



Parks and Recreation Committee Meeting Minutes

April 18, 2024 6:00 pm

Recording: Yes

Attendees: Staff: Charlotte Baker, Dave Sukau

Members: Ian Holzworth, JJ Duehren, Michael Sykes, Nathan Haner, Paul Fidrych

Council: None

Public: Taylor Theel

Not in attendance: Scottie Meinke, Councilor Jacobs

Absent: None

Call to Order

- The meeting was called to order at 6:00 by Chair Michael Sykes.

1.1. Meeting Minutes

- Minutes from 3/21 approved unanimously

1.2. Meeting Agenda

- Approved

2. Old Business

2.1. JJ Updates: Earth Day, Summer Festival

- JJ expressed her appreciation for those involved in the Earth Day planning. T-Mobile is now a sponsor of the event. She passed around a postcard advertising her Summer Festival. The Forestry Department will have a booth with Smokey the Bear at the Summer Festival event. JJ stated that she will be stuffing swag bags at the Library tomorrow if anyone would like to volunteer to help. There will be two bands, several nonprofit organizations and multiple sponsors at the Earth Day event. Electric power tools and an electric bike will be raffled off. 300 swag bags will be distributed as well as free food.

3. New Business

3.1. Grabhorn Park Brainstorming Session

- Michael stated that there is not enough money to cover the cost of the major Grabhorn Park upgrades outlined in the Parks Master Plan. The goal of this session is to discuss what could be explored between now and next April, given the budget limitations.
- Dave confirmed that the purchase price can still be used for a grant match next year (Spring 2025). He pointed out the exhibit in the back of the packet from 3J, as well as Paul's exhibit. 3J's plan is in alignment with what had been planned for in the Parks Master Plan, but it cut out some of the expensive elements which would be cost prohibitive. This could allow for those elements to be added at a later date; for example, the large parking lot. Dave expressed that smaller elements could be put on the field of the current Grabhorn site; for example, disc golf or t-ball fields.



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- JJ asked how much it would cost to do frontage improvements and a half parking lot. Dave stated that it would cost about \$350,000. The frontage improvements could be taken from the streets fund.
- Paul asked what the cost would be for a path that connects to the path in Veteran's park. Dave stated that it would cost approximately \$100,000 based on his quick estimate, as concrete has gotten quite expensive.
- Nathan asked how many disc golf holes would fit on the property. Paul estimated about 7 holes. Dave said he would like to see disc golf holes all across Veteran's, Grabhorn and Concomly parks near the stream. Nathan asked if the wetland would need to be mitigated for that to be possible; Dave said yes, but a much smaller amount. Probably \$40,000 worth of mitigation as opposed to \$177,000. Dave stated that the wetland could also be mitigated at the Cathead/Commerce Dr. property to enhance it as a nature park.
- Ian agreed with the placement of the restrooms and parking lot as shown on the 3J exhibit. He wanted to know why the underground retention facility was under the parking lot; Dave stated that he was not sold on that idea, and that it could instead go behind the restrooms or elsewhere. Ian also said that he likes the idea of grading out the field, even if it is roughly graded, because the City needs more sports fields. He does have concerns about the lack of sidewalk. Dave stated that the walking path is a priority, but it just isn't included on the 3J exhibit. Ian estimated that the concrete for the project would be about \$30,000 to \$35,000.
- JJ asked if streets money could be used to build the walking path. Dave said no, but the City's staff could potentially construct it.
- Dave also noted that people are using Grabhorn as a dog park, and brought up the possibility of setting it up as a temporary dog park until more work is done. JJ and Ian said that they like the idea; Ian stated that he thought it was important to make it clear to the public that it is temporary. Michael noted that the dog park is a contentious issue and it may cause problems if it is taken away at a later date.
- Michael agreed with JJ and Ian that the path is of great importance. He asked if trails could be added in the floodplain. Dave said maybe, but the topography may not leave enough room for that to happen, especially after Reach F. Dave also stated that he discourages people from going towards the creek because it is contaminated, and because it needs to be protected.
- Paul brought up the parking lot options. On his exhibit, the parking lot is in a vertical position relative to the road, as opposed to the horizontal configuration from the 3J exhibit. Paul stated that this allows more room for sports fields, and it also allows for the expansion of the parking lot at a later time if need be. Dave responded that the drawback for that was it didn't allow for a softball outfield if the parking lot was configured in the vertical position as shown by Paul. Dave also said that the community feedback was for a parking lot against Smith Road.
- Mike said that the PUD may be willing to provide grant funds towards a trail in the park, potentially \$10,000 to \$15,000. He also noted that CalPortland or Knife River may be willing to donate concrete for the project to help keep costs down.
- Ian asked how much money the City has to spend on this. Dave responded that the City has approximately \$200,000.
- Mike suggested that the Parks Committee reach out and help find money or donations towards the walking trail. He said he would be willing to reach out to some local companies to request a grant.



