



Parks and Recreation Committee Meeting Minutes

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

November 12th, 2019 6:00 pm – 6:45 pm

Attendees:

Cara Heinze, Lindsey Goodwick, Bryan Hammond, Alyse Lansing, Dana Pricher, JJ Duehren, Kim Holmes-Kantrowitz, Councilor Joel Haugen, Huell White, Hunter Tibbals, Kim Tibbals, five students from Scappoose High School

Absent:

Kristin Person

1. **CALL TO ORDER** - The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Committee Chair Cara Heinze.

1.1 Review Agenda

Approved without modification.

1.2 Approval of prior meeting minutes

Meeting minutes from 10.08.2019 motion to approve made by Dana Pricher, seconded by Bryan Hammond, approved unanimously.

1.3 Public comments

The Scappoose High School students introduced themselves. They were in attendance for a Civics' class assignment. Committee members implored the students to consider applying to the Committee, at least in that the Committee is interested in having a student liaison to the Committee from Scappoose High School. Hunter and Kim Tibbals introduced themselves. The Tibbals recently moved to Scappoose to retire but are very interested in volunteer service and participating in whatever way they can to support the community.



2. City Updates and Discussion

2.1 Welcome new SPRC member

Huell White introduced the Committee's newest member – Kim Holmes-Kantrowitz. Holmes-Kantrowitz discussed her background and her excitement to support the fabulous parks system in Scappoose.

2.2 Election of new vice-chair

Since Pete McHugh has been appointed to the Scappoose City Council, he is no longer eligible to serve on the Parks Committee. Therefore, White informed the Committee that the members would need to elect a new vice-chair pursuant to the SPRC Bylaws. Lindsey Goodwick volunteered to be considered for the open vice-chair position. Pricher made a motion to elect Goodwick, which was seconded by Hammond. Goodwick was unanimously elected to be the vice-chair.

2.3 City Update

Huell White and other members reiterated for the audience that there remains one open full member position on the Committee, as well as two alternate positions. The Committee has been very interested in having students from Scappoose High School on the Committee, even if only in a liaison capacity.

White delivered the City Update to the Committee. White reported that Public Works continues on a "business as usual" basis. Field Services Supervisor Doug Nassimbene requested that the Committee advise their neighbors and friends to keep their leaf piles out of the street, as the leaves can clog the street sweeper. White also told the Committee that the National Park Service-funded Vista Trail Plan should soon be finalized by the consultant and will be presented to the City Council. White mentioned that the City has a Portland State MPA student working on the Scappoose Creek Trail Plan as his thesis project over the next several months.

2.4 Friends of Scappoose Parks (FSP) Update

Pricher gave a quick refresher as to what FSP's mission is – volunteer service, fundraising, and community event planning. Pricher reported that FSP had recently had a volunteer service day at Heritage Park to tend to the plants that were replaced around the fountain during the Earth Day Festival, but no one attended. Pricher reported that, depending on how the plants weather the winter, they might add some plants during the next Earth Day. Pricher reported that FSP is working with the Public Works Director on signage and footings for Veterans Park provided by the Scappoose Bay Watershed Council. The signage will include photos and information about



the native plants and creek at that location. Pricher also stated that there are signs ready for the plants that have not quite reached maturity. Another item which FSP wants to start work on after Thanksgiving is forming a planning committee for the 2020 Earth Day Festival. FSP has funds available from their Community Enhancement Program (CEP) funds that were awarded for Fiscal Year 2019-2020. While Earth Day for 2019 was planned in a rather short period of time, it is much more preferable to start that process early. Several members expressed interest in volunteering – an identified need from the Earth Day de-brief in May 2019. Pricher stated that we should aim for a zero-waste approach to the event and asked the high school students in the audience if they have some relevant projects, coursework, or would like to get involved, to contact Huell White at the City.

Pricher informed the Committee that she has been hired as the new coordinator for the Scappoose Bay Watershed Council (SBWC). One of the projects that Pricher is working on at SBWC is identifying and researching grant funding for projects related to the watershed. One such funding opportunity that Pricher reported might be available to the City for park-related purposes would be the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB). Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) used to offer funding opportunities for this region, but has since shifted their funding priorities to the east of the dam.

2.5 Review of Parks Master Plan

At the last meeting, the Committee asked if they could review the Parks Master Plan and have an at-length discussion of the goals they recommended to Council a year ago. Chair Cara Heinze asked if White would be able to provide the Committee and audience with an overview of what a master plan is.

White gave a summary of what master plans are, what function they serve, and why they are important. Local governments produce master plans for each of the large categories of infrastructure, including transportation, water, wastewater, parks, and facilities. Master plans are: (1) required under Oregon law; (2) expensive endeavors that catalog a wide range of needed and aspirational projects funded by local governments; (3) include current inventory, repair and maintenance needs, potential opportunities, and funding available for that specific set of investments; (4) compile public/Council feedback as to how projects are prioritized for funding; and lastly (5) are intended to cover a 20-year study period, but require updating once every 10 years. Most importantly, local governments are largely tied to the projects identified in their master plans – as those projects have already been identified through a public process.

Pricher stated that SBWC has done some engineering-design work for Scappoose Creek, in part due to the City's intention to construct a trail along the creek and potentially construct a pedestrian bridge connecting the Veterans and Concomly Parks. However, Pricher expressed serious doubt about the feasibility of the pedestrian bridge, due to the environmentally



sensitive banks of the creek and their flood mitigation features. A bridge may be technically feasible, but the permitting and engineering costs could be prohibitive.

Committee members asked about “Fisher Park” that is listed as available park inventory in the Master Plan. White stated that it is likely that “Fisher Park” is owned by Columbia County, but could potentially be annexed by Scappoose in the distant future. Pricher said that SBWC is doing some creek work along the property in question. That work includes removal of invasive species, opening up the fish habitat, and potentially putting in a small campground with a camp host. SBWC applied for OWEB funding for the project, but was not funded, and therefore is working prioritizing the invasive species removal. Pricher stated that while the County is willing to continue supporting some small needs at the property, SBWC fully intends to go back out for funding in the next grant cycle.

2.6 Review of Parks Master Plan

Chair Heinze talked about goal setting and what the Committee should focus on next year. JJ Duehren commented that it seems like the Committee is focused on supporting Chapman Landing funding initiatives, potential repurposing of the pool fund, and coordination with neighboring jurisdictions.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:15 pm. The next meeting will be held on December 12th, 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