



SCAPPOOSE
Oregon

Parks and Recreation Committee Meeting Minutes

Virtual Meeting

October 21, 2021 6:00 pm – 7:00 pm

Attendees: Cara Heinze, Huell Whitehaus, Isaac Butman, Joel Haugen, Paul Fidrych, JJ Duerhen, Kim Holmes, Andrew LaFrenz, Steve DuBois

Absent: Bryan Hammond, Mary Hindal, Michael Liepzig,

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:02 by Chair Cara Heinze.

1.1. Review Agenda

Kim made a motion to approve the October 21, 2021, Agenda and changing the order of 2.6 and 2.5. JJ seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

1.2. Prior Meeting Minutes

Paul made a motion to approve the September 16, 2021, meeting minutes. Kim seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

1.3. Public Comment

1.3.1. Steve DuBois introduced himself as a resident of Warren and a youth coach. He stated that Scappoose is a great town but needs more recreational facilities. The City lacks softball, soccer, and football fields. There are many good teams in various sports. These teams compete for playing space for games and practice but lack outdoor space to play. They often have to go outside the City for their needs. They need a facility in the town that provides multiple opportunities for different sports to be played, allows for year-round play, and provides a tourist draw to the community. A sports complex could be a driver of economic opportunities, could draw teams to Scappoose, and would help show off what the Community of Scappoose has to offer. Steve stated he started a “change petition” that has over 300 signatures, and it is apparent that this amenity is something that is wanted by the community.

Joel asked if Steve would be willing to make a similar presentation to City Council. Steve replied that he could do that.

Cara stated that the committee has discussed this as a group and have also identified this as a need as well and mentioned that there have been some steps in that direction with the recommendation of the Grabhorn property redesign to City Council.

2. New Business

2.1. Recommending removal of a member Cara opened a discussion about this issue. Huell stated that while it has been challenging to keep the committee staffed, it is up to the committee if they want to discuss this issue.



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Cara asked if any members had any ideas about this. JJ stated that she had some health issues that prevented her from attending meetings and recognized that she was one of the members that this applied too. She stated that she is available to attend phone meetings and stated that she is committed to attending meetings one way or another.

Kim asked if the hybrid meeting format will continue. Huell replied yes and stated he has heard that it may become a requirement of public meetings legally.

Paul stated that the committee needs attending members and recommends that if a member misses three meetings that the committee reach out after the third meeting and touch base with the member to see what is going on and have a conversation about if they are going to show up, or if they would like to be replaced.

Kim asked what was in the bylaws. Huell replied that three meetings is the bylaw requirement for the Committee to recommend removal of a member to City Council. Cara stated that the committee will stick with the bylaws, similar to what Paul mentioned.

2.2. Public Works/City Update Public Work staff has been working on improving signage to direct people to Miller Park, but that backlogs of supplies, like paint and signs, is impacting implementation times. Fall sweeping has started and the schedule is available online, and generally, public works is shifting its efforts to Water and Wastewater projects.

2.3. SPRC and Grabhorn Cara stated that she spoke to Alex, who outlined the timeline for the Grabhorn redesign and how the Committee would be included in the process. Cara asked if there was any discussion about the inclusion of SPRC.

Paul stated that a step should be added between when SPRC sees the plan and Council sees it, is some sort of check back in with the citizens of Scappoose. Cara asked if Paul had thoughts about how that could happen. Paul stated a town hall or digital format would work, or they could invite the public to an SPRC public meeting. JJ asked what is available on the city website relating to the Grabhorn development. Huell replied that documents and meeting recordings are all available on the website. JJ asked if there has been consideration of promoting the development on social media. Huell replied that there is not a campaign going on at this time.

Cara asked if this public comment review is necessary if the designs come back in-line with the recommendations made by the Committee to the Council. Paul stated that he feels it is. Cara agreed with Paul that taking the extra steps would be good.

Joel stated that it might make sense to expand the release of the preliminary design of the property to the general public and advertise it to the public through various modes. Kim stated that messaging on it is important so that people understand that what is presented is not going to be a clean slate, but more an opportunity to see the product of the Grabhorn process.

JJ stated that there could be issues with releasing this kind of thing on social media. Paul stated that he agrees, and that social media would be more a vessel to make folks aware of how they could opine on the design.



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Cara stated that when the group decides what recommendations to present to City Council would it be possible for her to present to City Council to make sure the intent of the Committee is transmitted. Huell replied yes and stated that the City is still waiting on the design scope of work because there is a huge demand on contractors, consultants and designers that work for governments right now due to multiple relief fundings being dispersed, which is why the timeline is delayed at this time.

- 2.4. ARPA Funds** Paul stated he attended the Council meeting where they discussed ARPA funds available to the City. Paul stated that it appears that some has been allocated already, but there is around \$700,000 that has not been allocated yet. Paul stated that regarding parks and recreation that he thinks there may be opportunities to spend money around tourism and maintenance. Paul stated that he feels that outdoor recreation is tourism, and that now is the time to come forward with ideas as the budget committee will be looking at projects to spend this money on.

