



**SCAPPOOSE**  
*Oregon*

## **Parks and Recreation Committee Meeting Minutes**

**Scappoose City Hall, 33568 E Columbia Ave., Scappoose, OR 97056**

**September 20, 2018 6:00 pm – 6:45 pm**

### **Attendees:**

David Powers, Peter McHugh, Beth Zelfer, Jolene Jonas, Lindsey Goodwick, Dana Pricher, Bryan Hammond, Joel Haugen, Alex Rains, Doug Nassimbene, Huell White

### **Absent:**

Jeannine Duehren (JJ), Alyse Lansing, Cara Heinze, Kristen Person, Megan Greisen

1. **CALL TO ORDER** - The meeting was called to order at 6:01 pm by Committee Chair Dave Powers.
  - 1.1 Agenda additions – Three items were added to the agenda.
  - 1.2 Meeting minutes from 7/19 were approved.
  - 1.3 Public comments – None.

2. **City Updates and Discussion**

#### **2.1 Introduce new City Staff member**

Dave Powers introduced Huell White, the City's new intern.

#### **2.2 Committee Appointments/Terms mad by Council on 8/20**

Committee members were alerted to their terms of reappointment. Chair asked for any objections – none were raised.

#### **2.3 Update on Vista Thinning Project**

Alex Rains and Doug Nassimbene provided an update on the Vista Thinning Project. The project is in its final stages. Alex mentioned that the city is looking at the water tower situation at Vista to ensure no trees fall on or damage the water tower. Dana Pricher – who has acted in the capacity of a community liaison between the Committee and the Vista community – gave informal testimony on Vista's status, in that the site is looking great. Dana reported that some residents in the Vista community were under the impression that a parking lot was being constructed, and she expressed concern that NW Bella Vista Dr. has become caked with mud/debris from the large trucks carrying timber away from the Vista site. Doug Nassimbene reported that he is aware of the mud/debris and will rectify the issue shortly. Dave thanked the city and Dana for their work on the project and the community outreach aspect.



#### **2.4 Update on Chief Concomly Park**

Alex reported that the Chief Concomly Park Project is proceeding as planned and will run into spring 2019. The city is looking at installing playground equipment by summer of 2019, should the City's budget allow.

#### **2.5 Update on Scappoose Creek Restoration Project**

Dave commented that the Scappoose Creek Restoration Project has been highly impressive. Dave spoke about aspects and features of the project that will have positive impacts on Veteran's Park and Chief Concomly Park. The improvements will ensure safety and accessibility to both of those parks. There is some planting work that will take place in the coming year. Beth Zelfer asked about what effect the restoration project will have on swimming in the creek and related liability issues. Alex reminded the committee that according to the Municipal Code (Chapter 12.16.020 H.), the city does not allow swimming on municipal property. The city also has existing "no swimming" signage posted near the creek in that area. Lindsey voiced concern about potential development along the creek. Dave stated that it would be great if the city could look at an easement from Buxton for trails or public access use; Dave will speak with the City Manager to see if there is something that could be discussed at the next committee meeting. Councilor Haugen mentioned that he believes any development along the creek is unlikely in the near future. Dana asked the committee if there will be a connecting trail from that Veteran's Park or Concomly Park to the Crown-Zellerbach Trail (hereinafter "CZ Trail"). Councilor Haugen recalled that City Consultant Nick Sund asked about a public outreach effort to create a phased trail project. Councilor Haugen indicated that property owners would have to be a part of the equation, but such an effort would be focused on the long-term. Dave stated that as of now, no trails are being installed as a part of the Creek Restoration Project. There exists the potential to do so in the future, but the grant funders for the Creek Restoration Project required a specific focus on restoration. As a final note on this project, Dana mentioned that the fill from the creek that was sent to Miller Park has been well received by the public – the intention of which was to combat standing water issues.

#### **2.6 Update on park maintenance**

Doug Nassimbene provided an update on Public Works efforts related to park maintenance. The Public Works sprayer has been fixed, enabling the department to improve greenery at Veteran's Park. At Miller Park, Doug reported that fill from the Creek Project had been added, wood chips were added to the playground, and staff made general improvements to the site. Staff goals for Heritage Park consist of general maintenance and continuing to attract community events. Dana asked about the status of water usage for the fountain at Heritage. Doug will look at the water usage reports for the committee. The fountain will be shut off during the winter. Watts House has been scheduled for re-painting in 2019. Staff is working on controlling weeds along the CZ Trail. Dana mentioned that citizens have expressed concern to her about the construction that is taking place along the CZ Trail.



