



SALEM PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD

September 12, 2019

Traffic Control Center Conference Room 325

MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT

Tony Caito
Diana Dickey
Woody Dukes
David Fridenmaker
Dylan McDowell
Kasia Quillinan
Paul Rice
Patty Tipton
Micki Varney

MEMBERS ABSENT

STAFF PRESENT

Josh Eggleston
Jennifer Kellar
Becky George
Julie Titchbourne
Toni Whitler

1. ROLL

Present: All members were present.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

a. July 11, 2019 minutes approved. (There was no August meeting.)

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

a. Toni Kramer – Would like to provide input on the accessibility of the Riverfront Park amphitheater design.

4. BOARD ITEMS/PRESENTATIONS

a. Tree Committee Report – Dylan McDowell

Member McDowell presented a report on the August tree committee meeting. The Board received the approved July minutes.

b. Draft Annual Report – Toni Whitler

Ms. Whitler presented the draft report to the Board who responded with some comments that will be incorporated into the draft. Members have time to review and send comments and suggestions to Ms. Whitler over the next couple of months before finalizing the document.

c. Park Tour

The date of the Board's park tour was finalized as October 26, 2019. Meeting place and time will be confirmed prior to the tour.

d. Wallace Marine Park Zoning Issues - E.M. Easterly

Chair Quillinan stated that her understanding is that this issue is still being reviewed by Legal. Mr. Easterly explained that he raised this issue in November 2018. Staff made changes to the Salem Comprehensive Plan and Zoning maps; however, this needs to be approved by Council. He said he is willing to leave the issue on the table but asked the Board to continue to ask staff to stay on top of the issue. Kasia agreed and said that they cannot do anything until they hear from Legal.

5. ACTION ITEM

a. Native Turtle Restoration Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) – *Jennifer Kellar*

The IGA is for a restoration effort at Minto Brown Island Park to protect native turtles. About 600 feet of denigrated asphalt path and a deteriorated dock will be removed. The area will then be restored as native turtle habitat and fenced to keep from being disturbed. Work will take place the end of September - first part of October. This is going forward to City Council on September 23, and staff is asking SPRAB to endorse the IGA.

Member McDowell: Does the area currently have temporary fencing? Ms. Kellar replied that it does.

Member Varney stated that she is abstaining because she works for ODFW but obtained some additional information from other ODFW staff. She said the turtles need basking sites and nesting areas and also live to be around 50 years old, so it is important not to disturb their area.

Motion:

Member Rice moved and Member Caito seconded to endorse the Intergovernmental Agreement between ODFW and City of Salem for the purpose of the native turtle restoration effort at Minto Brown Island Park.

Vote: All members were in favor of the motion.

6. INFORMATION REPORTS

a. Pringle Creek Restoration Update – Julie Titchbourne

Ms. Titchbourne gave a summary of the slab removal and Pringle Creek restoration project currently underway. The City is happy with the contractor doing the work. Since July they have been working six days a week, ten hours a day. The in-water work period ends the middle of October. Ms. Titchbourne presented photos of the current status of the project.

b. City Revenue Proposals – Josh Eggleston, City Budget Office

Mr. Eggleston distributed a handout summarizing the proposed revenue to fund essential city services.

The next action will take place September 23 at City Council where they will consider an operating fee and hold First Reading of an ordinance for an employee tax that will be referred to the voters. Mr. Eggleston said an operating fee is common in Oregon. Fifty cities in Oregon use an operating fee to fund city services.

Chair Quillinan said she heard that the plan for operating funds will be dedicated to Police and Fire. Mr. Eggleston said that the proposed operating fee will apply to all General Fund services; the proposed employee payroll tax will fund Police and Fire. At the current staffing levels, the operating fund will fill the gap currently anticipated.

Chair Quillinan asked whether the employee payroll tax has to go to voters? Mr. Eggleston replied that it doesn't have to, but City Council made the decision to bring it to the voters. It should go on the May 2020 ballot. He added that it applies to employees that work within the city limits and will not apply to employers.

