



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

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

**October 18, 2018 6:00 pm – 6:45 pm**

### **Attendees:**

David Powers, Peter McHugh, Beth Zelfer, Jolene Jonas, Lindsey Goodwick, Dana Pricher, Bryan Hammond, Alyse Lansing, Kristin Person, Megan Greisen, Cara Heinze, Joel Haugen, Alex Rains, Dave Sukau, Huell White, Jim Cardarelli

### **Absent:**

Jeannine Duehren (JJ)

1. **CALL TO ORDER** - The meeting was called to order at 6:01 pm by Committee Chair David Powers.
  - 1.1 Agenda additions – The agenda was approved as is.
  - 1.2 Meeting minutes from 9/20 were approved.
  - 1.3 Public comments – None.

2. **City Updates and Discussion**

#### **2.1 Confirm Contact Details**

City Intern Huell White passed around a list to confirm contact details for committee members.

#### **2.2 Public Art**

One week ago, Councilor Haugen emailed a document to Parks and Recreation Committee (hereinafter 'the Committee') members about a public art program from Bemidji, MN. Initially, the program was met with considerable community opposition, however, over an eight-year period, the program has gained widespread support and has completed several art-related projects. McMinnville and Lake Oswego have also started public art programs in their city parks. Councilor Haugen suggested that the Committee establish a subcommittee for a public art in parks program. Councilor Haugen also mentioned that an internationally known rock sculpting artist lives in Scappoose; Councilor Haugen believes there are folks in the community who are more than willing to fulfill a public art subcommittee role. Attendee Jim Cardarelli has been working with Cathedral Coffee (café) on a community art project, by which artists meet twice per month and display their artwork at the café. Councilor Haugen believes that Cardarelli is a great resource and starting point for engaging the artist community.



Councilor Haugen stated that the Committee should adopt a formal resolution for initiating a public art program – including and mirroring the successes of other cities. Lindsey Goodwick asked for clarification as to what a public art program would look like. Councilor Haugen used the example of a group of committed residents in Springfield, OR – volunteers organized and slowly worked on gaining support and starting the program. Councilor Haugen suggested that a subcommittee, with direction from the Committee could help draw together and direct resources for implementing a program.

Peter McHugh commented that the City of Newberg has a similar type of public art program; that city also had an arts commission, through which funding was secured. If Scappoose had such an organization, funding to support arts-related initiatives could be pursued. Councilor Haugen commented that the Newberg exhibit is impressive, and due in part to a collaboration with George Fox University. Councilor Haugen mentioned that urban renewal efforts could play a factor in getting resources for a public art initiative.

David Powers asked for opinions from the remaining Committee members. Committee members generally expressed positive feedback to the public art concept and elaborated on the plethora of ideas that could be implemented alongside a public art program. Dana Pricher raised the concern of potential costs incurred by the City for installing footings for sculptures, as well as providing for security and vandalism prevention of art that may end up on display in public spaces. Powers mentioned that art need not be permanent, rather a rotating exhibit could be one way to display artwork. Powers concluded that the Committee should start by forming a subcommittee to determine what the structure should look like to make this a reality.

The Committee asked White to draft a letter of support from the Committee to the City Council articulating the recommendation to form a subcommittee and explore a public art program. Powers asked if everyone was on board with moving forward with the creation of a subcommittee, and if the City has any concerns with the public art concept. Public Works Director Dave Sukau expressed the concern that any public art displayed in public spaces should be tastefully done, as it will be visible to the entire public. Assistant to the City Manager Alex Rains expressed concerns about City involvement, insofar that there are certain ways in which the city cannot be involved, especially when grant money is concerned. Rains also mentioned that a public art initiative should start with support from the business community.

Councilor Haugen expressed the idea of placing artwork in the council chambers. Pricher brought up the idea of involving the Community Center (senior center), to see if they would be interested in this. Councilor Greisen supports Rain's idea about reaching out to business owners about boosting interest and involving local artists through that conduit. Councilor Haugen asked if White could articulate this public-private partnership approach.



Sukau voiced concern about displaying artwork in official buildings; donated artwork does not raise an issue, but if there is an intention to sell art or display art that is for sale, that would likely become problematic. Councilor Greisen and Powers agreed – stating that there needs to be a clear distinction in the process. Councilor Haugen mentioned that the City of McMinnville public art program has a good system in place. Councilor Greisen added that Fultano's Pizza has some sort of partnership with artists. Sukau mentioned that the Community Club could be a potential partner.

### **2.3 Parks Update**

Sukau started the parks update with the concerns that have been raised about the Creekview cottonwood tree. The tree is generally healthy; however, the City is soliciting bids for an arborist to perform maintenance on the tree. Crown Zellerbach Road is still being affected by the heavy traffic from active construction projects in that area – Sukau reiterated that members of the public who have concerns about issues on Crown Zellerbach Road should contact Public Works. Warm weather has permitted the fountain to remain open and running, at least until the colder temperatures and rain arrives. Recent flowerbed planting at Veterans' Park is coming along well and looks great. The contractors at Concomly Park are moving twice as fast as expected through the project, with a completion date well ahead of schedule. Rains added that a play structure for Concomly Park will be worked into the 2019 budget. The Creekside apartment complex will be temporarily impacted because of utility work along Seely Lane right in front of the site. Sukau reiterated that the City relies on the community to let city staff know about what is going on in parks and what the Public Works Department can do to address public concerns.