Paul stated that regarding recreation as tourism, Chapman Landing could fill that need. Paul stated that Steve and he had been talking about the need for a larger sports complex, and that areas around the Airport have been empty and perhaps the land could be purchased. Paul stated that the City doesn't have a Parks and Recreation office, and SPRC can help generate ideas and direction. A large sports complex could generate tourism and economic development, and now might be a good opportunity or SPRC to generate some ideas about what could happen with the additional money.

Cara stated that what is left in the allocation is around \$600,000-\$700,000 dollars, not enough to build a complex.

Paul stated that this could generate ideas and send them to Council and budget committee for consideration.

JJ stated that she thinks this is a good idea and stated that the formation of a Parks and Recreation district to address funding through taxing could have an impact on this issue. Cara replied that this is an important topic, but that she would like to turn back to the ARPA funds.

Huell stated that Paul is correct that the kind of funding Paul is talking of could theoretically be spent, but in a very narrow manner, and that if the circumstances are right, and the project is right, there might be an opportunity to do so.

Huell stated that coming forward with these kinds of ideas is what has been happening with City Council on this topic. Regarding the capital projects ideas, ARPA is probably not the correct vessel for this. The costs for Grabhorn's development initially was far more than the ARPA funds available right now. There are currently four undeveloped park properties in Scappoose, and there might be opportunity costs related to adding an additional undeveloped property.

Huell stated that it is high time to revisit the Parks Master Plan, and these kinds of ideas are perfect for something like that. The largest grant the City can apply for for parks is \$750,000, and the City has been awarded that twice. The question is, how do you raise the funds to pay for things like this. The only other real revenue source is property taxes. Huell stated that he is



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not trying to be negative, but that he is trying to be clear about what the context is around park development.

Cara asked if the City has seen any parks amenities that were used and/or not maintained during the pandemic that could be a candidate for ARPA funds. Huell replied that he would get back to the Committee on that.

Joel stated that tourism is probably the best candidate for ARPA funds. Cara replied that she had some ideas around some potentially simple projects, but that there are some challenges to working at Chapman Landing.

Huell stated that the Interim Final Rule is really targeted at and tailored at fixing measurable negative economic impacts coming from the effects of COVID-19, and that there may be clarity around this when the rule is finalized. Cara stated that knowing what has been impacted in the City would be important to making these future decisions.

Kim asked if it is still the intent of the Committee to put together a list of small improvements, and some items that could be addressed by ARPA funds. What is the deadline for appropriating ARPA funds. Huell replied that that is to be determined. Currently it is looking like early next year is when these discussions might start taking place.

JJ stated that regarding Chapman Landing it could be transformed into a destination, and she saw something similar to Chapman that was minimally improved and took some pictures of it ; the changes were minimal but functional. Cara asked that JJ send the pictures to the Committee.

Cara asked how the Committee should move on from here regarding the ARPA funds. The Committee thought it would be good to come back next meeting and examine various ideas and vote on them to be included in their recommendation.

Cara stated she would wait to hear back from the City about usage of City parks, and have every member send a few ideas to her within the parameters or consideration. Huell stated that this ties in to the parks improvements spreadsheet and master plan updates, in that if something is not fundable, or is not chosen, there are still opportunities to use other methods to address these improvements.

Kim asked if opportunities are identified to improve other governments facilities, would that be eligible. Huell replied, yes, but that the same requirements on the kinds of things the ARPA money could be spent on apply.

- 2.5. Volunteer Money – Pickleball** Cara stated that during Scappoose-100, SPRC raised \$517 managing parking, and has been discussing recommending to City Council that pickleball lines be added to the middle school tennis courts. Cara asked if the Committee want to ask the City to report on how that money can be used and allocated. Kim stated that at the last meeting the Public Works Director stated that the smaller reasonable things that SPRC recommends typically get addressed and would like to bundle this up with the other requests.



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Huell stated that there would need to be coordination with the School District on this which could be difficult.

Cara stated that it is 7:00 and that the next two issues—2.6 parks inventory and 2.7 signage needs— are rather large and may need to be moved to the next meeting. Isaac stated that Goal Setting or City Council is coming up as well, and that these agenda items might make sense to address together at the next meeting.

- 2.6. Eastside Dog Park** Jim Lykins stated that there is a nice property across from Trtek that could be used as a dog park, and asked Cara to ask the Committee if they would talk with the City about if that property could be used for a dog park. Huell stated that that land is owned by East Airpark LLC. Cara stated that this is important to keep in mind next year with the potential Master Plan.

Cara stated that next meeting she would like discussion and voting about the ARPA funding, move into the parks inventory discussion and signage needs, and then attend to goal setting.

Cara asked members to please update their parks and information in the tracking spreadsheet by the next meeting.

3. Announcements and Next Meetings

3.1. Next Meetings

- November 18, 2021
- December 16, 2021
- January 20, 2021

Meeting Adjourned at 7:03 pm.

For questions about these minutes, contact Isaac Butman, 503.543.7184 ibutman@cityofscappoose.org
The EDC conducts its meetings 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