



SCAPPOOSE
Oregon

Parks and Recreation Committee Meeting Minutes

Council Chambers, 33568 E. Columbia Ave., Scappoose, OR 97056

February 21st, 2019 6:00 pm – 6:45 pm

Attendees:

Dave Powers, J.J. Duehren, Lindsey Goodwick, Pete McHugh, Kristin Person, Bryan Hammond, Joel Haugen, Alex Rains, Dave Sukau, Huell White, Dan Miller

Absent:

Dana Pricher, Alyse Lansing

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 without additions.

1.2 Meeting minutes from 01.17 were approved without modification.

1.3 Public comments – Two students from St. Helens attended the meeting for a class assignment. Consequently, one of the students works for the City of St. Helens' Parks and Recreation Department and was asked for comment and input by committee members.

2. **City Updates and Discussion**

2.1 General Updates

J.J. Duehren informed the committee that the negotiations between the City of Scappoose and Columbia County successfully concluded, resulting in the transfer of the Chapman Landing property to the city. Committee members asked about the status of the Scappoose Creek Restoration project in the aftermath of the flood on February 12th, 2019. Council liaison Joel Haugen spoke about the upcoming Chess Tournament on March 2nd. He stated that the Committee or Friends of Scappoose Parks (hereinafter 'FSP') might be interested in supporting or volunteering with the tournament in the future. Councilor Haugen also asked for a show of hands from the Committee to see how many members would be interested in a parks district – funding mechanism for parks – in line with the boundaries of the School District. The Committee unanimously supported the idea.

Public Works Director Dave Sukau provided an update on the city's park system. Public Works has continued routine maintenance on park properties. For the first time ever, Miller Park saw



zero flooding from the February 12th flood event. Public Works plans on clearing blackberry overgrowth at Chapman Landing in the immediate future. Construction and landscaping of Chief Concomly Park will resume in the coming weeks. New playground equipment, purchased in part with assistance from a grant from the Oregon Public Health Institute, will arrive next week. When Chief Concomly Park opens in July, the full range of park amenities will be available.

2.2 National Parks Service Presentation on Vista Property Trail Conceptual Plan

Dan Miller has worked for nearly two decades for the Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance Program – a component part of the National Parks Service (hereinafter ‘NPS’). The program provides jurisdictions with technical assistance rather than funding support through grant monies. Most project requests that the NPS program works on typically last about one year.

Miller met with city staff in November 2018, where he assessed the Vista property and learned what the city had envisioned for the site, including the project’s challenges and opportunities. What follows is the phased approach to different opportunities that are available for the site. Also note that NPS developed this conceptual plan through a cost-sensitive lens.

Phase 1 looks largely at a parking location for 10 – 15 vehicles on Bella Vista Dr., as it has a suitable flat area roughly 200 meters past the existing gate. The parking area would likely be gravel to start with – the only significant cost of this phase. Hogan Butte in Gresham, OR has a very similar amenity that is comparable. Miller mentioned that fencing at the Vista property is already quite extensive. The existing logging road is just over one mile in length currently.

Phase 2 looks at adding some trails to the system. Hiking trails would be approximately 3 – 4 feet in width and include “side benching” in some areas. A major creek runs through the middle of the Vista property, and the logging roads are atop ridgelines. These ridges are very steep, therefore any trails will require “full bench,” or complete excavation for the trail’s construction. The existing logging road allows for hiking loop opportunities. Approximately two miles of trail are proposed in this phase. A viewpoint could be installed in the southeastern corner of the property, which could contain a mini-viewing platform. Major trail construction would be largely contained to the northeastern section of the property. Crossing the creek would require a small pedestrian bridge. Councilor Haugen asked for a rough cost estimate for this phase. Miller replied that a mile of trail is probably going to cost between \$15,000 and \$20,000 if built by a trail building contractor and excluding the bridge. The grade for the trails in this phase would be between 3 – 6%. Miller’s next step for this project will be providing cost estimates to the city. Miller’s recommendation for the Vista property across all phases would be solely hiking, and possibly biking as the property is quite small for the proposed uses. Furthermore, the West side of the property has some erosion concerns – a common feature for this region of the Cascades Range.

Phase 3 includes a re-route of the steep section of the aforementioned steep logging road, adding 0.2 miles of trail to the system.



Long Term, Phase 4 – Bike amenities are included in this part of the conceptual plan. Miller mentioned that adding bike amenities to the plan was challenging due to the relatively small size of the property and topography. A 3 – 4-acre spot was selected for a bike park. He mentioned that the purpose of a bike park is to concentrate technical trail features in one spot for mountain bikes. There are several options available for this type of feature but keeping the design features conservative will keep maintenance costs and concerns within reason. In this phase of the plan, the dirt logging road would then be open to allow cyclists to directly ride to the bike park from the gate entrance on Bella Vista Dr.

Long Term, Phase 5 would include the bike park and a descent route. The descent route would be intended for those cyclists looking for more trail mileage back down towards the entrance/exit of the Vista property. The descent route would be a bike-only trail and one-way (downhill). Another trail segment would be mixed-use – pedestrians and cyclists – one-way downhill for cyclists, both directions for pedestrians. Miller added that lower grades for trails will result in less maintenance and more trail mileage. The bike loop (from entrance gate, the bike park, and the decent trail) would be gentle enough to allow for families with children to utilize this amenity.

Chairperson Powers raised concerns about pedestrian-cyclist separation and safety concerns, as well as concerns raised by the neighborhood's residents. Sukau stated that the idea behind the phased concept is to warm the community up to the idea of trails at Vista. City staff has recommended that the Vista trails be done gradually and over time. City staff also cited their concerns about ADA accessibility. Miller is confident that there is enough space and proper grade for creating ADA accessibility for the Bella Vista parking location. The city is also concerned with keeping Vista accessible to emergency vehicles.

Miller also mentioned that this program could be a very attractive project for grant funding from the Oregon State Recreation Program. The city did apply for that grant but was not funded, however, encouraged to reapply once a conceptual plan had been developed. Bryan Hammond mentioned that the bike amenities are unlikely to attract the more "extreme mountain bikers," rather they would elect to visit Stubb Stewart State Park. Chairperson Powers added that the city should consider long term issues, such as more powerful electric bicycles and what impact they may have on the proposed trails. There was consensus among Committee members that a gradual and phased approach to the project was the most appropriate course of action.

Assistant to the City Manager Alex Rains stated that the next step for the project will be a work session with the City Council.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:01 PM.

Announcements

Program Analyst Huell White reminded the Committee that the City, FSP, Scappoose Library, and the Community Club are working collaboratively to hold an Earth Day event on Saturday,



April 20th. White also passed around a sign-up sheet for those Committee members that were interested in volunteering either with FSP or the event in some capacity.

The meeting was adjourned 7:00 pm. The next meeting will be held on March 21st, 2019 in City Council Chambers at 6:00 pm.

For questions about these minutes, contact Huell White, 503-543-7184 or hwhite@cityofscappoose.org

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