



Grabhorn Park Ad Hoc Committee Meeting Minutes

Hybrid Meeting

May 6, 2021 6:00 pm – 7:00 pm

Attendees: Cara Heinze, Michael Leipzig, Paul Fidrych, Dana Pricher, Mary Hindal, Andrew LaFrenz, Joel Haugen, Huell White, Isaac Butman, Jim Lykins, Rocky Schwalge, Nicole Ferreira, Monica Ahlers, Kevin Chavez, Marisa Jacobs, Dina Eaglestone, Brandon Lesowske, Deana Erhardt

Absent: JJ Duehren, Kim Holmes, Bryan Hammond, Ivy Freimuth, Brian Hoag

1. **Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 6.03 by Chair Cara Heinze.

1.1. **Review Agenda**

Rocky made a motion to approve the May 6, 2021 Agenda. Kevin seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

1.2. **Prior Meeting Minutes**

Kevin made a motion to approve the April 28, 2021 meeting minutes. Rocky seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

1.3. **Public Comment (10 Minutes)** – Councilor Lesowske thanked everyone who is participating in this endeavor, committee members and public alike. Councilor Lesowske stated that it is crucial that the community have a voice in the process, to show how community engagement can be beneficial to the outcomes of the work of the committee, and to help by bringing unique expertise and representing the goals and wishes of the community as a whole to the process. Brandon thanked the members of the committee and those engaged in the process.

Deana Erhardt stated that she was at the meeting to talk with the committee about the need for softball fields. There is a large community that would benefit from and use that amenity. Currently girls' softball groups depend on the schools to allow them to practice and play, whereas boys baseball does not have the same restrictions. It would be great for these girls to have the community to develop this amenity, and it would be nice to have equity in this manner.

Jim stated he is interested in meeting the other members of the committee. Cara stated she would add that to the agenda at small group assignments.

2. **New Business**

2.1. **Public Comment Discussion** – Cara stated that there is a lot of information to cover during the short tenure of the committee and she wants to ensure that there is time to cover all that, as well as time to hear from the public, and that the public have ample time to have input and will present three possible options for how the committee could go about hearing public comment.

First, public comment could be taken in written form only, the minimal requirement for public meetings. Second, public comment could be combined with 10 minutes of verbal public comment during each meeting, with a three-minute cap per speaker. Third would be having



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written comment and an open discussion with the community as a separate event. Cara asked for other possible options that that committee would like to discuss. No members raised other possible options for accepting public comment.

Cara asked for a vote on each option. Option one received three votes, option two received four votes and option three received four votes.

Cara repeated the vote for options two and three. Option two received two votes. Option three received six votes. Cara asked for a motion to adopt a separate forum for public comment. Rocky asked if this was the only option the public would have. Isaac stated that public meetings require public comment regardless of this decision, and that written comment is required to be accepted. Kevin made a motion to accept written public comment during meetings, no verbal public comment during meetings, and verbal public comment during a separate public forum. Dana seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

2.2. Homework Review – Cara opened a discussion on the information provided at the last meeting, and asked if anyone had any thoughts concerns, question about these items. Kevin had a question about the Grabhorn parcel. It was bought a year ago, and the majority is in the floodplain, and why/how the City was interested in buying that particular piece of land. Huell answered that as long as anything going in that area is not a structure—like an enclosed building—it would be allowed. Joel stated that as long as items are not in the floodway, they would be ok. With that property being poorly situated for buildings, but being able to accept other types of amenities, it as a good choice for a park. Isaac stated that available, open land, within City limits is hard to come by.

Cara stated that in terms of community needs, concerns about not having certain amenities available to the public has been a feature of public commentary for years. Based on the Grabhorn survey it was clear that there were far more ideas and needs than available space. This provides an exciting opportunity to involve the community in bridging the gap between the Grabhorn property and the needs of the community and stated that she hopes that everyone comes to these meetings excited to engage with this opportunity, and to keep this in mind as people read through the comments and amenities suggestions. Cara reiterated that one of the goals of the committee is to listen to the community and stated that this is a unique opportunity to bring the City, the public, and the committee together to work on creating this new park.