Alyse Lansing raised a question about a follow up on water usage for the Heritage Park fountain – a discussion point from the June and July Committee meetings. Sukau did state that the fountain uses too much water, however, Public Works is monitoring usage. Sukau added that the fountain's water use is not critical, but the process of recycling or repurposing the water from the fountain would be cost prohibitive – an investment that Sukau estimates would take 10-12 years to break even. There are concerns about how often the fountain is running; there were electrical issues with the fountain button that were recently fixed. Furthermore, the fountain is operated via a button that can be pressed by anyone. For this reason, the water from the fountain is not consistent enough for watering the grounds at Heritage Park.

Rains announced that the City has been accepted into the National Parks Service's Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance Program to plan trails for the Vista property. Rains also mentioned that Columbia County has sent an offer with conditions for potentially transferring Chapman Landing to the City. The thinning project at the Vista property has been completed, but contractors and staff are working to tidy up the property, such as seeding in spots where the ground has been disturbed. City staff advised the Committee that residents should refrain from entering the Vista property through the winter so that the seeding can take and provide erosion



control with healthy vegetation by spring. Dana – Committee members expressed their desire to hold a tour of the site to showcase the work that has been done by the City. For the integrity of seedling vegetation and erosion control, any tour of the site would have to wait until the summer of 2019. Committee members considered advertising or promoting a parks' tour event at the Annual Town Meeting or in the City's newsletter. Powers stated that such an effort would need to be undertaken by committee members, rather than city staff.

#### **2.4 Friends of Scappoose Parks**

Powers stated that FSP is just not ready yet. There is not the correct amount of community input or leadership – which is needed to define FSP's role. Goodwick is willing to coach interested committee members or members of the public that are willing do some fundraising for FSP.

Pricher contacted an official at Portland Parks and Recreation (hereinafter 'PP&R') who has experience with 'friends' groups. According to PP&R, for a 'friends' group to be successful, a very interested group of community members need to drive it and work on a single project, and then they can move on forward from there. PP&R did said that that a project proposal or event proposal form would be a good thing to have, which would help the Parks Committee in how to steer FSP in the right direction. After that process, a project could be brought to the PRC. The Committee is not city staff, but rather serves as an advisory body that can help bridge that gap between interested members of the public and city staff. Dana has materials and notes from PP&R and how to implement a friends group.

Councilor Haugen commented that such a document would be great for the city website. Dana believes it could be a great way for connecting the public with how parks are maintained and built. Powers asked if there is some sort of form we need for businesses, if someone wished to donate. Goodwick recalled the example of the Garden Club and their concept for pollinator gardens in Concomly Park.

Dana clarified that such a form would be for something like an event or a small project that residents could do in parks, not necessarily park improvements or requesting that the City spend money. Councilor Greisen added that this form could be used to see what residents want to do in parks and how, or if, the City has a yes/no response.

Sukau commented that he would hate to see FSP fall apart and hopes that someone could promote this and look for interested people. FSP needs a leader. The Annual Town Meeting could be a way to solicit support and community leaders that could lead FSP to success. However, city staff did acknowledge that there are some obstacles that community groups will have to jump through, especially if volunteers are minors.

Goodwick asked what precisely the City needs as it relates parks. City staff emphasized the fact that funding is really the top priority for parks and recreation. The city has a list of projects in



the 2017 Parks Master Plan, the majority of which cannot be funded. Currently, the city relies almost entirely on grant funding, which can never be guaranteed. Concomly Park was made possible by a \$450,000 grant, as money from the City's budget was insufficient. Originally, FSP was intended to be a fundraising mechanism for the City's parks system. Fundraising is the help that the City needs. City staff voiced their concern about adding projects to the list of what has already been conceptualized in the Master Plan.

Councilor Haugen asked the committee about attach this potential form (mentioned by Pricher above) to FSP. Pricher clarified that her PP&R contact emphasized that friends groups are typically for small projects; Pricher introduced the idea that the Committee could form a small subcommittee tasked with fundraising. Hammond commented that FSP is a great idea, and if FSP takes off successfully, it could become its own standalone organization. Hammond also agreed that FSP should be advertised at the Annual Town Meeting. Powers concluded that what Pricher is proposing could be a great way to start giving FSP the focus that it needs – whether it be maintenance, or displaying public artwork, or fundraising. Pricher stated that she can take on the task of making a form for the city that residents can fill out and is willing to be a contact for FSP. Committee members – most of whom were members on the two FSP meetings that were held during the summer – agreed that a separate regular meeting of FSP was not necessary.

#### **Announcements**

None

**The meeting was adjourned 7:09 pm. The next meeting will be held on August 16, 2018 at 6:00 pm in the City Council Chambers.**

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

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