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- Ian asked if both parking lot options would trigger required frontage improvements along the entire road. Dave said maybe, but it's a County-owned road so he needs to get a final answer from them. Mike asked if there is any chance the County would be willing to help pitch in for that project. Dave said he wasn't sure, but the County is targeting Elm Street as their priority right now for sidewalk infill, and it was unlikely they would be willing to help pay for this project.
- Dave stated that if the parking lot is moved again, they would need to go back to the initial project design in the Master Plan and adjust it to fit the new parking lot alignment (the vertical alignment). Paul stated that not all Portland parks have parking lots that are very close to the ball fields, and people can just walk. Dave expressed he felt that people would be unlikely to appreciate that idea.
- Dave suggested that someone sketch up some concepts to discuss at the next meeting. Mike suggested that Paul or Ian come up with some ideas. Ian said he would work on a draft and send it to Paul. Dave said if Ian was going to focus on disc golf, he could go ahead and sketch up a concept that runs through Veterans and Concomly Parks as well.
- Mike suggested that he supports roughly grading the property, but keeping it wide open for general use until the park can be fully developed. That way it can be used by a variety of different groups. Also, a grant committee may hold the City to a specific plan if that is in the plan. Dave said he doesn't feel that's a problem, because that can be changed at a later date and the grant committee cannot do anything about it at that point. They came to an agreement that the field could be labeled "multi-use field."
- Dave stated that the restrooms can be moved in the future.
- Michael again expressed that the Committee members can help fund extra money for the project.
- JJ stated that T-Mobile has a small town grant program that offers \$50,000 for outdoor recreation projects.
- Nathan asked if pickleball was a priority and where it would go. Dave said yes, but there are also maintenance and updates that need to be explored at the existing parks. For example, adding permanent lawn games to parks and upgrading play areas. He expressed a desire for feedback from the Committee, otherwise staff will select these amenities. There is \$50,000 budgeted in the upcoming fiscal year for these upgrades. However, if the police budget increases greatly, as it may, the parks department will be the first to experience budget cuts and there will be no money for anything except basic maintenance.
- Paul asked if it makes sense to rename Grabhorn as Veteran's Park extension, and if that would help to get grant funding. Michael shared that it is called Grabhorn park after Bart Grabhorn, who sold the property to the City. Michael and Dave agreed that the Grabhorns should be acknowledged in some fashion, whether it is the park name itself or a feature of the park.
- At the next meeting, Ian and Paul will bring their sketch. Once it's approved by the Committee, it will be brought to Council for approval.

4. Announcements and General Discussion

4.1. Grant Opportunities

- As stated previously, the T-Mobile grant was proposed by JJ.

4.2. Other discussion



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- JJ shared that she, Dave and Councilor Miller met at the CZ trail and they spoke with Next Adventure about the possibility for partnering to acquire a temporary dock that would be accessible from May-October. It would allow kayakers and other non-motorized boaters to pull up and enjoy the scenery in the park. She asked Dave what he thought the cost of the dock would be. He said he wasn't sure. JJ estimated \$25,000.
- JJ also shared that the Portland Bird Alliance might be interested in creating signage for the trails and parks. The Alliance is interested in more birding opportunities in Chapman landing or Scappoose in general.
- Dave requested that the Committee go through the Parks Master Plan on the website and note what items on the CIP list they would like to see prioritized so he knows what to plan for in the budget.
- JJ asked if the fountain had been painted. Dave said yes. Michael asked when it would be turned on. Dave said it could be turned on if wanted for Earth Day, but it wouldn't be turned on permanently until the summer months. He suggested that JJ invite Michael Curry and the Rotary Club to rededicate the fountain now that it is refreshed. JJ said she would try to make that happen.
- Dave asked if the Committee would like consistent staff updates. The Committee said yes.
- Dave also suggested that the Committee look into the Council meeting from Monday 4/15. He shared with the Committee that the Council Liaison will be playing a larger role in the Committee from now on.

Meeting Adjourned at 6:59 pm.

For questions about these minutes, contact Charlotte Baker, 503.543.8404 cbaker@scappoose.gov
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