Member Rice asked how the number, “more than 60,000 commuters” in the handout is determined. Mr. Eggleston said it is based on U.S. Census data from 2015.

Member Dickey asked whether this is only available for operating funds or development and capital purchases? Mr. Eggleston replied that it is not restricted funding so can be used for anything in the General Fund.

Member Fridenmaker, who represents the Salem-Keizer School District, asked about school employees who work out of county facilities. Mr. Eggleston said that it is up to the company how to allocate time.

c. Parks Planning Update – *Toni Whitler*

Ms. Whitler gave a brief update on the following items:

- Hazelgreen Road Park Annexation/Comprehensive Plan/Zone Change

This was approved by City Council and will go to First Reading 9/23 and Second Reading 10/14. After Second Reading, it is forwarded to the Secretary of State for final approval.

- Rees Hill Road Park Annexation/Comprehensive Plan/Zone Change

The process has begun, and she anticipates a similar timeline as Hazelgreen Road Park.

- Eagle’s View volunteer trail-building event Saturday, September 14, 9:00 a.m. to noon.

- Battle Creek Park Master Plan Public Meeting 2

Ms. Whitler gave a brief summary of the public meeting. Chair Quillinan, who attended the event, said that there was a lot of interest in the three proposals, interest for and against the skatepark, and she added that disc golf didn’t really receive comments by the public. She thought it was a good meeting.

Member McDowell asked whether there was a preference among the three? Chair Quillinan said that many at the meeting preferred something more natural. Ms. Whitler added that the first survey had over 800 respondents and the consultants will take what was received last night along with all survey information (the second survey closes October 2.) They will then formulate one concept and bring that back to the third meeting November 13.

Member Rice asked whether someone from west Salem could take the survey? Ms. Whitler replied that Battle Creek is an Urban Park with a city-wide service area, so anyone in the city can take the survey and give their input.

- Secor Park Playground Selection public meeting.

Open house to select play equipment on September 26, from 6-8:00 p.m. at Crossler Middle School

Two questions were asked that will be brought back to the Board at a future meeting.

1. Member Fridenmaker mentioned a land use action that came through for the Pictsweet property. Is there sufficient park land?
2. Member Dukes inquired about an updated park planning list.

There was a question about the Wallace Marine Park playground. Ms. Kellar said she is scheduling a visit with a playground manufacturer to identify needs. When ready to move forward the process will involve going to the neighborhood association and then moving forward toward implementation.

d. Parks Operations Update – *Jennifer Kellar*

- Ms. Kellar said she is dismayed that the recent recruitment process for Urban Forester did not work out and they will be reposting the position for a new round of applications. Member Dukes will again assist in the hiring process.
- Extensive homeless camp cleanups in Wallace Marine Park near Walling Gravel Co., Minto Slough, Cascades Gateway, and Marion Square. These cleanups are an enormous drain on city resources.
- McKay Park playground installation to begin the week of September 23. Following installation is fall material placement and site furnishings.

Salem Park Improvement Fund Projects:

- Grant School Park ADA accessible chess table installed last week.
- Aldrich gazebo repair work done but was then vandalized by youths who were caught. The City is seeking restitution. Contractor came back to repair. Operations is also painting and sealing the gazebo and installing a light.
- Clark Creek Park basketball post and resurfacing of court.
That afternoon the contractor resurfaced the court, the posts will be installed the following week.

e. Recreation Services Update – *Becky George*

- Splash fountains closing this Friday, September 13.
- Softball programs pushed back a bit due to rain. Melinda Mokalla and Billy Powers will be reporting to SPRAB in October to recap recreation events for the year.
- Last STRIDE event October 5. This year has had the highest attendance for participation in this program.
- December 6 is the date of the Holiday tree lighting.
- Salem Rotary Multisport Riverfest Sunday, September 15. The boat ramp will be closed for the event.

7. NEXT MEETING

October 10, 2019

8. ADJOURN

7:05 p.m.