



SALEM PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD
DIGITAL MEETING
May 14, 2020
MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT

Alan Alexander
Tony Caito
Diana Dickey
Woody Dukes
David Fridenmaker
Dylan McDowell
Paul Rice
Micki Varney

MEMBERS ABSENT

STAFF PRESENT

Patricia Farrell
Jennifer Kellar
Milan Davis
Becky George
Toni Whitler

1. ROLL

All present

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

January 9, 2020 minutes approved. February 13, 2020 minutes approved with correction.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment.

4. PRESENTATIONS

Agenda Change: Item 6.a moved to 4.a

a. Expansion of Park Ranger Duties and Service Area – Suzanne Reynolds, Code Compliance Supervisor, Community Development

Ms. Reynolds presented an informational report that will be going forward to City Council to request an expansion of the Park Ranger’s duties.

Member Varney: Is the position three-quarter time? No, it was increased to full time in 2017 and concentrated in four parks: Riverfront, Marion, Minto-Brown Island, and Wallace Marine Parks.

Chair McDowell: There is currently one person? Ms. Reynolds replied yes.

Member Dickey: Code enforcement officers cannot conduct enforcement in parks? Ms. Reynolds replied that Code Enforcement can enforce certain ordinances to which they are sworn. They are not sworn to enforce in parks.

Member Rice: He is at Minto Brown Island Park a fair amount. There has been a presence of police and code enforcement officers there. Is there a reason why there is a higher profile at MBIP? Ms. Reynolds said there has been a larger police presence due to higher numbers of people at the park and complaints about dogs off leash.

Chair McDowell asked what they can do to support. Ms. Whitler replied that the Board could send a letter of support to City Council ahead of the information report. Ms. Reynolds said the report is going forward to Council on July 17.

Member Alexander suggested it is a good idea as long as the primary focus is enjoyment of parks and dealing with safety issues.

Chair McDowell suggested that he and Member Alexander draft a letter of support and bring it back to the Board in June for approval.

b. Our Salem Update – Eunice Kim, Community Development

Ms. Kim provided a brief overview and update on the status of the Our Salem project which is an update to the Salem Comprehensive Plan.

Member Rice: Filled out an online questionnaire is there another? Ms. Kim replied yes there is a second survey.

Chair McDowell wondered if other cities have models of hubs for Salem? Ms. Kim replied, many cities have small scale hubs for people to walk to.

Ms. Kim asked what the Board thinks about expanding Riverfront Park. Member Dickey replied, if it is a choice between expanding Riverfront Park and Hubs, she would choose hubs because there are areas underserved. There are definite possibilities for features that may not look like the other parts of Riverfront Park, such as a river walk. Ms. Kim clarified that her question was separate from discussion regarding hubs.

Additional questions:

- How is a hub different than a strip mall? Ms. Kim said she is not envisioning a strip mall in a single- family neighborhood, but homes converted into mixed office retail with some design standards involved.
- Could community centers be considered a hub? Ms. Kim said yes and no. She has heard people say they'd like to see a combination of the two. The idea of having a gathering space can be provided through a hub.
- Could hubs have grocery stores? Ms. Kim doesn't see a hub being that large, it could be a small corner shop such as a bakery. There are some food deserts in Salem, and the City is working on providing access to fresh food but probably not a full-size store.

c. Board Survey *Roles, Goals, and New Ideas* Results and Discussion – Dylan McDowell

In lieu of a Board retreat due to the COVID19 virus, the Board received a survey to receive input on current and new roles for the Board. Chair McDowell highlighted some of the results.

Member Varney supports having a brief overview of park facts available to members. Member Rice believes it would provide to members a broader picture of what is going on in the parks and challenges. Member Alexander said it is important that we are factually correct when we speak with other groups.

5. INFORMATION REPORTS

a. Milan Davis, Urban Forestry Update – Milan Davis

Mr. Davis provided a brief status update.

Member Rice said Davis has hit the ground running and given an accurate picture of where we are with our tree canopy. He likes the idea of door hangers to inform residents of work being done.

b. Salem Revised Code, Chapter 86, Trees on City Owned Property, Potential Revisions to Administrative Rule – Patricia Farrell

Ms. Farrell briefly summarized potential changes to the administrative rule.

c. Parks Planning Update – Patricia Farrell

Ms. Farrell provided a brief update on current park planning projects.

Member Dukes: At what point will SPRAB liaisons be involved in Bush's Pasture Park Cultural Landscape Plan? Ms. Farrell replied that it is up to him, but he will be part of the stakeholder interviews.

d. Parks Operations Update – Jennifer Keller

Ms. Keller provided an update on current park operations, maintenance budget and projects.

e. Recreation Services Update – Becky George

Ms. George provided an update on Recreation Services.

Non-agenda questions:

- Citizen Nick Fortey brought up safer routes to parks advocating a traffic or transportation study by staff for this issue. The response by staff was that this question will be taken to the Transportation section for a response. Member Varney also brought up an additional issue of a pedestrian crossing to Orchard Heights Park. Both of these questions will be addressed by Transportation Planning.
- To what extent will the documents related to the Integrated Pest Management Plan update be available to the public and to what extent will the public have an opportunity to comment? Will SPRAB review? Does it go to the Council for approval? Ms. Farrell responded that there will be a liaison from SPRAB involved and a final draft will be posted for public comment.

6. NEXT MEETING

July 9, 2020

7. ADJOURN

7:00 p.m.