Kevin thought of something to add to the public comment aspect of the committee. Kevin suggested that a physical instalment be placed on the property where people could provide interactive comment about what they would like to see. This would be an interesting way to share information with the public, and a way to engage with the community directly throughout the process. Being innovative with how the committee goes through this process would be a really great way to move forward. Jim stated that he agrees that this would be a great idea to give people an opportunity to directly engage with the work being done. Jim mentioned that one additional item could be a sign or explanation posted at the same place referencing received public comment and that the public can access the committee directly, as well as through whatever forum is presented physically. Monica stated that she supports that idea, and that the collection, analyzing, and usage of this data would be important as well.



2.3. Small Group Assignments and group introductions- Cara stated that the group will be divided into three groups to look at different aspects of the recommendation: amenities, watershed and environment, and the road and pool. Each group will have 4-5 members and will meet outside of public meetings to dig into each topic area, figure out what data exists, what data they might need, and what their path forward is to help create a single recommendation to Council. Cara stated she would like to make sure that each member has an opportunity to talk about what brought you here, and what group they would like to be a part of.

Jim stated he is here for the dog park and would like to be part of the amenities group. Jim noted that it is a highly used part of Veterans Park, and there is a large community interested in this.

Michael stated he's part of the Parks and Recreation Committee and is leaning towards being part of the road and pool.

Paul stated he is part of the Parks and Recreation Committee and is leaning towards the road and pool.

Mary stated she is interested in being part of the road and pool.

Andrew stated he is involved in health and welfare and would be okay with wherever he can help lookout for the health of the community.

Rocky stated he is the president of the soccer club, and amenities would be in line with his interest group as a representative of around 500 families.

Nicole stated she is the president of the Scappoose Bay Watershed Council and can float as needed.

Monica stated she is representing the neighborhood by Veteran's Park and would like to be part of either the amenities or watershed group.

Kevin stated he represents the community at-large, and is okay with floating wherever needed, and mentioned he has a background in architecture, and is gravitating towards the watershed group, but is also interested in pool and road.

Cara stated the group leaders will reach out in the next few days to set a meeting to begin work.

2.4. Best Practices and Flood Plain Change – Huell reviewed a small change to the floodplain along South Scappoose Creek that effects the Grabhorn parcel. This change made the floodplain slightly smaller at the southern end of the Grabhorn parcel. Isaac reviewed the parks planning best practices Staff Report that was presented to City Council earlier this spring. There are two main areas that best practices in park planning are found; best practice for the overall process park planning takes, and best practices relating to the physical design of parks. There is no direct guidance on what amenities exactly should be included to make the "perfect" park. The "right" park is a function of the unique context of a property, the land, the community and its



needs, other parks in the area, contextual features, as well as land use/planning context. Best practices in this case will likely be defined as each smaller group works through their topic area and discovers what the unique context, requirements, and community needs are in relation to their topic. As this becomes clear, it will help define what the “best practice” is, and once that is determined, then, if they wish, they can research specific design and implementation guidance for individual amenities and/or features.

3. Announcements and Next Meetings

Rocky asked about what happens if a member misses a meeting. Isaac replied that the alternates are there for this purpose; to ensure that there are enough voting members to conduct business. Kevin asked about how many people can meet before a quorum is created. Isaac stated that up to 7 members can meet without invoking a public meeting. Kevin asked how the groups will interact and cross communicate about ideas. Cara stated that these bi-monthly meetings could play a role in this, but that this committee is blazing a trail and that can change. Initially it would be best for the groups to stay a little distanced to jump start the work and really have time to dig deep into their topic, but that as time goes on integration will be necessary. Jim recommended that the committee figure out the detail for the public listening session sooner rather than later. Huell stated that staff can send out a poll to determine what sort of forum and when would be best. Cara stated she would like Huell and Isaac to figure this out if that was ok. Huell stated he and Isaac would do so early next week. Dana asked about how the groups were going to go about integrating their ideas, and how the committee is going to create a recommendation for the new park. Cara stated that the initial step is to dig into what the needs are for each area and begin presenting ideas to the group about the things that they learn. From those presentations the group will start building a cohesive idea about what the park could look like. Huell reminded the committee that the pool cost survey is live through June 3, 2021, and the survey is on track to reach a valid sample size for the community.

3.1. Next Meetings

- May 20, 2021
- June 3, 2021
- June 17, 2021

Meeting Adjourned at 7:01 pm.

For questions about these minutes, contact Isaac Butman, 503.543.7184 ibutman@cityofscappoose.org
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