## **2.7 Update on Friends of Scappoose Parks (FSP)**

Huell gave a brief update as to what function Friends of Scappoose Parks was intended to serve, and what would need to be done going forward in its current state. Dave stated that FSP seems to be a special interest group and expressed doubt as to the efficacy of FSP. Bryan and Dana commented that FSP is still developing and needs more guidance from the Parks and Recreation Committee and City Staff. FSP should focus on fundraising, volunteering, and tasks prioritized by the Parks and Recreation Committee and City Staff. Dave mentioned that FSP meetings seem to serve the function of encouraging attendees to submit park ideas to the city – a redundant effort as the city now has the Parks Master Plan and a public comment section during the Parks and Recreation Committee meetings. Dave agreed with Bryan and Dana, reiterating the need for more guidance from the Committee. Councilor Haugen stated that the Parks Committee should fold the FSP monthly meeting into the regular agenda as a sub-committee and made an argument as to why. Councilor Haugen also mentioned that FSP as a Parks sub-committee would bring more members of the public to Parks Committee meetings during the public comment portion of the meeting agenda. The committee members came to a consensus that FSP should be a sub-committee; Dana requested that an action item be placed on the agenda for the 10.18 meeting. Friends of Columbia County was mentioned as a successful organization with goals similar to FSP's – Huell agreed to contact that group and report back to the committee. Dave recommended that the Committee have a focus session for FSP to identify the top five specific priority tasks for FSP. Identification of park priorities for FSP would require input from City Staff and consultation of the Parks Master Plan. Dave also asked committee members for three individuals to form the FSP sub-committee, to which Lindsey, Bryan, and Jolene expressed interest in.

## **2.8 Bylaws Amendments**

Per the recommendation of the City Attorney, additions to the Parks Committee's bylaws were proposed. A motion to adopt the bylaw amendments passed without objection.

## **2.9 Bryan's List**

Bryan raised the question of developing a list of which issues members of the public are coming to the Parks Committee with. He also asked the group if there exists a way for the Committee to track those issues. Dave stated that while tracking issues raised by the public is important, the Committee needs to focus on what it identifies as priorities. For example, objections to the idea of installing soccer fields at Concomly were raised, which was initially a priority raised by members of the public. However, if the committee does effectively track these issues, the Committee may be better positioned for future opportunities. Beth raised the concern that assigning work to committee members could become burdensome, but the committee could collectively manage tracking issues raised by the public. Dana added that the Committee could track how often they are asked about certain issues, which in turn could drive prioritization efforts by the Committee.



### **3.0 Harper's Playground**

Lindsey added an agenda item about Harper's Playground, a Portland-based nonprofit organization. Lindsey is willing to reignite the relationship with Harper's to explore the idea of incorporating natural and inclusive park play equipment. City Staff will work with Lindsey on inviting Harper's for a short presentation during the 10.18 Parks Committee meeting. Dave mentioned that advertising initiatives like that of Harper's more broadly could attract interest in FSP. The Committee is focused on already identified objectives in the near term but, in the future, more inclusive play could be a goal of the City as we add new playground equipment. This issue might be worth bringing up at the Committee's goal setting session in January.

### **3.1 Bryan's Pump Track**

Bryan introduced and explained his idea of a bicycle pump track in Veteran's Park. Bryan mentioned successful examples in Portland Parks and Recreation. Dave said that the Committee should focus on the park facilities identified in the Parks Master Plan. The Committee liked the pump track idea; however, the proposed site raises several concerns. Alex mentioned that the pump track idea was discussed with the City Manager and Public Works Director – both of which concluded that the site location identified in Bryan's proposal would place the project in a flood way. Furthermore, the use of dirt fill for building the track at Veteran's could have implications for the ecosystem of Scappoose Creek.

### **3.2 Bemidji Sculpture Walk**

Councilor Haugen spoke briefly about an art program – Bemidji Sculpture Walk – that could be incorporated in the City's parks. Additionally, a parks-art connection could have some sort of relationship with the Main Street Program.

### **Announcements and Next Meetings**

October 18, 2018 – Tentatively scheduled presentation

## **4. Meeting Adjourned at 7:04 pm**

**Meeting minutes approved by Parks and Recreation Committee on October 18<sup>th</sup>, 2018.**

For questions about these minutes, please contact Huell White at [hwhite@cityofscappoose.org](mailto:hwhite@cityofscappoose.org) or 503-543-7184

This meeting will be conducted in a handicap accessible room. If special accommodations are needed, contact City Recorder Susan Reeves at 503-543-7146, Ext. 224. TTY 503-378-5938.