?" Even Congressman Peter DeFazio says there is money in the federal pie for something like this.

Jan Norwood



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PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING
July 26, 2001

Roll Call

Commissioners Present: Nina Canfield, Dori Frost, Craig Mickelson, Lorraine Williams, and Russ Fritz chair.

Commissioners Excused: Paul Prevenas, Nancy Shute.

Staff: City Manager, Leroy Blodgett, Community Development Director, Leo Lightle, Public Works Supervisor, Dennis Barlow.

Council Liaison: Councilor Francis Johns

Minutes: Minutes for June meeting were m/s/a.

Appearances:

Lee Rogers introduced Stacey Randolph who then discussed the history of KidTown Playground, both financially and in the fact that there were 1400 volunteers working together to build the park. Randolph expressed concerns that the current maintenance was not adequate as a result of lack of volunteers and interest in the playground after the area was given to the City and noting funds of \$3,000 were passed on to the City from the KidTown account and were likely depleted. Randolph noted the ground cover was not adequate and a portion of the perimeter fence was leaning and was possibly a safety risk.

Dave Lentz reported the fencing was sealed recently and the ground cover will be looked into.

Lee Rogers requested the Parks and Recreation Commission look into this situation and recommend this issue go to City Council to find funding for needed restoration. Rogers asked if Systems Development Fund is available for this.

Leo Lightle stated the funds were for specific projects only. Lightle stated the City was assured there would be volunteers for the park when the City took it over. He stated the park was rototilled and the Insurance Company approved the park. Lightle will go to the site and reevaluate and recommended the Commissioners do likewise.

Randolph stated the City has the specs and they should be reviewed.

Chair Fritz asked if volunteers are available and if not, could the group be re-established?

Randolph offered to help the City recruit volunteers and the community should be made aware of the need.

Commissioner Williams suggested the T.V. Station air the documentary made of the building of the park and also contact groups like the Scouts. Publicity to include the PTA, church groups and contact the paper for an article requesting funds and volunteers.

Commissioner Mickelson suggested asking for someone in the community to step forward and assume the role of starting a volunteer committee.

Chair Fritz addressed the Pilot Representative, Jeff St. Peter, and requested a story be printed in the paper. He asked the Commissioners to go tour the site and he feels that the issue should not go to the City at this time. Fritz will have some information for Randolph at the next meeting. Commissioner Williams stated her interest and would be happy to work with the project.

A. Stout Park: Memo From Commissioner Shute stating the Stout Park Grant was turned down and will be re-submitted January 2002. City Manager Blodgett confirmed there will be a representative going to Salem with a presentation for the Board.

B. Chetco Point: Commissioner Mickelson had nothing new to report.

C. Softball/Soccer Fields: No Report. The volleyball pit is ready for sand and the drainage is good. Chair Fritz walked the site and reported everything looked good.

D. Parks Master Plan: No Report

E. Skate Park: Nothing new to report. The softball field fence has been moved. Dreamland has been contacted and they will be here October 1. Skate Committee will be working on Park Rules and Regulations and in securing donations of materials and services.

F. SAY: Councilor Frances Johns reported sending 20 letters of invitation for the next meeting: Tuesday, July 31 at 7:00 p.m. Looking for positive input to get the ball rolling. Chair Fritz will give the SAY committee full support and attention.

Continued

Azalea Park: Councilor Williams reported a Saturday work party is scheduled and the park has no real problems with pests or other visitors. Recommended handing out publicity to visitors at concerts and events. Chair Fritz asked where the grant process stands. Williams has met with Frank Parker and Buzz Hansen and had information on line drawings and basic floor plans. Leo Lightle will work on the plumbing and demolition costs to use in the grant application. Leroy Blodgett will write a letter of support for the project to add to the packet. Permission to apply in the Azalea Park's name was supported by City Manager, Blodgett. Chair Fritz gave full support and encouragement.

Staff Announcements:

A. Financial Reports: Leroy Blodgett asked if Commissioners were receiving the financial reports and were they adequate. Commissioner Canfield asked if the funds for each individual park could be broken down into separate amounts in spending and balances. Blodgett stated no, as the supplies, materials, and labor were shared by all parks and to break it down may not be accurate. The money used for each park is based on need. Donations and grants are tracked and accounted for as designated.

C. Other: City Manager Blodgett presented an aerial photo of Azalea Park Bandshell as Dennis Barlow proposed building a parking lot connected to the entrance off of North Bank Chetco Rd. Removal and sale of 20-25 trees suggested. This would create approximately 80 parking spaces. Gravel would be used and work would be by City crews with the exception of pulling trees.

A motion made: To give staff authority to clear area near the bandshell for the purpose of parking.
m/s/p 5-yes 0-no

Leroy Blodgett discussed a possible addition of a permanent Concession/storage/restroom building at the bandshell by the Rotary. Continued discussion and more information will be provided. Volunteer picnic invitations were mailed for the August 25 date, 11:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.

Leo Lightle commented on the City's work crews and their performance of the work in the parks. The work crews do the majority of the work and it should be recognized that volunteers come and go. The Commission should be careful in assuming responsibility for projects created by volunteer groups. Chair Fritz agreed. Dennis Barrow reported the fence was down at the ball park and pipes and manholes were located.

Commissioner Comments:

Canfield: Requested City ordinances concerning pet waste in City Parks.
Blodgett will look into it.

Canfield: Reported overnight camping in the lower parking lot at Azalea Park.
Blodgett will alert Police and asks for those concerned to do so as well.

Williams: Would like the visitors in meetings to use microphones at the podium.
Blodgett will make it so.

Mickelson: Commends the staff for work and input on Skate Park.

Chair Fritz: Requests a look into black raspberries growing in Stout Park.

There was a m/s/p to adjourn.

Respectfully submitted,



Dori Frost, Commission Member